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APRIL 26, 2026

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN,
PIOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA & RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS

القُداس للأحد الثالثِ بعدَ الفصح

حامِلات الطيب، يوسف الرامي المتَّقِي، والبار نيقوديموس

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Glory... Both now...

الأنتيفونا الأولى

هَلِّلُوا لِلَّهِ يَا جَمِيعَ الْأَرْضِ، رَبِّتُوا لِاسْمِهِ أَعْطُوا مَجْدًا لِتَسْبِيحَتِهِ.
بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا مُخَلِّصُ خَلِّصْنَا.
قُولُوا لِلَّهِ مَا أَرْهَبَ أَعْمَالِكَ، كُلُّ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَسْجُدُونَ لَكَ وَيُرْتَلُونَ لِاسْمِكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَلِيِّ.
الْمَجْدُ ... الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ ...

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee.

Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee.

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

الأنتيفونا الثانية

لِيَتَرَأْفَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْنَا وَيُبَارِكُنَا، وَلِيُضِيءَ بَوَجْهِهِ عَلَيْنَا وَيَرْحَمَنَا.
خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنَ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِئُرْتَلَّ لَكَ. هَلِّلُوبِيَا.
لِتُعْرَفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ طَرِيقُكَ وَفِي جَمِيعِ الْأُمَمِ خَلَاصُكَ. تَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ الشُّعُوبُ يَا اللَّهُ تَعْتَرِفُ لَكَ.
لِيُبَارِكُنَا اللَّهُ الْهُنَا، وَلِنُرْهَبُهُ جَمِيعُ أَقَاصِي الْأَرْضِ.
الْمَجْدُ ... الْآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ ... يَا كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ، الْإِبْنَ الْوَحِيدِ ...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire.

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

الانتيفونا الثالثة

لِيُقَمِ اللهُ وَيَتَبَدَّدَ جَمِيعُ أَعْدَائِهِ، وَيَهْرُبُ مُبْغِضُوهُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِهِ.
الْمَسِيحُ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، وَوَطِئَ الْمَوْتَ بِالْمَوْتِ، وَوَهَبَ الْحَيَاةَ لِلَّذِينَ فِي الْقُبُورِ.
كَمَا يُبَادُ الدُّخَانُ يُبَادُونَ، وَكَمَا يَذُوبُ الشَّمْعُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِ النَّارِ. كَذَلِكَ تَهْلِكُ الْحَطَاةُ مِنْ أَمَامِ وَجْهِ
اللَّهِ، وَالصَّادِقُونَ يَفْرَحُونَ وَيَتَهَلَّلُونَ أَمَامَ اللَّهِ، وَيَتَنَعَّمُونَ بِالسُّرُورِ.
هَذَا هُوَ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ الرَّبُّ، لِنَفْرَحَ وَنَتَهَلَّلَ بِهِ.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel.
Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee:
Alleluia.

إيسوديكون (ترنيمه الدخول) لخدمة الفصح

فِي الْمَجَامِعِ بَارِكُوا اللَّهَ، الرَّبَّ مِنْ يَنْابِيعِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ،
هَلِّلُويَا. لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ

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.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الثاني

عِنْدَمَا انْحَدَرْتَ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ، أَيُّهَا الْحَيَاةُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ، حَيِّئِذِ أُمَّتِ الْجَحِيمِ بِبَرَقِ لَاهُوتِكَ. وَعِنْدَمَا أَقَمْتَ الْأَمْوَاتِ مِنْ تَحْتِ الثَّرَى، صَرَخَ نَحْوِكَ جَمِيعُ الْقُوَاتِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، مُعْطِي الْحَيَاةِ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.

APOLYTIKION OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA IN TONE TWO

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون للقديس يوسف الرامى باللحن الثاني

إِنَّ يُوسُفَ الْمُتَّقِي، أَحْدَرَ جَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ مِنَ الْعُودِ، وَلَقَّهٗ بِالسَّبَانِي النَّوَّيَّةِ، وَحَنَطَهُ بِالطَّيِّبِ، وَجَهَّزَهُ، وَأَضْجَعَهُ فِي قَبْرِ جَدِيدٍ. لَكَتَكَ فَمَتَ لِثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ، يَا رَبُّ، مَا نَحْنُ الْعَالَمِ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

APOLYTIKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN IN TONE TWO

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

أبوليتيكيون حاملات الطيب باللحن الثاني

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ قَدْ حَصَرَ عِنْدَ الْقَبْرِ، قَائِلًا لِلنِّسْوَةِ الْحَامِلَاتِ الطَّيِّبِ: أَمَّا الطَّيِّبُ فَهُوَ لَائِقٌ بِالْأَمْوَاتِ، وَأَمَّا الْمَسِيحُ، فَقَدْ ظَهَرَ غَرِيباً مِنَ الْفَسَادِ. لَكِنْ اصْرُخْنَ قَائِلَاتٍ: قَدْ قَامَ الرَّبُّ، مَا نَحْنُ الْعَالَمِ الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى

TROPARION OF TRANSFIGURATION – TONE SEVEN

When Thou was Transfigured on the mountain top, O Christ our God. Thou didst reveal thy glory to thy disciples as they could bear it. Enlighten us poor sinners as well with thine everlasting light through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Giver of light, glory to Thee.

طروبارية التجلي على اللحن السابع

لما تجليت أيها المسيح الإله في الجبل، أظهرت مجدك للتلاميذ بحسبما استطاعوا. فأشرق لنا نحن الخطاة نورك الأزلي، بشفاعته والدة الإله، يا مانح النور المجد لك.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

قنداق الفصح على اللحن الثامن

وَلَيْنُ كُنْتَ نَزَلْتَ إِلَى قَبْرِ يَا مَنْ لَا يَمُوتُ، إِلَّا أَنْكَ دَرَسْتَ قُوَّةَ الْجَحِيمِ، وَقُمَّتْ غَالِباً أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ،
وَلِلنَّسوةِ حَامِلَاتِ الطَّيِّبِ قُلْتَ "أَفْرَحْنَ!"، وَلِرُسُلِكَ وَهَبْتَ السَّلَامَ، يَا مَانِحَ الْوَأَقِيعِينَ الْقِيَامِ.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song.

With chastisement has the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (6:1-7)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministry. And the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said: "It is not right that we should forsake the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. And we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Próchoros, and Nikánor, and Tímon, and Parmenás, and Nikólaos a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

الرسالة

قُوَّتِي وَتَسْبِخَتِي الرَّبِّ. أَدَباً أَدَّبَنِي الرَّبِّ.
فَصَلِّ مِنْ أَعْمَالِ الرُّسُلِ الْقَدِّيسِينَ الْأَطْهَارِ.

فِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ، لَمَّا تَكَاثَرَ التَّلَامِيذُ، حَدَّثَ تَدَمَّرُ مِنَ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ عَلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ بَأَنَّ أَرَامِلَهُمْ كُنَّ يُهْمَلْنَ
فِي الْخِدْمَةِ الْيَوْمِيَّةِ. فَدَعَا الْإِثْنَا عَشَرَ جُمُهورَ التَّلَامِيذِ وَقَالُوا: "لَا يَحْسُنُ أَنْ نَتْرُكَ نَحْنُ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ

وَنُحَدِّمُ الْمَوَاتِدَ. فَانْتَخَبُوا أَيُّهَا الإِخْوَةُ مِنْكُمْ سَبْعَةَ رِجَالٍ، مَشْهُوداً لَهُمْ بِالْفَضْلِ، مُمْتَلَيْنَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ
وَالْحِكْمَةِ، فَتُقِيمُهُمْ عَلَى هَذِهِ الْحَاجَةِ. وَنُؤَاظِبُ نَحْنُ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ وَخِدْمَةِ الْكَلِمَةِ. "فَحَسَّنَ الْكَلَامَ لَدَى
جَمِيعِ الْجُمْهُورِ. فَاخْتَارُوا إِسْتَفَانُوسَ، رَجُلًا مُمْتَلئًا مِنَ الإِيمَانِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، وَفَلِيبُسَ وَبِروخُورُسَ
وَنِيكَانُورَ وَتِيمُنَ وَبِرْمِنَاسَ وَنِيْقُولَاوُسَ دَخِيلاً أَنْطَاكِيَاً. وَأَقَامُوهُمْ أَمَامَ الرُّسُلِ. فَصَلُّوا وَوَضَعُوا عَلَيْهِمُ
الْأَيْدِي. وَكَانَتْ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ تَنْمُو، وَعَدَدُ التَّلَامِيذِ يَتَكَثَّرُ فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ جِدًّا. وَكَانَ جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنَ الْكَهَنَةِ
يُطِيعُونَ الإِيمَانَ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a long white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

الإنجيل المقدس

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس مرقس الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (16:8- 43:15)

في ذلك الزمان، جاء يوسف الذي من الرامة، مشير تقي، وكان هو أيضاً مُنتظراً ملكوت الله. فاجترأ ودخل على بيبلاطس وطلب جسد يسوع. فاستغرب بيبلاطس أنه قد مات هكذا سريعاً. واستدعى قائد المئة وسأله هل له زمان قد مات. ولما عرف من القائد، وهب الجسد ليوسف. فاشترى كتناً، وأنزله، ولفه في الكتان، ووضعته في قبر كان منحوتاً في صخرة، ودحرج حجراً على باب القبر. وكانت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يوسف تنظران أين وضع. ولما انقضى السبت، اشترت مريم المجدلية ومريم أم يعقوب وسالومة حنوطاً ليأتين ويدهنه. وبكرن جداً في أول الأسبوع وأتت القبر وقد طلعت الشمس. وكُنَّ يقلن فيما بينهنَّ "من يدحرج لنا الحجر عن باب القبر؟" فتطلعن، فرأين الحجر قد دحرج، لأنه كان عظيماً جداً. فلما دخلن القبر، رأين شاباً جالساً عن اليمين، لابساً حلة بيضاء، فاندهلن. فقال لهنَّ: "لا تندهلن. أنتنَّ تطلبن يسوع الناصري المصلوب. قد قام، ليس هو ههنا. هوذا الموضع الذي وضعوه فيه. فاذهبنَّ وقلنَّ لتلاميذه ولبطرس إنه يسبقكم إلى الجليل، هناك ترونه كما قال لكم." فخرجن سريعاً وفررن من القبر وقد أخذتهنَّ الرعدة والدهش. ولم يقلنَّ لأحد شيئاً لأنهنَّ كنَّ خائفات.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

تعظيمه عيد الفصح بالحن الأول

إن الملاك تقوه نحو المنعم عليها: أيتها العذراء النقية أفرحي، وأيضاً أقول أفرحي، لأن ابناك قد قام من القبر في اليوم الثالث.

إسنتيري إسنتيري يا أورشليم الجديدة، لأن مجد الرب قد أشرق عليك، أفرحي الآن وتهللي يا صهيون، وأنت يا نقيّة يا والدّة الإله، إطربي بقيامة ولدك.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

كينونيكون (ترنيمة المناولة) للفصح بالحن الثامن

جَسَدَ الْمَسِيحِ خُذُوا، وَالْيَتَبَوَّعَ الَّذِي لَا يَمُوتُ ذُوقُوا.

TRISAGION PRAYER

3-9 days memorial service in memory of Siham Jammal Manassah, offered by her brothers; Peter and Mike Jammal and family. Memory Eternal!

TRISAGION PRAYER

40 Day Memorial service in memory of Victor Fawzi Abboud, offered by his family; Sylvia, Norma, Diana, David and Vivian and the Abboud, Barbar-Askar, Mogannam, Khoury, and Lomeli families. Memory Eternal!

TRISAGION PRAYER

Six months memorial service in memory of Elias Youssef, offered by V. Rev. Fr. Samer Youssef, Kh. Julianna, Dimitry, Damian and Dominic, and the Youssef family.



HOLY BREAD OF OBLATION

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, the Clergy and the parishioners for the good of the parish council members, the building committee and the Ladies Auxiliary and their families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: The Abboud Siblings for the good health of Sylvia, Norma, Diana, David and Vivian, and the Abboud, Barbar-Askar, Mogannam, Khoury, and Lomeli families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Samer and Rouba Dabit for the good health of their son Farid on the occasion of his birthday (April 20) and the good health of their daughter Celine and the Dabit family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Norma Mogannam for the good health of her husband John on the occasion of his birthday (April 21), and the good health of the Mogannam family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Gus and Cristina Anagnos for the good health of their son Lukas on the occasion of his birthday (April 24) and the good health of their son Chris and the Anagnos family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Elias and Wardia Hanani for the good health of their son Fadi on the occasion his birthday (April 27) and the good health of his wife Rana and their daughter Angelena and the Hanani family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: John and Norma Mogannam in memory of Aziz and Margarete Mogannam, Fawzi and Nawal Abboud. Memory Eternal!

OFFERED BY: The Abboud, Barbar-Askar, Mogannam, Khoury and Lomeli families in loving memory of their beloved, Victor Fawzi Abboud. Memory Eternal!



COFFEE HOUR

Offered By: The Jammal and Abboud families.

(To host the Coffee Hour, please contact Wardeh Asfour @408-718-3339

office@orthodoxredeemer.org

Online Link: <https://holytransfiguration.breezechms.com/form/26c422>

Services Schedule Every Week

Matins @ 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Vespers: Every Saturday @ 5:00 PM

(Please check your email in case of any cancellations for Vespers)

PARISH COUNCIL 2026

The Parish Council members' of 2026. Chair President; Bassam Khoury, Vice-Chair; Linda Salah, Treasurer; Henry Veizades, Secretary; Rima Gannage, Maher Fasheh, Sana Eideh, Johnny Khamis, Jake Timothy, Edmund Khinno and Sal Hanhan. Roula Haddad will represent the Antiochian Women Committee and Salem Aweiss will represent the Men Fellowship Committee.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN 2025

The Antiochian Women Committee Leaders of 2026. Roula Haddad (Chairwoman), Dania Amireh (Vice- Chairwoman), Ibtisam Kreitem (Secretary/ Communication), Wardeh Asfour (Kitchen/Coffee Hour), Rima Gannage (Bookkeeping), Diana Khoury (Myrrh Barrier), and Hala Aboujudom (Sunshine).

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults (college age and up to 39-1/2) meet on the first Sunday of the month and organize social, educational, and volunteer activities. For more information, please contact Dimitry Youssef (President of the Young Adults in the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West) @ (408)364-5670, or Fr.Theodor Sakellar @ 408-455-8145

SOYO (YOUTH GROUP 12-18 YEARS)

Our SOYO (Youth Group) is active through the leadership of the Advisors: Dominic Youssef and Caesar Haddad. The officers are: President; Riad Akery, Secretary; Mila Haddad, Treasurer; Gabreilla Ajlouni, Social Media Coordinator; Adriana Ajlouni.

Orthodoxy 101 Class

Confession 101 with Fr. Theodore Sakellar and Jake Timothy

Have you ever felt unsure about Confession — how to begin, what to say, or what to expect? You are not alone. This class is truly for everyone: those inquiring into the Orthodox Church, catechumens preparing to be received, and lifelong Orthodox Christians who may feel nervous, rusty, or simply ready to go deeper. Fr. Theodore will walk us through the meaning and practice of Confession, answering our questions with

the goal of helping everyone feel comfortable and at peace.
Classes will resume on April 26.



Registration forms are available at the church hall or on church Website:
<http://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/schoolregistration>

School Schedule:

Sunday school starts 9/14/25 and ends 5/17/26. Sunday school graduation Ceremony will be on 5/17/26. Sunday school classes begin after communion and ends at 12:30pm.

Teachers: Samuel Hage, Hussam Ibrahim, Dimitry Youssef, Heather Simonovich, Randa Hanani and Jocelyn Mikhael. Caitlin Timothy and Alia Nystrom as back-up/support.

Our Sunday school is growing: We're excited to announce that we have added a Preschool Class! Preschoolers are invited to join a class just for them, featuring songs, stories, and age-appropriate activities. Parents are welcome to stay and participate! Please contact Caitlin Timothy, Joselyne Mikhael or Isabelle Achkar with any questions!

Bible Bowl Preparation Season is Open!

If you are interested in participating in this year's Bible Bowl, please join the group in the Church App or message Alia Nystrom about joining the WhatsApp interest group. We will meet via Zoom one night a week to read the book of Exodus and prepare for the Bible Bowl.

If you would just like to read with us or if you are not sure whether you will join the official team, still register your interest!

Open to everyone ages 10 and up.

Bookstore Corner

Our bookstore is open, and new merchandise is arriving each week. Stop by and see what's new!

Book Spotlight: Great Lent by Alexander Schmemmann. This classic book is a spiritual guide to understanding the meaning of Great Lent in the Orthodox Christian tradition, walking through the liturgical journey and Lenten prayers in short, bite-sized chapters. A wonderful addition to your morning coffee or evening routine, this book will help deepen your Lenten journey.

Book Club



Book club is now open with our first book; “The Art of Myrrh Bearing”. If you enjoy reading and are interested to join the ladies’ Book Club, please see Roula B Haddad to purchase the book.

Part One of the book will be discussed on Saturday May 23, 2026, 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM, along with a knitting and crocheting workshop, *and a light lunch.*

May 23 is open to all ladies, but only the ones that read the book will discuss Part One of the book.

Workshop finished goods will be donated to nearby shelters.

UPCOMING EVNTS AT THE CHURCH

Please save the date

- **May 23:** *Book Club, Saturday May 23rd @ 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM*
- **July 1-5:** *2026 Parish Life Conference, PLC in San Diego*
- **July 23-27:** *Camp Three Holy Youths, July 23rd – July 27th
@Daybreak Camp, Ben Lomond. <https://campthy.com/camper-registration/>*
- **Food Festival Sept 12 & 13:** *Our Annual Food Festival will be on
September 12th & 13th*

May Your Humility Receive My Words, Elder Joseph

A Tribute to Elder Joseph of St. Nektarios Monastery of Roscoe, New York

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

The monk is a man of prayer. The power of his prayer is shown by the outpouring of divine grace upon him. This is reflected in an inner peace unshaken by storms, and a warmth of welcome and hospitality surpassing the finest manners of the most polished social circles. It is the hospitality of Christ Himself, free from all human flattery and social formalities.

As for the radiant, cheerful countenance that reflects the clarity of heaven and the Kingdom of God on earth, He grants it to some of His faithful ones. I could see all these qualities in the face of Elder Joseph of St. Nektarios Monastery of Roscoe, New York, upon whom many graces from God were manifest. I dare to speak of them now, after he has gone to the dwellings of the Lord.

This is what I saw in you from the moment I met you for the first time, and it increased throughout three years, up to our last meeting. You did not change, nor were you altered. Even the grievous illness you endured in recent years was not an obstacle that prevented the heavenly light from shining on your face for a single moment; rather, it only increased. Nor did your physical pains conceal the gentle, transparent smile on your face!

How ashamed I felt when I learned that you had postponed receiving your chemotherapy by a day or two in order to hear my last confession, especially when I saw signs of fatigue upon you. I asked you then, “Are you in great pain, Father?” And so that I would not worry about you, you answered roundaboutly, with heavenly gentleness and a smile not of this world: “The chemotherapy dose tires me, and afterward, I spend several days as though I were dead!” Your answer was like an arrow that pierced me with the measure of love you carried!

By your conduct, you taught me the importance of faithfulness to the Lord until the final breath. Through you, I came to understand that faithfulness, and the deeds and labors that accompany it, are what draw forth the grace of God. This is what I had also learned from our Holy Fathers; yet in you, I saw it embodied. From you, I learned that we struggle while knowing that our ascetical efforts do not grant us “merit” before God; yet He, glory to Him, sees our labors for His sake and grants us His grace, which sanctifies our lives and reflects His light within us. You also taught me, Father, that our God does not always grant this grace so that He may preserve us from pride. But what I witnessed in you was that He poured out His grace upon you abundantly and preserved it in you richly, after He saw your labors before Him and your faithfulness to Him.

His grace appeared in you through the joy that marked your face, which you transmitted to your striving monks. We know, Father, that with joy the Gospel of our Lord began: “I bring you good tidings of great joy” (Luke 2:10), and with joy it was also concluded: “And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52). We know that this joy of which the Gospel speaks is joy from God, not from ourselves, yet we often seek it in the wrong places.

But you offered yourself wholly to the Lord of joy, and He in turn granted you this gift, which you tasted to the full. Therefore, we now await you asking it for us, in your love, from the Lord beside whom you have come to stand, that He, through your intercessions, might grant it to us, and especially to your monks, so that your joyful presence may continue among them and, through them, be conveyed to us. This is what consoles your children, Father. I am entirely hopeful that you will not withhold this request from us, knowing how greatly we all need true joy—and that there is no true consolation or gladness except in the presence of the Lord of joy in our midst. You tasted Him best. Your faithfulness to Him and your labors before Him drew His grace upon you in abundance, and your humility preserved it in you always.

O earthly angel, you were the greatest blessing God granted me after my coming to America. You were my greatest consolation in my new ministry. How I will miss you, and how I will miss your advice! Yet, I am confident that your presence in the fathers and monks of the monastery will remain; and within that family, through whom you granted me the blessing of being spiritually one of them, I will find what you always gave me.

Today, after you have been wholly set free and have become entirely His, we all have hope and confidence that He will speak to you His blessed word: “Enter into the joy of your Lord,” for you “were faithful over a little; I will set you over much” (Matt. 25:21). Our consolation for your departure from us is that you now dwell in the light that does not fade, a light whose brilliance will shine in you more and more.

From there, from the Kingdom of God, remember us, the unworthy. From there, I ask you to remember me and the flocks of Christ whose service He entrusted to me, and to forgive me for being unable to attend your funeral.

**فليقبل تواضعك كلماتي يا أبت يوسف
في تأبين الشيخ يوسف، رئيس دير القديس نكتاريوس في روسكو، نيويورك
بقلم المترولين سابا (اسبر)**

الراهب رجل صلاة. وفعالية صلواته تظهر بانسكاب النعمة الإلهية عليه، ما ينعكس فيه سلاماً داخلياً لا تهزه العواصف، وفرحاً عميقاً لا تؤثر فيه الأحقاد، وحسن استقبال وضيافة يفوقان أرقى الأصول التي تتعاطاها الطبقة المخملية. إنها ضيافة المسيح ذاته، تلك التي تخلو من أي مجاملة بشرية أو آداب اجتماعية.

أما الوجه المنور والبشوش الذي يعكس صفاء السماء وملكوت الله على الأرض، فيمنحه الله لبعض الأبناء له. كنت ترى هذه الصفات مجتمعة في وجه الشيخ يوسف الذي تجلّت فيه نِعَم من الله كثيرة. أتجراً على ذكرها الآن بعدما صار في ديار الرب.

هذا ما رأيته فيك مذ التقيتك للمرة الأولى وازداد خلال سنوات ثلاث وحتى اللقاء الأخير. لم تتغير ولم تتبدل ولم يشكّل المرض الأليم، الذي عانيت منه في السنوات الأخيرة، عائقاً يمنع النور السماوي من الإشراق في وجهك لحظة واحدة، لا بل كان إلى ازدياد. ولم تحجب ألامك الجسدية ابتساماً وجهك البالغة الرقة والشفافية!

كم خجلت من نفسي عندما علمت متأخراً بأنك أجتلت تلقّي علاج الكيماوي يوماً أو اثنين من أجل أن تسمع اعترافي الأخير، وخاصة حينما رأيت علامات التعب بادية عليك. سألتك آنذاك: أنتوجع كثيراً يا أبت؟ ولئلا تقلقني عليك، أحببتي مداورةً، وبرقة سماوية وابتساماً ليست من هذا العالم، "تتعبني جرعة العلاج الكيماوي، فأقضي بعدها عدة أيام وكأنني ميت!" كان جوابك سهماً طعنني بكم المحبة التي حملها!

علمتني بسلوكك أهمية الأمانة للرب حتى الرمى الأخير. ومن خلالك وعبث أن الأمانة وما يصحبها من أفعال وأتعاب هي التي تستجلب نعمة الله. هذا ما كنت قد تعلمته أيضاً من آبائنا القديسين، لكني، في شخصك، رأيته متجسداً. عرفتُ منك أننا نجاهد ونحن مدركون بأن أفعال جهادنا لا تعطينا استحقاقاً أمام الله، لكنّه له المجد يرى أتعابنا من أجله، فيمنحنا نعمته التي تقدّس حياتنا وتعكس نوره فينا. كذلك عرفتني يا أبت أن إلهنا لا يمنحنا هذه النعمة دوماً كي نحفظنا من الكبرياء. لكن ما لمستك فيك، أنه أمطر نعمه عليك بغزارة وأدامها فيك بوفرة، بعدما رأى أتعابك أمامه وأمانتك له.

ظهرت نعمته فيك في الفرح الذي تميّز وجهك به، ونقلته إلى رهبانك المجاهدين. نعرف يا أبتِ أنه بالفرح بدأ إنجيل ربنا "إني أبشركم بفرح عظيم" (لو ٢: ١٠)، وبالفرح خُتم أيضاً "ورجعوا إلى أورشليم وهم في فرح عظيم" (لو ٢٤: ٥٢). ونعرف أنّ هذا الفرح الذي يتكلّم عليه الإنجيل فرحٌ من الله لا ممّا. ومع ذلك كثيراً ما نبحت عنه في الأماكن الخطأ.

أما أنت فأعطيت ذاتك بكليتها لربّ الفرح، وهو بدوره منحك هذه العطية التي ذقتها بالملء، لذا فإننا ننتظر أن تطلبها لنا بمحبّتك، من الربّ الذي صرت إلى جواره، عساه، بطلباتك، يُنعم بها علينا وعلى رهبانك بالأخصّ، فيستمرّ حضورك الفرح فيما بينهم، وعبرهم ينتقل إلينا. هذا ما يعزّي أولادك يا أبتِ. كليّ رجاء بأنك لن تبخل علينا بهذا الطلب وأنت العالم بحاجتنا جميعاً إلى الفرح الحقيقي! وأن ما من عزاء وابتهاج حقيقيين سوى في حضور الربّ الفرح وسطنا. أنت خير من ذاقه. أمانتك له وأتعاك أمامه استجلبنا نعمته عليك بوفرة، وتواضعك حفظها فيك على الدوام.

أيها الملاك الأرضي، كنت البركة العظمى التي منحني الله إياها من بعد مجيئي إلى أميركا. كنت تعزيتي الكبرى في خدمتي الجديدة. كم سأفتقدك وسأفتقد نصائحك! ولو أنني واثق من أن حضورك في آباء الدير ورهبانه سيبقى مستمراً، وأنتي في تلك العائلة التي منحتني بركة أن أكون بالروح واحداً منها، سأجد ما كنت تمنحني إياه دوماً.

اليوم، بعد أن تحرّرت بالكلية، وصرت له بالتمام، كلنا رجاء وثقة بأنّه سيُسمعك كلمته المباركة: "ادخل إلى فرح ربك" لأنك "كنت أميناً في القليل سأقيمك على الكثير." عزأونا عن رحيلك عنا، أنك الآن تقيم في النور الذي لا يخبو، ذاك الذي سيتألق لمعانه فيك أكثر فأكثر.

من هناك، من ملكوت الله، اذكرنا، نحن غير المستحقين. من هناك أرجو أن تذكرني ورعايا المسيح التي سلّمني خدمتها، وأن تسامحني لأنني لم أتمكّن من المشاركة جسدياً في صلاة تجنيزك.



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JUNE 15TH-JUNE 20TH

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SAVE THE DATE



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SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2026

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BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER End-of-Year Campaign Update



- Raised: \$3.5M for the new hall & learning center
- County requirements nearly complete
- Promising discussions with school operators
- Goal: Break ground by mid-2026
- Remaining need: **\$750,000** for loan approval



If you are able, please consider an end-of-year tax-deductible gift to support our parish's future.

GIVE TO ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER



<https://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/funds>

