



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

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DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR, ABBOT OF TRIGLIA



The Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos

On March 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the feast of the Annunciation to the Most-holy Theotokos, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel, which hath been handed down to us from the most ancient times, since he ministered unto the divine, supernal and ineffable Mystery.

The Archangel Gabriel is the announcer of the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation of mankind. He appeared to Zacharias about the birth of the Forerunner. Gabriel said of himself, "I am Gabriel, who stands before God" (Luke 1:19). His name Gabriel means "Man-God." The Holy Fathers, in speaking about the Annunciation, interpret that an archangel with such a name was sent to signify who and what Jesus Christ would be like, fully man and fully God, who must be born of the All-pure Theotokos. Some of the Fathers understood that this same Gabriel appeared to Joachim and Anna concerning the birth of the

Virgin Mary, and that Gabriel instructed Moses in the wilderness to write the Book of Genesis. The Holy Fathers of the Church rank the Archangel Gabriel in the Seraphic Order which stands closest to God.

THE EPISTLE (For the Fourth Sunday of Lent)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة

(للأحد الرابع من الصوم)

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةَ لِسْعِهِ. قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ، قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ مَجْدًا وَكَرَامَةً.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ.

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَّا وَعَدَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِذْ لَمْ يُمَكِّنْ أَنْ يُقَسِّمَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُ، أَقَسَمَ بِنَفْسِهِ. قَائِلًا: لِأَبَارِكَنَّكَ بَرَكَهٌ وَأَكْثَرَنَّكَ تَكْثِيرًا. وَذَلِكَ إِذْ تَأَنَّى، نَالَ الْمُوعِدَ. وَإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ يُقَسِّمُونَ بِمَا هُوَ أَعْظَمُ مِنْهُمْ، وَتَتَقَضَى كُلُّ مُشَاجِرَةٍ بَيْنَهُمْ بِالْقَسَمِ لِلتَّيْبِتِ. فَلِذَلِكَ، لَمَّا شَاءَ اللَّهُ أَنْ يَزِيدَ وَرَثَةَ الْمُوعِدِ بَيَانًا لِعَدَمِ تَحَوُّلِ عَزْمِهِ، تَوَسَّطَ بِالْقَسَمِ. حَتَّى نَحْصَلَ بِأَمْرَيْنِ لَا يَتَحَوَّلَانِ وَلَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يُخْلِفَ اللَّهُ فِيهِمَا عَلَى تَعْزِيَةٍ قَوِيَّةٍ، نَحْنُ الَّذِينَ التَّجَأْنَا إِلَى التَّمَسُّكِ بِالرَّجَاءِ الْمَوْضُوعِ أَمَامَنَا. الَّذِي هُوَ لَنَا كَمِرْسَاةٍ لِلنَّفْسِ أَمِينَةٍ رَاسِحَةٍ تَدْخُلُ إِلَى دَاخِلِ الْحِجَابِ، حَيْثُ دَخَلَ يَسُوعُ كَسَابِقٍ لَنَا وَقَدْ صَارَ عَلَى رُثْبَةِ مَلَكِيصَادَقَ، رَئِيسِ كَهَنَةٍ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

الإنجيل

(للأحد الرابع من الصوم)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ، وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ إِنْسَانٌ وَسَجَدَ لَهُ قَائِلًا: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، قَدْ أَتَيْتُكَ بَابْنِي، بِهِ رُوحٌ أَبْكَمٌ. وَحَيْثُمَا أَخَذَهُ يَصْرَعُهُ، فَيَزِيدُ وَيَصْرِفُ بِأَسْنَانِهِ وَيَبْسُ، وَقَدْ سَأَلْتُ تَلَامِيذَكَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوهُ فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ قَائِلًا: "أَيُّهَا الْجِيلُ غَيْرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِلَى مَتَى أَكُونُ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ حَتَّى مَتَى أَحْتَمِلُكُمْ؟ هَلُمَّ بِهِ إِلَيَّ." فَأَتَوْهُ بِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهُ لِلْوَقْتِ صْرَعَهُ الرُّوحُ، فَسَقَطَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ يَتَمَرَّغُ وَيُزِيدُ. فَسَأَلَ أَبَاهُ: "مُنْذُ كَمْ مِنَ الزَّمَانِ أَصَابَهُ هَذَا؟" فَقَالَ: "مُنْذُ صِبَاهُ. وَكَثِيرًا مَا أَلْقَاهُ فِي النَّارِ وَفِي الْمِيَاهِ لِيُهْلِكَهُ. لَكِنْ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ شَيْئًا، فَتَحْتَنِّ عَلَيْنَا وَأَغْتْنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ، فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ." فَصَاحَ أَبُو الصَّبِيِّ مِنْ سَاعَتِهِ بِدُمُوعٍ وَقَالَ: "إِنِّي أُوْمِنُ يَا سَيِّدُ، فَأَعِثْ عَدَمَ إِيمَانِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ الْجَمْعَ يَتَبَادَرُونَ إِلَيْهِ، انْتَهَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ قَائِلًا لَهُ: "أَيُّهَا الرُّوحُ الْأَبْكَمُ الْأَصْمُ، أَنَا أَمْرُكَ أَنْ اخْرُجَ مِنْهُ وَلَا تَعُدْ تَدْخُلُ فِيهِ." فَصَرَخَ وَخَبَطَهُ كَثِيرًا وَخَرَجَ مِنْهُ، فَصَارَ كَالْمَيْتِ، حَتَّى قَالَ كَثِيرُونَ إِنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ. فَأَخَذَ يَسُوعُ بِيَدِهِ وَأَنْهَضَهُ، فَقَامَ. وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتًا، سَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ: "لِمَا لَمْ نَسْتَطِعْ نَحْنُ أَنْ نُخْرِجَهُ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ هَذَا الْجِنْسَ لَا يُمَكِّنُ أَنْ يَخْرُجَ بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالصُّومِ." وَلَمَّا خَرَجُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، اجْتَازُوا فِي الْجَلِيلِ، وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْرِي أَحَدٌ. فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يُعَلِّمُ تَلَامِيذَهُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ "إِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ يُسَلَّمُ إِلَى أَيْدِي النَّاسِ، فَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَبَعْدَ أَنْ يُقْتَلَ، يَقُومُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ."

Love your Neighbor

March – Archdiocese Collection for Seminarian Fund on Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 5, 2023)

Each year the Archdiocese asks all parishes to contribute to help the Antiochian students studying on the various seminaries of the United States. In March, these students will be our neighbors.

April – Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 9, 2023)

Each year, the Archdiocese asks each parish to take a collection to help support the Patriarchate in Antioch on Palm Sunday. This will be our “neighbor” for the month of April.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 22nd	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00pm
Friday, March 24th	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30pm, followed by potluck
Sunday, March 26th	Delicious Lenten Lunch \$10/person minimum donation Benefitting the Antiochian Women’s Project for Syria & Turkey Earthquake Disaster Relief
Sunday, March 26th	One week memorial service offered by: Amal, Abe, Joe and Stephanie Munayer in memory of Mother Mariam Munayer. May her memory be eternal!
Sunday, April 2nd	40 days memorial service for the handmaiden of God Mona Habayeb Khoury (Helen Ghantous sister). May her memory be eternal!
Sunday, April 9th	Rose bake sale. Contact Denise at 925-360-3350 about your participation in baking.
Sunday, April 9th	Palm Sunday Easter Basket Raffle. Please bring your gourmet goodies to Rima Kashou.
Sunday, April 16th, 2023	Pascha/Easter
Sunday, April 23rd, 2023	One year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Kh. Patricia Romley. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

March 26th	Mona Thayer in memory of Matilda and Nicola Messih
April 2nd	Jeries and Naveen Zarour for the good health of their family
April 9th	Bake Sale

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola, Nadia Frangieh, Souhila Swies, Noha Schulze, George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jane Nassif**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the **victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey**. For the good health of the survivors and memory eternal for the departed!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Mariam Munayr**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Fuad and Nadia Swies for the good health of **Mounir Haddad**. Many years

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



- † Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin

- † March 26th Epistle Readers:
English: Rula Adranly
Arabic: Hala Yowakeem

- † Flowers on the Sunday of the adoration of the Cross offered by Nick and Najat Nicola and family in loving memory of **Metropolitan Philip Saliba** and **Bishop Antoun** and for the good health of **Nick and Najat Nicola and Family**.



St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

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Kimberly Bailey 925.408.5128