



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West**

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF
THE REDEEMER**

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**THE MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN COLOSSAE
ARCHIPPUS OF HIERAPOLIS; MARTYRS EUDOXIOS, ZENO, ROMULUS AND
MAKARIOS AT MELITENE IN ARMENIA**

**الأحد الرابع عشر بعد العنصرة وتذكّار القديس متى الانجيلي البشير
وأحد تذكّار رئيس الملائكة ميخائيل**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for he was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة بالحن الخامس

لِنُسَبِّحْ نَحْنُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَنَسْجُدْ لِلْكَامِلَةِ، الْمُسَاوِي لِلَّابِ وَالرُّوحِ فِي الْأَزَلِيَّةِ وَعَدَمِ الْإِبْتِدَاءِ، الْمَوْلُودِ مِنْ الْعَذْرَاءِ لِحَلَاصِنَا، لِأَنَّهُ سَرَّ بِالْجَسَدِ أَنْ يَغْلُو عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ، وَيَحْتَمِلَ الْمَوْتَ، وَيُنْهَضَ الْمَوْتَى بِقِيَامَتِهِ الْمَجِيدَةِ.

APOLYTIKION OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN TONE FOUR

Supreme Commander of the Hosts of the Heavens, we, the unworthy, importune and beseech thee that by thy supplications thou encircle us in the shelter of the wings of thine immaterial glory, guarding us who now fall down and cry to thee with fervor: Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, as the great Marshal of the heavenly hosts on high.

أبوليتيكيون لرئيس الملائكة ميخائيل بالحن الرابع

أَيُّهَا الْمُتَقَدِّمُ عَلَى الْجُنْدِ السَّمَاوِيِّينَ، نَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكَ نَحْنُ غَيْرِ الْمُسْتَحِقِّينَ، حَتَّى إِنَّكَ بِطِلْبَاتِكَ تَكْتَنِفُنَا بِظِلِّ أَجْنَحَةِ مَجْدِكَ اللاهِيُولِي، حَافِظاً إِيَّانَا نَحْنُ الْجَائِئِينَ وَالصَّارِخِينَ بِغَيْرِ فُتُورٍ: أَنْقِذْنَا مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ، بِمَا أَنَّكَ رَئِيسُ مَرَاتِبِ الْقَوَاتِ الْعُلُويَّةِ.

APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

أبوليتيكيون تجلّي ربّنا يسوع المسيح بالحن السابع

لَمَّا تَجَلَّيْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ فِي الْجَبَلِ، أَظْهَرْتَ مَجْدَكَ لِلتَّلَامِيذِ حَسَبَمَا اسْتَطَاعُوا، فَأَشْرَقَ لَنَا نَحْنُ

الْحَطَّاءَةُ نوركِ الأزلِّي، بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الإلهِ، يَا مَانِحِ النُّورِ، المَجْدُ لك.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS **IN TONE FOUR**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

القنْدَاقُ لِمِيلَادِ وَالِدَةِ الإلهِ بِالْحَنِّ الرَّابِعِ

إِنَّ يُوَاكِيمَ وَحَنَّةَ مِنْ عَارِ الْعُفْرِ أُطْلِقَا، وَأَدَمَ وَحَوَاءَ مِنْ فَسَادِ الْمَوْتِ، بِمَوْلِدِكَ الْمُقَدَّسِ يَا طَاهِرَةً أُعْتِقَا.
فَلَهُ يُعَيِّدُ شَعْبُكَ، وَقَدْ تَخَلَّصَ مِنْ وَصْمَةِ الزَّلَّاتِ، صَارِحًا نَحْوَكِ: الْعَاقِرُ تِلْدُ وَالِدَةِ الإلهِ الْمُغْدِيَّةَ حَيَاتِنَا.

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, wilt keep and preserve us.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

(1:21-2:4)

Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all. For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

الرسالة

أَنْتَ يَا رَبِّ تَحَفُّظُنَا وَتَسْتُرُنَا مِنْ هَذَا الْجِيلِ.
خَلِّصْنِي يَا رَبِّ، فَإِنَّ الْبَارَّ قَدْ فَنِيَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كورِنْثُوس. (2:4-1:21)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، إِنَّ الَّذِي يُبَيِّنُنَا مَعَكُمْ فِي الْمَسِيحِ، وَقَدْ مَسَحَنَا، هُوَ اللَّهُ، الَّذِي خَتَمَنَا أَيْضاً وَأَعْطَى عُرْبُونَ
وَإِنِّي أَسْتَشْهَدُ اللَّهَ عَلَى نَفْسِي، أَنِّي لِإِشْفَاقِي عَلَيْكُمْ، لَمْ آتِ أَيْضاً إِلَى كورِنْثُوس. لَا. الرُّوحُ فِي قُلُوبِنَا
لِأَنَّا نَسُودُ عَلَى إِيمَانِكُمْ، بَلْ نَحْنُ أَعْوَانُ سُرُورِكُمْ، لِأَنَّا نَكُونُ ثَابِتُونَ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ، وَقَدْ جَرَمْتَ بِهَذَا فِي
لَأْتِي إِنْ كُنْتُ أَعْمَكُمْ، فَمَنْ الَّذِي يَسُرُّنِي غَيْرُ مَنْ أَسَبَّبَ لَهُ الْعَمَ؟. نَفْسِي أَنْ لَا أَتِيَكُمْ أَيْضاً فِي عَمٍ
وَإِنَّمَا كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ هَذَا بَعِيْثِهِ لئَلَّا يَنَالَنِي عِنْدَ قُدُومِي عَمٌ مِمَّنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ أَفْرَحَ بِهِمْ، وَإِنِّي لَوَاقِقٌ
فَإِنِّي مِنْ شِدَّةِ كَاِبَةٍ وَكَرْبِ قَلْبٍ، كَتَبْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ بِدُمُوعٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، لَا. بِجَمِيعِكُمْ أَنْ فَرَحِي هُوَ فَرَحُ جَمِيعِكُمْ
لِتَعْنَمُوا، بَلْ لَتَعْرِفُوا مَا عِنْدِي مِنَ الْمَحَبَّةِ بِالْأَكْثَرِ لَكُمْ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (22:2-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a marriage feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast; but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves are killed, and everything is ready; come to the marriage feast.’ But they made light of it and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment; and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer

darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

الإنجيل المقدس

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقُدِّيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (2:22-14)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: يُشَبِّهُ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ إِنْسَانًا مَلِكًا صَنَعَ عُرْسًا لِابْنِهِ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبِيدَهُ لِيَدْعُوا الْمَدْعُوعِينَ إِلَى الْعُرْسِ، فَلَمْ يُرِيدُوا أَنْ يَأْتُوا. فَأَرْسَلَ أَيْضًا عَبِيدًا آخَرِينَ وَقَالَ: قُولُوا لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: هُوَذَا غَدَائِي قَدْ أُعِدِّدْتُهُ، ثِيرَانِي وَمُسَمَّنَاتِي قَدْ دُبِحَتْ، وَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُهَيَّأٌ فَهَلُمُّوا إِلَى الْعُرْسِ. وَلَكِنَّهُمْ تَهَاوَنُوا. فَذَهَبَ بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى حَقْلِهِ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى تِجَارَتِهِ وَالْبَاقُونَ قَبَضُوا عَلَى عَبِيدِهِ وَشَتَمُوهُمْ وَقَتَلُوهُمْ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْمَلِكُ، غَضِبَ وَأَرْسَلَ جُنُودَهُ، فَأَهْلَكَ أُولَئِكَ الْقَتْلَةَ وَأَحْرَقَ مَدِينَتَهُمْ. حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَمَّا الْعُرْسُ فَمُعَدَّةٌ، وَأَمَّا الْمَدْعُوعُونَ فَلَمْ يَكُونُوا مُسْتَحَقِّينَ. فَادْهَبُوا إِلَى مِفَارِقِ الطَّرِيقِ، وَكُلُّ مَنْ وَجَدْتُمُوهُ، فَادْعُوهُ إِلَى الْعُرْسِ. فَخَرَجَ أُولَئِكَ الْعَبِيدُ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ، فَجَمَعُوا كُلُّ مَنْ وَجَدُوا مِنْ أَشْرَارٍ وَصَالِحِينَ، فَحَقَلَ الْعُرْسُ بِالْمُتَّكِنِينَ. فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ الْمَلِكُ لِيَنْظُرَ الْمُتَّكِنِينَ، رَأَى هُنَاكَ إِنْسَانًا لَمْ يَكُنْ لَابِسًا لِبَاسَ الْعُرْسِ. فَقَالَ لَهُ: يَا صَاحِبُ، كَيْفَ دَخَلْتَ إِلَى هُنَا وَلَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ لِبَاسَ الْعُرْسِ؟ فَصَمَتَ حِينَئِذٍ قَالَ الْمَلِكُ لِلْخُدَّامِ: أَوْثِقُوا يَدَيْهِ وَرِجْلَيْهِ، وَخُذُوهُ وَاطْرَحُوهُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ الْبَرَّانِيَّةِ. هُنَاكَ يَكُونُ الْبُكَاءُ وَصَرِيفُ الْأَسْنَانِ. لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ، وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.



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: Abdallah and Hala Saah on the occasion of their birthdays (Sep1 & 8), and the good health of the Saah and Mitri families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Jad Bateh for the good health of his wife Elaine on the occasion of her birthday (Sept 9) and the good health of their daughter Jennifer Bateh Jacobs on occasion of her birthday (Sept 6), and the good health of her husband Zach and her daughter Emerson. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Francois and Maya Haddad for the good health of their children; Mila and Marc and the Haddad, Matar and El-Hosh families. For the good health of Elias Zehlawi and Madeleine. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Francois and Maya Haddad in memory of Fouad Haddad, Khalil, Salimeh, Shafik, Mary, Nadia and Amira Matar, Lore and Ibrahim El-Hosh, Weedad, Jamal and Kamal Khouri. Fadi and Lina Khanashet. Memory Eternal!



COFFEE HOUR

Offered By: Maya Haddad

*(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

Matins @ 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 AM

Vespers: Every Saturday @ 5:00 PM

Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy: Tue, Sept 8th @ 10:30 AM
(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 Akkary, Secretary; Mila Haddad, Treasurer; Gabreilla Ajlouni, Social Media Coordinator; Adriana Ajlouni.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Sunday School Registration is now open. Please register your children ASAP. Registration forms are available at the church hall or on church Website: <http://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/schoolregistration>

School Schedule:

Sunday school starts 8/30/26 and ends 5/16/27. Sunday school graduation Ceremony will be on 5/16/27. Sunday school classes begin after communion and ends at 12:30pm.

Teachers: Isabelle Achkar, Jennifer Lutton, Caitlin Timothy, Randa Hanani, Samuel Hage, Heather Simonovich and Hussam Ibrahim.

MANDATORY DABKEH PRACTICES

All children participating in the Dabkeh performance are required to attend the following practices:

Sunday, September 6 – Immediately after Divine Liturgy

Friday, September 11 – 5:30 PM

Dress Code for Practice & Performance:

Boys: Black pants, black shirt, and black shoes

Girls: Black leggings and black shoes

We look forward to seeing our children come together to celebrate and share our beautiful Arab heritage through Dabkeh!

UPCOMING EVNTS AT THE CHURCH

Please save the date

September 7: Church Cleanup, Monday @ 10:00AM

September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy @ 10:30AM

September 10, 11: Food Festival Meat & Vegetable prep

September 11: Dabkeh practice, Friday @ 5:30PM

Food Festival Sept 12 & 13: Our Annual Food Festival

Do You Want to Be a Priest? - Through the Eyes of the Participants

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

“When God takes hold of the flute and begins to play, the mountains begin to dance. Who, then, can stop them?” — Jacques Prévert, French poet

In order to help our young men hear the call of God within them, the Archdiocese, in cooperation with Ancient Faith Ministries, held the retreat “Do You Want to Be a Priest?” Eighty-two young men answered the invitation, together with fifty wives or fiancées.

The idea began with what I often notice during my parish visits: signs of priestly service appearing on the faces of many young men whom I meet. It also came from ongoing discussions with a number of faithful and concerned individuals about shaping a pastoral policy for the future of the Archdiocese in the coming years. We expected a response to the invitation, but we did not expect the number of participants to reach this level. One participant wrote: “*We are ready to serve in whatever way the Archdiocese sees fit.*”

The retreat was successful by every measure. What the participants, both men and women, shared clearly confirmed how much the retreat helped them better understand what they are experiencing regarding their consecration to God through service to His Church. It also gave them spiritual guidance on how to nurture this calling until it reaches the necessary maturity. The participation of several priests and their wives, and their sharing of their experience in this priestly ministry, had a

very positive effect on the participants, as one participant and his wife expressed. Another wrote: *"I am very grateful for this spiritual retreat and for the love shown by His Eminence and the priests. I was encouraged by the examples they gave us."*

The retreat helped some participants better understand the kind of Church service toward which their souls are inclined. Some discovered that, at the present time, they are inclined *"toward service in the permanent diaconate."* Another participant, whose father is a Protestant pastor, and who comes from a country where there is no Orthodox church, expressed his desire to become a missionary priest: *"...and if it is God's will that I should one day be blessed with priestly ministry, I hope to dedicate myself to bringing Christ and His Church through faithful service, preaching, and the witness of life."*

The participation of several khourias of the Archdiocese helped the participants appreciate the role of the priest's wife and the importance of her calling maturing alongside the calling of her husband. Some participants wrote statements like this:

"I have a desire to become a priest if this is God's will. At the very least, I would like to be part of the diaconal order. But I am concerned about my fiancée and how she would adjust to the role of a khouria. Therefore, I will discuss this possibility with her, together with my parish priest."

Another wrote: *"This retreat helped me realize that I need to go back and attend to the basics, such as a regular life of prayer, and that I need to pray for my wife, because she has not yet felt the calling, even though I know she would be a wonderful khouria because of her heart, which is full of love and forgiveness. My wife says that she will follow the will of God."*

As for the opportunity to encounter the priesthood in its real life within the context of the priest's family, the participants began to understand this well. *"This retreat was an excellent opportunity to learn about the priesthood from both sides, that is, from the perspective of the priest and his wife."*

The retreat also helped draw attention to the importance of the family environment in the growth and maturation of the calling. One comment stated: *"I want to fulfill and discern the will of God. The greatest obstacle before me is family. My father-in-law became a grandfather for the first time when he was eighty-four years old, and now he is eighty-seven, and my son is the first of his two grandchildren. I am not currently prepared to move and take my son away from him at this stage of his life. Therefore, I do not yet feel worthy or ready. I pray that God will grant me greater clarity as I work to correct the shortcomings that this spiritual encounter revealed to me."*

As for how the calling grows, becomes clear, and matures, the retreat helped the participants perceive this with watchfulness and awareness, whether through personal inclination and hearing the call of God: *“The idea of serving the Church has always been present in my mind, but I wanted to proceed slowly and focus first on learning the Orthodox way of life.”*

Another wrote: *“Since I was young, I have felt inclined toward the priesthood, though I could not explain it clearly. As I grew older and learned more about the priesthood, I became afraid because of the great weight and responsibility that the priest carries. Despite this fear, the thought of the priesthood never left me. The more I served, the more my longing for service increased, whether in camps, SOYO, or Bible studies. I always felt that something was missing. I have a mixture of experiences: I feel that I am able to offer more, and yet at the same time I cannot. I believe the reason is that I have been called to the priesthood since childhood.”*

Or through family and friends: *“Many people around me, including family members, parishioners, Orthodox friends, and even non-Christian friends, have told me that I should become a priest, or at least explore this calling.”*

Because of this, some began to ask the practical question: How do I prepare for this blessed ministry? *“I would like to know what options are available for people who have not received post-secondary education and who desire to pursue the priesthood.”*

Another wrote: *“I enrolled in the St. Stephen’s Program with the goal of pursuing the permanent diaconate. However, later discussions with my parish priest encouraged me to continue on the path toward the priesthood and to pause, for the time being, my pursuit of the diaconate.”*

What is reassuring is that many of those who are certain of their calling expressed their sense of unworthiness and awe before the holiness of this ministry. This gives hope that, in the future, this blessed Archdiocese will have priests according to the heart of God. One wrote: *“I fear the altar, but I want to serve Christ, and I love Him more than I fear the furnace.”* Another wrote: *“I have never thought, and still believe, that I am unworthy even to think about the priesthood.”*

Perhaps the best way to conclude this article is with these words written by some of the participants: *“All I want is to be in the Church.”* And also: *“I have tried other hobbies and careers, but nothing surpasses my love for Christ and His Church. For this reason, I believe that I am called to the priesthood.”*

"هل تريد أن تكون كاهناً؟" - بعيون المشاركين بقلم المتروبوليت سابا (اسبر)

"عندما يمسك الله بالفلوت ويبدأ العزف، تبدأ الجبال بالتراقص، فمن يقدر على إيقافها!" (جاك بريفير، شاعر فرنسي)

من أجل مساعدة شبابنا على سماع نداء الله في داخلهم كانت خلوة "هل تريد أن تكون كاهناً؟" التي أقامتها الأبرشية بالتعاون مع مؤسسة الإيمان القديم، ولبى الدعوة إليها اثنان وثمانون شاباً وخمسون من الزوجات أو الخطيبات.

انطلقت الفكرة ممّا ألاحظه من علامات للخدمة الكهنوتية في وجوه الكثير من الشباب الذين ألتقي بهم خلال زيارتي للرعايا. كذلك ممّا أطارحه وعدد من المؤمنين والمهتمين برسم سياسة رعائية لمستقبل الأبرشية في السنين الآتية. توقعنا التجاوب مع الدعوة، لكننا لم نتوقع أن يصل عدد المتجاوبين إلى هذا الرقم. كتب أحد المشاركين: "نحن مستعدون للخدمة بأي صورة تراها الأبرشية مناسبة."

كانت الخلوة ناجحة بكل المقاييس. وما قاله المشتركون من كلا الجنسين أكد بوضوح على ما قدّمته الخلوة لهم من تعرّف أفضل على ما يختبرونه بشأن تکرّسهم لله عبر خدمة كنيسته، وعلى ما أمّدتهم به من إرشاد روعي في كيفية رعاية هذه الدعوة حتّى تصل إلى النضج المطلوب. كما إنّ مشاركة بعض الكهنة وزوجاتهم في الخلوة، وتقديمهم خبراتهم في هذا المجال الخدمي الكهنوتي كان له الوقع الطيب في نفوس المشتركين، على ما عبّر أحدهم وزوجته. فيما كتب آخر: "أنا ممتنّ جداً لهذه الخلوة الروحية، وللمحبّة التي أظهرها صاحب السيادة والكهنة، وقد شجعتني الأمثلة التي قدّموها لنا."

ساعدت الخلوة بعضهم على إدراك أفضل لنوع الخدمة الكنسية التي تميل نفوسهم إليها، فقد اكتشف بعض المشاركين أنّهم يميلون حالياً "إلى خدمة الشموسية الدائمة." وعبر آخر، والده قسّ بروتستانتي، ولكن لا يوجد في بلدهم الذي جاؤوا منه كنيسة أرثوذكسية، عن رغبته في أن يكون كاهناً مبشراً: "وإذا كانت مشيئة الله أن أبارك يوماً

بالخدمة الكهنوتية، فأرجو أن أكرّس نفسي لحمل المسيح وكنيسته إلى (...) من خلال الخدمة الأمينة والكراسة وشهادة الحياة."

مشاركة بعض خوريات الأبرشية ساعدت المشتركين في تقدير دور زوجة الكاهن وأهمية نضج دعوتها بالتزامن مع دعوة زوجها. ورد في كتابات بعض المشاركين مايلي: "لديّ رغبة في أن أصبح كاهنًا إن كانت هذه مشيئة الله. وعلى أقل تقدير، أودّ أن أكون جزءًا من سلك الشموسية. لكنني قلقٌ بشأن خطيبي وكيف ستأقلم مع دور الخورية. لذلك سأناقش معها هذا الاحتمال برفقة كاهن رعيتي." فيما كتب آخر: "ساعدتني هذه الخلوة على أن أدرك أنني بحاجة إلى العودة والاهتمام بالأساسيات، مثل حياة الصلاة المنتظمة، وأن أصلي من أجل زوجتي لأنها لم تشعر بعد بالدعوة، رغم أنني أعلم أنها ستكون خورية رائعة بسبب قلبها المملوء محبةً وغفرانًا. تقول زوجتي إنها ستتبع مشيئة الله."

أمّا فرصة التعرّف إلى الكهنوت في واقعه في إطار عائلة الكاهن، فقد بدأ المشتركون يتعرّفون إليها جيّدًا. "لقد كانت هذه الخلوة فرصةً ممتازة للتعرّف على الكهنوت من كلا الجانبين، أي من منظور الكاهن وزوجته." كذلك ساعدت الخلوة في لفت الانتباه إلى أهمية البيئة العائلية في تنمية الدعوة وفي نضجها. جاء في إحدى التعليقات: "أريد أن أتمم مشيئة الله وأتعرّف إليها. العائق الأكبر أمامي هو الأسرة. فقد أصبح حمائي جدًّا لأول مرة، وهو في الرابعة والثمانين من عمره (والآن عمره ٨٧ عامًا)، وابني هو أول حفيد من حفيدين له. ولست مهنيًّا حاليًّا للانتقال وأخذ ابني بعيدًا عنه، في هذه المرحلة من حياته. لذلك لا أشعر أنني مستحقّ أو مستعدّ بعد. أصلي أن يمنحني الله مزيدًا من الوضوح بينما أصلح أوجه القصور التي كشفها لي هذا اللقاء الروحي."

أمّا كيف تنمو الدعوة وتتضح وتنضج فهذا ما ساعدت الخلوة على إدراكه بيقظة ووعي، سواء من خلال الميل الشخصي وسماع نداء الله، "كانت فكرة خدمة الكنيسة حاضرة دائمًا في ذهني، لكنني أردت أن أسير بتأنٍّ وأن أركّز أولاً على تعلّم أسلوب الحياة الأرثوذكسي." وأيضاً: "منذ صغري، شعرت بالميل نحو الكهنوت ولم أستطع تفسيره بوضوح. ومع تقديمي في العمر وازدياد معرفتي بالكهنوت، شعرت بالخوف بسبب الثقل

العظيم والمسؤولية الكبيرة التي يحملها الكاهن. وبالرغم من هذا الخوف، لم تفارقني فكرة الكهنوت أبداً. وكلّما خدمت أكثر، ازداد شوقي إلى الخدمة، سواء في المخيمات أو منظمة الشبيبة الأرثوذكسية (SOYO) أو دراسات الكتاب المقدس. كنت أشعر دائماً بوجود شيء ما ناقص. عندي مزيج من الاختبار؛ أشعر بقدرتي على تقديم المزيد، ولكنني لا أستطيع في الوقت نفسه. أعتقد أن السبب هو أنني مدعو إلى الكهنوت منذ طفولتي. "أو من خلال الأهل والأصدقاء: "أخبرني العديد من الأشخاص من حولي، من أفراد العائلة وأبناء الرعية والأصدقاء الأرثوذكس وحتى الأصدقاء غير المسيحيين، بأنه ينبغي لي أن أصبح كاهناً أو على الأقل أن أستكشف هذه الدعوة."

لذلك بدأ بعضهم بالسؤال العملي: كيف أتحضر لهذه الخدمة المباركة. "أودّ معرفة الخيارات المتاحة للأشخاص الذين لم يحصلوا على تعليم ما بعد المرحلة الثانوية، ويرغبون في السعي نحو الكهنوت."

"التحقت ببرنامج القديس إسطفانوس بهدف السعي نحو الشموسية الدائمة. إلا أنّ المناقشات اللاحقة مع كاهن رعيّتي شجّعني على متابعة طريق الكهنوت والتوقف مؤقتاً عن السعي نحو الشموسية."

المطمئن في الأمر أنّ العديد من المتأكدين من دعوتهم عبّروا عن عدم استحقاقهم ورهبتههم أمام قداسة هذه الخدمة، ممّا يدعو إلى الأمل مستقبلاً بتوفر كهنة بحسب قلب الله في هذه الأبرشية المباركة. "أخشى المذبح، لكنني أريد أن أخدم المسيح، وأحبّه أكثر ممّا أخاف الأتون". وكتب آخر: "لم أفكر يوماً، ولا أزال أعتقد، بأنني غير مستحق حتى للتفكير في الكهنوت."

قد تكون هذه العبارات التي كتبها بعضهم، خير ما نختم به هذا المقال: "كلّ ما أريده هو أن أكون في الكنيسة." وأيضاً: "لقد جرّبت هوايات ومهنًا أخرى، لكن لا شيء يفوق محبّتي للمسيح ولكنيستته. ولهذا السبب أوّمن بأنني مدعو إلى الكهنوت."

Join Us for our Annual Food Festival!

September 12 & 13, 2026

Donations toward the food festival are now accepted. To donate or volunteer, please contact: Church Office at office@orthodoxredeemer.org, Festival Co- Chairs: Sam Araj @ (415)860-0040, Janna Dughman @ (510)825-0563, or Donation Coordinator Wardeh Asfour @ (408)718-3339 Any Cash Donations Accepted, or Please Choose Items from List.

		Food Festival Items Needed 2026
Qty	COUNT	ITEMS
8	Pk of 500	Napkins Large for Dinner
2	Roll	Aluminum Foil Large
4	Pk of 500	Aluminum Foil small
8	Box of 500	Forks
1	Box of 500	Knife
1	Box of 500	Spoons
3	Box	Garbage Bags Large
1	Case	Bathroom Seat Cover
48	Count	Bathroom Tissue
3	Box	C-Folding Towel Papers
40	Case	16 oz. Water
1	Case	Arak
8	Box	Tomatoes
2	Bag	Yellow Onions 50 #
4	Box	Cucumbers
2	Box	Bell Pepper
10	Box	Mint
5	Box	Parsley
120	Lb	Ground Beef for Kifta
120	Lb	Chicken Breast for Kabobs
120	Lb	Chicken Thighs for Shawerma
20	Lamb Leg	Leg of Lamb for Kabobs

80	Count	Hemberger Meat
2	Bags	Basmati Rice
10	LB	Cracked wheat for Tabouleh
1	Lg. Bucket	Tahini
6	Olive Oil	Extra Virgin for Tabbouleh
8	Gallon	Lite Olive Oil (3Q) for Rice
4	Container	Frying Oil – 3 Vegetable, 2 Canola
2	Cans	Pam Spray
80	Count	Hamburger Buns
4	Can	Bread Plain Crumbs
12	Can	Hummus (Large)
2	Jar	Hot Sauce-Large
1	Bag	Sugar #25
1 ea	5 Lb	Black Pepper, All Spice
1 ea	12 – 16 OZ	7 Spices, Paprika, White Pepper, Cardamon, Ginger, Cumin, Baking Powder
2 ea	12 – 16 OZ	Granulated Garlic Powder, Granulated Onion Powder, Coriander
2	10 Lb	Sumac
16	Count	Yellow Jacket Trap
3	Count	Lighter For Stove

Father and Son Running for the Building Project



**Run with Fr. Samer
and Dominic for Our
Church**

Organized by
Father Samer Yous...



On November 8, 2026, Fr. Samer and his son Dominic will run the Monterey Bay Half Marathon to raise funds for the Church of the Redeemer Building Project.

Fr. Samer and Dominic's goal is to raise funds through this half-marathon. Please consider sponsoring their run and helping us take full advantage of this extraordinary \$500,000 matching opportunity.

Every gift brings us one step closer to the finish line!

To donate, please visit our GoFundMe campaign,

<https://gofund.me/52a963ee7>

Or online or send a check to the Church of the Redeemer 380 Magdalena Ave Los Altos Hills CA, 94024.

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...” — Hebrews 12:1–2

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Our 43rd Annual Mediterranean Food Festival is just around the corner, and we need the help of our entire parish family to make it a success!

There are many ways to volunteer—food preparation, cooking, serving, setup, cleanup, children's activities, hospitality, and more. Whether you can help for a few hours or throughout the festival, every helping hand makes a difference!

IMPORTANT: CLEANUP & SETUP WORKSHOP

Monday, September 7th at 10:00 AM

Please join us at the church for our Food Festival Cleanup & Setup Workshop. We will be cleaning and preparing the kitchen, pots and pans, grills, fryers, tents, trees, and grounds—and getting everything ready for the festival.

We need everyone's help! Please come and volunteer as much as you can.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

Please sign up today and be part of making this year's festival a wonderful celebration for our church and community!

VOLUNTEER LINK: [Food Festival Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Thank you for your time, love, and support!

Together, we can make this Food Festival a great success!

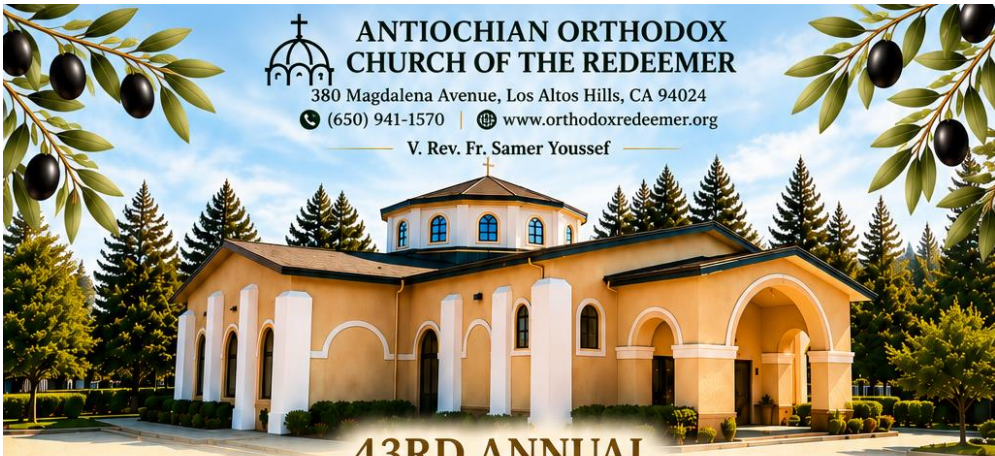


ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

380 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos Hills, CA 94024

(650) 941-1570 | www.orthodoxredeemer.org

V. Rev. Fr. Samer Youssef



43RD ANNUAL Mediterranean Food Festival

FAITH • FAMILY • FOOD • COMMUNITY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

1:00 PM – 9:00 PM



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$5 | CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT



Joe Zain

SATURDAY & SUNDAY



Sami Ihsane

PERFORMING
SATURDAY & SUNDAY



DJ Shad

LIVE DJ ALL WEEKEND



AUTHENTIC SHAWARMA
AND MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD
SERVED ALL WEEKEND



BEEF SHAWARMA WRAP



CHICKEN SHAWARMA WRAP



KNAFEH & DESSERTS



DABKE
PERFORMANCES



LOCAL
VENDORS



KIDS
ZONE



FAMILY
FUN



HOOKAH
LOUNGE

GRAND PRIZE
WIN A
TESLA
MODEL 3



FREE PARKING AT:

BRIDGES COMMUNITY CHURCH
625 MAGDALENA AVE. LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA

Building Project Update

As we celebrate the glorious Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and the Patronal Feast of our parish on August 6th, we are grateful to share wonderful news with our church family.

Through the generosity of a faithful benefactor who has learned that our parish is nearing the beginning of construction, we have been blessed with a **new matching gift challenge of up to \$500,000** for our Building Project. Every donation made toward the project between now and **December 31** will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to this amount.

By God's grace, we are now in the final stages of preparation for construction. The Building Committee and the Parish Council are working diligently to complete the selection of the general contractor and to finalize the remaining details of the project. Together, they will continue to meet over the coming weeks to prepare a comprehensive presentation for the parish.

A **General Parish Meeting** will be held in **October**, during which the Building Committee and Parish Council will present the proposed construction timeline, project updates, and important information regarding the Fellowship Hall, Sunday School, and Preschool/Daycare building. The exact date of the meeting will be announced in the coming weeks.

We prayerfully encourage every member of our parish family to take advantage of this extraordinary matching opportunity. Your generous support will help us maximize this blessing and bring us one step closer to beginning construction of this long-awaited project, which will serve our parish and future generations.

As we celebrate Christ's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, we are reminded that the Lord revealed His divine glory to strengthen and encourage His disciples. We believe that the same Lord is present with us today, guiding and blessing our parish in Los Altos Hills. May He continue to inspire each of us to offer our gifts with joyful and generous hearts, so that together we may build for His glory and for the growth of His holy Church.

May God bless you abundantly, and may the Feast of the Holy Transfiguration fill you and your family with His light, peace, and joy.



GIVE TO ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE
REDEEMER

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

