

ST. SIMEON ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Primate- His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

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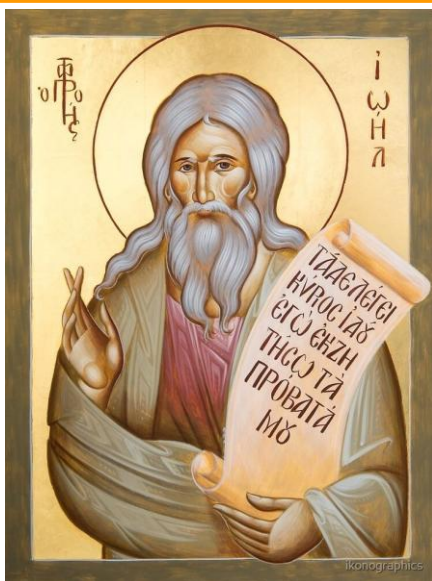
www.sevorthodox.com

V. Rev. Father George Ajalat, Pastor

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Rev. Deacon Steven Heffelfinger Rev. Deacon Seraphim Gilmartin



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR SUNDAY,

OCTOBER 19, 2025

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 8; NINETEENTH SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

& THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE

THE HOLY PROPHET JOEL; MARTYR VAROS AND SEVEN MARTYRS
WITH HIM;

MOTHER CLEOPATRA OF PALESTINE; VENERABLE JOHN OF RILA

VISITORS WELCOME!

“The Newest Church in Santa Clarita is the Oldest Church in the World.”

St. Simeon Orthodox Church welcomes all of you to our community this Sunday- for truly, ***“This is the Day that the Lord has made.”*** We are honored to have you worship with us. Please join us at the coffee hour following Liturgy. We have set up a **table with a blue tablecloth** for visitors so that **Fr. George** or one of the **Deacons** can meet and chat with you after Liturgy. May our Lord bless you and your families.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

TROPARION FOR ST. SIMEON IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (11:31-12:9)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He Who is blessed forever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.” I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Third Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

(7:11-16)

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you: arise.” And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited His people!”

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the holy and glorious Prophet Joel, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

HOLY OBLATIONS

Prayers are offered for **Hannah Ajalat** as she celebrates her **21st birthday**. May the love and peace of our Lord continue to guide your steps all the days of your life. Offered with love from Dad, Mom, Lucas, and Emma.

Wishing **Nicholas and Christopher Dabbour** a very **Happy Birthday!** May God grant you many years. We love you, from Mom and Dad. Prayers are also offered for their parents, **Josephine and George Dabbour**, as they celebrate their **11th wedding anniversary!**

We ask our gracious Lord to bless **Elise Ann Abraham** on her **13th birthday**. What a beautiful milestone year this will be for you, sweetheart!!!! We love you and adore you with all of our hearts.... Giddee and Thetee.

Prayers are offered **In Memory of Henry, Jeanette, Jack, Patricia, Jabra, Nazha Zabaneh, and Charles and Katie Foley.** They are dearly missed. May they feel our continued love and prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Who's Coming
to Dinner?!*

**When: Sat. Nov. 1st @ 6pm
Vespers @ 4:45 pm**

Where: It's a Surprise!

**SCAN here to Sign Up!
Deadline: Oct. 27th**



SAVE THE DATE! Join us for **St. Simeon's Annual "Trunk-or-Treat" on Sunday, October 26th**, immediately following Sunday School. Sign up sheet is on the table just inside the front door. Make plans now to decorate your trunk, pass out treats and to join in the Fun!

St. Simeon Young Adults Kickoff Dinner.



Location: St. Simeon Church

Food: TBD



Date: Sat. November 8th

Time: Around 6:30 pm (after Vespers)

Scan QR Code to Register!

Registration Deadline: November 1st.



ROSARITO ORTHODOX CHURCH GRAND OPENING WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 14-16.

A new Antiochian Orthodox Church, "*The Nativity of the Theotokos*," will be consecrated in **Mexico**, just 30 minutes from the San Diego border & you are invited to the celebration.

SCAN THE QR CODE



FOR RSVP INFO

If you would like to host Coffee Hour, please contact Tracy Kuncar at 818-402-7994 or tkuncar@icloud.com

FOR CATECHUMENS, INQUIRERS AND FOR EVERYONE

Join us on Saturdays at 4 P.M. to learn more about the Orthodox Faith:

1ST THRU 4TH SATURDAYS OF EVERY MONTH AT 4:00 P.M.

Epistle Reading Schedule (*Teen SOYO Month*)

Oct 5, *Elise Abraham*



Oct 19, *Emma Ajalat*

Oct 12, *Daniel Kastoun*

Oct 26, *Olivia Resendez*

St Simeon's Greeter Schedule

Oct 19, *Alex Heacock* (8:20-8:50), *Jeff Abraham* (9:10-9:40)

Oct 26, *Magdy Baiady* (8:20-8:50), *Natalie & John LeMar* (9:10-9:40)

**Please submit your announcements and oblations to:
stsimeonbulletin@gmail.com BY 9 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY!**

Thought for the Week

Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

Beloved in Christ Jesus, in today's epistle St. Paul gives us great hope and confidence in the face of troubles in our life, and particularly addresses the problem of unanswered prayer. St. Paul was afflicted with a "thorn in the flesh" that harassed him. Some fathers of the church felt this "thorn" was a physical defect-like severe headaches. Most, however, seem to think that this "thorn" was the persecution from other groups of people within the church who were plotting against Paul and spreading rumors about him. They were trying to oppose his preaching and derail him. Whatever this "thorn" was, the meaning is the same for us.

First, we see that adversities in our life- even if motivated by the evil one or evil people for evil purposes- can be turned

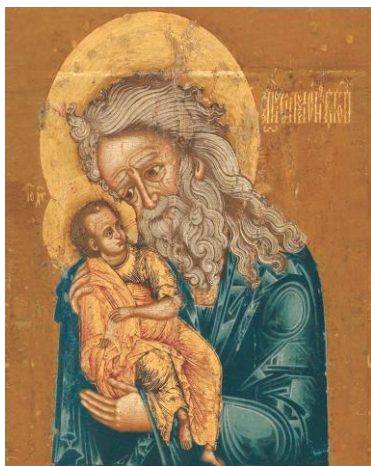
into the power of God in our lives. We must realize that God does not allow anything in our lives that will not lead us to salvation and make us better for it. As in the case of Job, when the devil asked God to be permitted to persecute Job- God allowed this for one reason- so that Job would shine like the stars of heaven. So that He would be strengthened in his faith and be glorious among the Saints. Conversely, if some live upon this earth without apparent adversity, this may be that our Lord knows that they would obtain no benefit from it. That their faith is so weak, that they might perish, or perhaps may have already perished. A very important passage in the book of Zechariah makes this clear; ***"And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*** (Zec 13:8-9 NKJ) Beloved, if we are truly God's people, we will suffer adversity!!

Second, it is right that we pray to God to be delivered from evil things, from sickness, and from adversity in our lives. God does not desire these things and He does hear our prayers. However, His answer is not always the one that we expect or want. St. Paul who was constantly (three times is taken to mean "numerous times" or "constantly" by most Fathers) praying to the Lord that this 'thorn' be removed from him. Yet, he hears the answer ***"my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*** This tells us that we do not know what is best for our own lives. Let us ask fervently, and yet trust God for His answer. **"Thy will be done."** This is true prayer, for our trust in our Lord- that He will grant us everything necessary for our lives- is what faith really is. When St. Paul says ***"For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought"*** (Rom 8:26 NKJ), it is not the technique or substance of prayer that he is talking about- but

is rather the attitude of absolute and total trust in the good and loving God. It is trusting Him Who will not allow anything to ultimately harm us.

Therefore my beloved in our Lord, when adversities or tragedies come into our life, let us face them with boldness. Let us face them with absolute confidence that our Lord is with us and near to us. He does hear our prayers. We should pray for peace and health, and yet if they do not come to us, let us redouble our faith and know that God allows these things to be present in our lives that we may be refined ***“as silver is refined.”*** When troubles come our way, let each one of us, cry out with joy together with St. Paul, ***“I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*** Amen.

**LORD, NOW LETTEST THOU THY SERVANT
DEPART IN PEACE, ACCORDING TO THY
WORD**



FOR MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION