

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

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
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November 22, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
& Ninth Sunday of Luke
After-feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

Apostles Philemon, Apphia, Archippos and Onesimos of the Seventy;
Martyr Cecilia of Rome and those with her; Venerable Iakovos of Evia

الاحد الخامس والعشرون بعد العنصرة والأحد التاسع من لوقا

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

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

God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God.

Glory… Both now…

الانتيفونا الأولى

عَظِيمٌ هُوَ الرَّبُّ وَمُسَبَّحٌ جِدّاً في مَدِينَةِ إِلَهِنَا عَلَى جَبَلِ قُدْسِهِ. فِيكِ قِيلَتِ المَفَاخِرُ يَا مَدِينَةَ الله.

بِشَفاعاتِ والِدَةِ الإلهِ، يا مُخَلِّصُ خَلِّصْنا.

اللهُ مَعْرُوفٌ في قُصُورِها بِأَنَّهُ نَصِيرُها. مِثْلَمَا سَمِعْنَا كَذَلِكَ رَأَيْنَا في مَدِينَةِ رَبِّ القُوَّاتِ في مَدِينَةِ إِلَهِنا.

بِشَفاعاتِ والِدَةِ الإلهِ...

ألمجد ... الآنَ ... **بِشَفاعاتِ والِدَةِ الإلهِ....**

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

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

This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter in thereat.

Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

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

الانتيفونا الثانية

العَلِيُّ قَدَّسَ مَسْكَنَهُ، الحَمْدُ وَالبَهَاءُ قُدَّامَهُ، القَدَاسَةُ وَالجَلالُ في مَقْدِسِه.

خَلِّصْنا يا ابْنَ اللهِ، يا مَنْ قامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الأَمْواتِ، لِنُرَتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلِلويا.

هَذَا هُوَ بَابُ الرَّبِّ، وَمِنْهُ يَدْخُلُ الصِّدِّيقُون.

مِنْ قَدَاسَةِ هَيْكَلِكَ، أَنْتَ عَجِيبٌ في عَدَالَتِك.

المَجْدُ... الآنَ ... **يا كَلِمَةَ اللهِ الإبنَ الوَحيد...**

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

الانتيفونا الثالثة

لِوَجْهِكِ يَتَضَرَّعُ أَغْنياءُ الشَّعْبِ. إِبْنَةُ الْمَلِكِ فِي الداخِلِ، مُتَرَدِّيَةً ومُزَيَّنَةً بِأَشْرِطَةٍ ذَهَبِيَّة. تأْتي في إِثْرِهَا عَذَارَى إلى المَلِكِ، عَذَارَى مُقَرَّباتٌ مِنْها يُؤتى بِهِنَّ إِلَيْك.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

أبوليتيكيون القيامة باللحن الثامِن

انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ العُلوِّ يا مُتَحَنِّن، وقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذا الثَّلاثَةِ الأيام، لِكَيْ تُعْتِقَنا مِنَ الآلام، فَيا حَياتَنا وقِيامَتَنَا، يا رَبُّ المَجْدُ لَك.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

أبوليتيكيون عيدِ دُخول السيّدة باللحن الرابع

اليومَ البَتولُ التي هيَ مُقَدِّمَةُ مَسَرَّةِ الله، وابْتِداءُ الكِرازَةِ بِخَلاصِ البَشَر، قَدْ ظَهَرَتْ في هيكَلِ اللهِ عَلانيَة، وسَبَقَتْ مُبَشِّرَةً لِلْجميعِ بالمَسيح. فلنَهتِفْ نَحوها بِصَوْتٍ عَظيمٍ قائلين: إفرَحي يا كَمالَ تَدْبيرِ الخالِق.

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 تَجلّي ربّنا يَسُوعَ المَسِيح باللحن السابع

لمَّا تَجَلَّيْتَ أيُّها المَسيحُ الإلهُ في الجَبَلِ، أظْهَرْتَ مَجْدَكَ لِلْتلاميذِ حَسْبَما اسْتَطاعوا، فأَشْرِقْ لنا نَحْنُ الخَطَأة نورَكَ الأزَليّ، بِشَفاعاتِ والِدَةِ الإلهِ، يا مانِحَ النّورِ، المَجْدُ لك.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

قِنداق عيدِ دُخولِ السيّدة باللحن الرابع

اليَوْمَ الهَيْكَلُ الذي لِلْمُخَلِّصِ، الكُلِّيُّ النَّقاءِ، العَذْراءُ الخِدْرُ ذو الثَّمَنِ الجَزيلِ، وَهِيَ الكَنْزُ الطَّاهِرُ لِمَجْدِ الإله، إذْ تَدْخُلُ بَيْتَ الرَّبِّ، تُدْخِلُ نِعْمَةَ الرُّوحِ الإلَهِيِّ مَعها. فَلْتُسَبِّحْها مَلائِكَةُ الله، لأَنَّها المِظَلَّةُ السَّماوِيَّة.

THE EPISTLE

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

الرسالة

صَلُّوا وأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إلهَنا.

اللهُ مَعْروفٌ في أَرْضِ يَهوذا؛ واسْمُهُ عَظيمٌ في إسْرائيل.

فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسالَةِ القِدّيسِ بولُسَ الرَّسولِ إلى أَفَسُس

يا إخْوَةُ، أَطْلُبُ إلَيْكُمْ أنا الأَسِيرَ في الرَّبِّ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا كَمَا يَحِقُّ لِلْدَعْوَةِ التي دُعيتُمْ بِهَا. بِكُلِّ تَواضُعٍ ووَداعَةٍ وبِطولِ أَناةٍ، مُحْتَمِلينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً بالمَحَبَّةِ. ومُجْتَهِدينَ في حِفْظِ وِحْدَةِ الرُّوحِ بِرِباطِ السَّلام. فإِنَّكُمْ جَسَدٌ واحِدٌ وروحٌ واحِدٌ، كما دُعيتُمْ إلى رَجاءِ دَعْوَتِكُمُ الواحِد، رَبٌّ واحِدٌ، وإيمانٌ واحدٌ، ومعموديَّةٌ واحدةٌ، وإلهٌ أَبٌ لِلْجَميعِ واحدٌ، هُوَ فَوْقَ الجَميعِ وبالجَميعِ وفي جَميعِكُم. ولِكُلِّ واحِدٍ مِنّا أُعْطِيَتِ النِعْمَةُ على مِقْدارِ مَوْهَبَةِ المَسيح.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

الإنجيل

فصلٌ شَريفٌ مِنْ بِشارَةِ القِدّيسِ لوقا الإنْجيليِّ البَشيرِ والتلْميذِ الطاهِر. (12:16-21)

قالَ الرَّبُّ هَذا المَثَل: إنْسانٌ غَنِيٌّ أَخْصَبَتْ أَرْضُهُ. فَفَكَّرَ في نَفْسِهِ قائِلاً "ماذا أَصْنَعُ؟ فإنَّهُ لَيْسَ لي مَوْضِعٌ أَخْزُنُ فيهِ أَثْماري." ثُمَّ قالَ، "أَصْنَعُ هَذا: أَهْدِمُ أَهْرائي وأَبْني أَكْبَرَ مِنْها، وأَجْمَعُ هُناكَ كُلَّ غَلَّاتي وخَيْراتي. وأَقولُ لِنَفسي، يا نَفْسُ إنَّ لَكِ خَيْراتٍ كَثيرَةً فَاسْتَريحي وَكُلي واشْرَبي وافْرَحي." فَقالَ لهُ اللهُ: "يا جَاهِلُ! في هَذِهِ الليلَةِ تُطْلَبُ نَفْسُكَ مِنْكَ. فَهَذِهِ التي أَعْدَدْتَها لِمَنْ تَكون؟" فَهَكَذا مَنْ يَدَّخِرُ لِنَفْسِهِ ولا يَسْتَغْني باللهِ. ولَمَّا قالَ هذا نادَى: مَنْ لَهُ أُذُنانِ لِلْسَمْعِ، فَلْيَسْمَع.



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: David and Hala Aboujudom for the good health of Edmond Aboujudom, wishing him speedy recovery. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Fr. Samer, Dimitry, Damian and Dominic Youssef for the good health of Kh. Julianna on the occasion of her birthday (Nov 15). For the good health of the Youssef and Neyman families. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Samer and Rouba Dabit for the good health of their daughter Celine on the occasion of her birthday (Nov 15), and the good health of their son Farid and the Dabit family. Many Years!

OFFERED BY: Joseph Louis for the good health of his wife Najah on the occasion of her birthday (Nov 19) and for the good health of their children, grandchildren and the Louis family. Many Years!



COFFEE HOUR

Offered By: Thanksgiving Agape Potluck.

(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
Paraklisis Service: Dec 4th @ 6:00 PM
(Please check your email in case of any cancellations for Vespers)

DECORATING THE ALTAR

Thank you for your donation:

James & Gretchen Stroud: For the good health of the Stroud family. In memory of Bronnie and Annebelle Stroud.

Nicolas & Sonia Azar: For the good health of the Azar, Mansour, Halaby and Sousou families. In memory of Jamil, Fayka, Basil, Valery, Michael, David and Johnny.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Thank you for your donation:

James & Gretchen Stroud & family. Nicolas & Sonia Azar & family.

General Parish Meeting Jan 24, 2027

The General Meeting of our Parish will be taking place on the third Sunday After the Feast of Theophany, January 24th after the Divine Liturgy.
The appointed nominating Committee will prepare the names to run on the Parish Council for 2027.

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 2026

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 Angles 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 Nadine Safi. The officers are: President; Riad Akkary, Secretary; Mila Haddad, Treasurer; Gabreilla Ajlouni, Social Media Coordinator; Adriana Ajlouni.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Sunday School Registration forms are available.
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, Dimitry Youssef and Hussam Ibrahim.

CHRISTMAS PLAY
Sunday December 20, 2026

Sunday School Christmas play rehearsals are as follows: Sundays from 12:15 to 12:45. Nov. 22, Nov. 29, December 6, and Dec. 13. Dress Rehearsal is SATURDAY Dec.19 from 2:00 to 3:30PM, with performance on Sunday Dec. 20 after Liturgy. If your child ages 4 to 10 are not yet participating, there is still time left to join up until November 8th. Please see Nancy Godfrey for a script and the music!"

****SPECIAL NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST****

On November 15, we began, with God's help, the forty-day Nativity Fast in preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. Throughout this period, we abstain from meat, poultry, eggs and dairy. According to the Patriarchate of Antioch, it is not necessary to fast from oil, but people may choose to do so.

From November 15-December 11, fish, wine and oil are allowed every day, except Wednesdays and Fridays. But fish, wine and oil are allowed on November 21, the Entrance of the Theotokos, regardless on which day of the week it falls. From December 12-24, we observe a strict fast with katalysis (relaxation) for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays, on commemorations of vigil-rank and intermediate-rank saints such as Nicholas and Ignatius, and for church patronal saints.

Blessing of the girls prayer
(Parent and Grandparents, please bring your young girls forward for a blessing.)

Priest: O God, our heavenly Father, who loves mankind and are most merciful and compassionate, have mercy on these young girls as You did on Holy Mary when she was presented in Your temple. We commend them to Your gracious care and protection. Be, O God, their guide and guardian in all their endeavors, lead them into the path of Your truth and draw them nearer to You as You did with our beloved Mother Mary. Help them to lead godly and righteous lives in your love and fear, doing Your will in all things. Give them grace that they may be temperate, industrious, diligent, devout and charitable. Defend them against the assaults of the enemy, and grant them wisdom and strength to resist all temptation and corruption of this life, and direct them in the way of salvation through the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the intercessions of His holy Mother and thy Blessed saints. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Please save the date

- ***Advent Fast:*** *Fast starts November 15- December 24.*
- ***November 20:*** *Young Adults Friendsgiving @ 6:00PM*
- ***November 22:*** *Blessing of the girls after the Divine Liturgy. Please make sure to bring your daughter to church.*
- ***November 22:*** *Potluck Luncheon on Sunday November 22 after the Divine Liturgy.*
- ***December 6:*** *St. Barbara Day, sponsored by the ladies auxiliary. Please bring a pot of our traditional Burbara to share with everyone.*
- ***December 11:*** *Christmas party @ Tannourine Resturant*
- ***December 13:*** *Al-Salam Choir Christmas Songs at the church of the Redeemer @ 6:00pm*
- ***December 20:*** *Christmas play after the Liturgy.*
- ***December 24:*** *Christmas Services Evening, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity Matins @ 7:00pm and Divine Liturgy @ 8:00pm.*

SAMARITAN HOUSE VOLENTEER APPOTUNITY

The Orthodox Church of the Redeemer and its SOYO group in participating will be volunteering this holiday season at Samaritan House. All SOYO, Youth and Young Adults are welcome. ***Please sign up with Fr. Samer or contact the office @ office@orthodoxredeemer.org***

https://samaritanhousesanmateo.org/

- *Saturday 11/28 from 8am to 11am, Group of 10 volunteers.*
- *Saturday 12/19 from 8am to 11am, Group of 10 volunteers.*

Please note that there is a minimum age requirement of 12-15 with an adult chaperone. 16+ year olds may attend without a chaperone. For anyone age 12-15, the agency requires a chaperone ratio of at least 1 adult to every 4 children. No tasks are suitable for youth ages 11 and below.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

To be read during the Feast of Thanksgiving
By Father Alexander Schememann

Everyone who is capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank you, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which is offered to the Holy Trinity – to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit – and which has filled our hearts with "joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit".

Thank you, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and for giving us a foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank you, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, and temptations and for having restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestow upon us, for they purify us from selfishness and remind us of "the one thing needed: Your eternal kingdom".

Thank you, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank you O Lord, for this parish, where the Name of God is proclaimed.

Thank you, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and especially children, who teach us how to celebrate Your Holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank you, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and there are no words which are sufficient to celebrate your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

Fr. Alexander offered this prayer in a sermon on Thanksgiving Day 1983. It was his last sermon. Two weeks later, he fell asleep in the Lord, after a long struggle with cancer. May his memory be eternal!

The Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Redeemer wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Sacrament of Confession, Part Two

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

In the Church, we find people advanced in their spiritual lives and others just beginning. Some understand Christianity as merely a religion, a way of life, or a social welfare institution. But the Church is much more than that. The Church is the hospital where people are healed when they live and grow in Christ. It is living in the Kingdom and the path leading to it. In it, a person is saved and regains their lost joy. Healing the spiritually ill is the work of the Church, and the Church's contribution to serving the physically ill is simply a step in this healing process.

This healing can be made through purification. Christianity without purification is utopia. “If any one among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this; to visit the orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world” (James 1:26–27).

What is the role of the priest? If the Church is a hospital, then the priest is the physician. Therefore, the priest is not a religious businessman, no matter how important; all his work (sacramental, service-oriented, social, administrative, etc.) must be done with the aim of healing people. He is the spiritual physician who heals the sick. He is the father in Christ. We call him "father" because he begets in Christ. Worship and sacraments must be placed within the therapeutic method and treatment.

In this context, Orthodoxy does not view confession as a mere formal or legal absolution from sins. It is more than that. St. John Climacus says in a patristic spiritual reading of the Book of Exodus:

> "Those of us who wish to go out of Egypt and to fly from Pharaoh, certainly need some Moses as a mediator with God and from God, who, standing between action and contemplation, will raise hands of prayer for us to God, so that guided by Him we may cross the sea of sin and rout the Amalek of the passions" (The Ladder of Divine Ascent, step 1:7).

There is no healing without a physician. Saint Symeon the New Theologian says that the priest is Moses, who leads his spiritual children as a knowledgeable and compassionate physician.

Saint John Chrysostom elevates the priesthood, saying, “The work of the priesthood is done on earth, but it is ranked in the heavenly ordinances.” For this reason, the degrees of priesthood (deacon, priest, bishop) in the Orthodox understanding are closely linked to the three fundamental stages of spiritual life: purification, enlightenment, and deification. This practically means that the more a person progresses in healing, the higher he ascends the ladder of priestly grace and blessing.

Hence, providing the task of identifying the sick—that is, diagnosing and then treating them to achieve healing—is considered one of the most important tasks of the Orthodox Church.

This requires, first and foremost, self-knowledge. How can one be saved without knowing and confessing his sins? How can one reveal his illness to a physician if he does not feel pain? The first step is self-knowledge. The Desert Fathers used to say, “First of all, let us return to ourselves.” Self-knowledge is one of the greatest tasks facing the priest in our contemporary society. How can a priest help people come to know themselves, become aware of their sins, feel the pain of their transgressions, and ultimately confess them? Confession is not merely a recounting of sins, but a revealing of them, allowing us to name our sins.

A priest must know and be aware of his own sins, explain the spiritual life, talk about the lives of the saints, and interpret the Gospel on a spiritual and personal level. He needs to be well-versed about sins, passions, temptations, and their effects on the soul. A sense of holiness must grow in the faithful, and the priest's ministry requires him to help them understand Christianity as a spiritual battle against the demons.

The second thing is repentance. We do not strive merely to become good and virtuous people in this society. The goal of confession is not to make people upright and sociable, nor is it a self-serving exercise, but rather it is the forgiveness of sins and guidance that helps in healing from them and developing personal communion with God. Thus, God becomes a light that illuminates, not a fire that burns. Repentance means change.

في سر الاعتراف، الجزء الثاني
بقلم المتروبوليت سابا (اسبر)

نجد في الكنيسة أناساً متقدمين وآخرين مبتدئين في الحياة الروحيّة، وثمّة من يفهمون المسيحيّة كدين، كنظام حياة، كمؤسّسة خيريّة اجتماعيّة لا غير. الكنيسة أكثر من هذا. الكنيسة هي المستشفى الذي يُعالَج الناس فيه عندما يحيون في المسيح وينمون فيه. إنّها العيش في الملكوت والطريق المؤدّي إليه في آنٍ. فيها يخلص الإنسان ويعود إلى فرحه المفقود. شفاء المرضى روحياً هو عمل الكنيسة، وما مساهمة الكنيسة في خدمة المرضى جسدياً إلا مسير في هذه المسيرة الشفائية.

يبدأ هذا الشفاء بمسيرة تنقية الذات. تبقى المسيحيّة من دون مسيرة التنقية أو التطهّر فلسفةً مثالية. «ومن ظنّ أنّه متديّن وهو لا يحفظ لسانه، خدع نفسه وكانت ديانته باطلة. فالديانة الطاهرة النقيّة عند الله أبينا هي أن يعتني الإنسان بالأيتام والأرامل في ضيقتهم، وأن يصون نفسه من دنس العالم» (يعقوب ١: ٢٦-٢٧).

ما دور الكاهن؟ إذا كانت الكنيسة مستشفى، فالكاهن هو الطبيب. من هنا ليس الكاهن رجل أعمال دينية مهما كانت مهمّة؛ كلّ الأعمال (الأسرارية، الخدمية، الاجتماعية، الإدارية...إلخ) يجب أن تُتمَّم بهدف شفاء الناس. إنّه الطبيب الروحيّ الذي يشفي المرضى. إنّه الوالد بالمسيح. ندعوه «أباً»، لأنّه يلدنا في المسيح. العبادة والأسرار يجب أن تأخذ مكانها ضمن المنهج الشفائيّ والمعالجة الشفائيّة.

في هذا السياق، لا يُنظر أرثوذكسياً إلى الاعتراف بمثابة حلٍّ شكليّ أو قانونيّ من الخطايا. إنّه أكثر من حلّ. يقول القدّيس يوحنّا السلّميّ في قراءة روحية آبائية لسفر الخروج: «أولئك منّا الذين يرغبون بالخروج بعيداً من مصر وفرعون، يحتاجون إلى وسيط مع الله يقف بين العمل والثاوريّا ويمدّ ذراعه إلى الله حتّى يعبر بواسطته، أولئك الذين يقودهم، بحرَ الخطيئة ويحاربون عماليق الأهواء» (كتاب السلم إلى الله، الفصل الرابع). ما من شفاء من دون طبيب. أمّا القدّيس سمعان اللاهوتيّ الحديث فيقول إنّ الكاهن هو موسى الذي يقود أولاده الروحيّين كطبيب عالِم ومتعطّف.

ويسمو القدّيس يوحنّا الذهبيّ الفم برسالة الكهنوت قائلاً: «عمل الكهنوت يتمّ على الأرض، لكنّه ينتظم في مصاف الأحكام السماويّة». لهذا السبب، ترتبط درجات الكهنوت في المفهوم الأرثوذكسي ارتباطاً وثيقًا بدرجات الحياة الروحيّة الأساسيّة الثلاث: التطهير والاستنارة والتألّه. هذا يعني عملياً أنّ الإنسان بقدر ما يتقدّم في الشفاء فإنّه يصعد سلّم البركة والنعمة الكهنوتيّة.

من هنا، يُعتبر وجوب توفير مهمّة كشف المرض، أي تشخيصه ثمّ معالجته للوصول إلى الشفاء، من أهمّ مهمّات الكنيسة الأرثوذكسيّة.

وهذا يتطلب أوّلاً معرفة الذات، إذ كيف يمكن للمرء أن يخلُص من دون أن يعرف خطاياه ويعترف بها؟ كيف يكشف الإنسان مرضه للطبيب، إذا لم يشعر بألمه؟ فالخطوة الأولى هي معرفة أنفسنا. اعتاد آباء البرّيّة أن يقولوا: «قبل كلّ شيء لنعد إلى ذواتنا». معرفة الذات واحدة من المهامّ العظمى التي يواجهها الكاهن في مجتمعنا المعاصر. كيف يمكن للكاهن أن يساعد الناس على معرفة أنفسهم، ووعي خطاياهم، والشعور بألم آثامهم، وتالياً الاعتراف بها؟ الاعتراف ليس سردًا للخطايا فقط، بل هو كشف لها لنعرف أوّلاً أسماء خطايانا.

يحتاج الكاهن إلى أن يعرف خطاياه ويعيها، يشرح الحياة الروحيّة، وأن يتحدّث عن سِيَر القدّيسين، وأن يفسّر الإنجيل على المستوى الروحيّ والشخصيّ. يحتاج إلى أن يكون عالِماً جيّداً بالخطايا والأهواء والتجارب وعملها في النفس. يجب أن ينمو الشعور بالقداسة عند الناس المؤمنين، وخدمة الكاهن تتطلّب منه أن يساعدهم كي يفهموا المسيحيّة بمثابة معركة روحيّة ضدّ قوى الشرّ.

الأمر الثاني هو التوبة. نحن لا نجاهد لكي نصير أشخاصاً صالحين وخلوقين في هذا المجتمع فقط. هدف الاعتراف ليس جعل الناس مستقيمين ومهذّبين اجتماعيّاً، وليس تمريناً إنسانيّاً ذاتيّاً، بل هو غفران الخطايا وإرشاد يساعد على الشفاء منها وتنمية الشركة الشخصية مع الله. هكذا يصير الله نوراً ينير، لا ناراً تحرق. تعني التوبةُ التغيير.

SANTA MARIA
URBAN MINISTRY

Food pantry and neighborndoa resource

Since 1983, Santa Maria has worked alongside individuals and families, building community-centered programs, deepening neighborhood partnerships, and investing in long-term transformations.



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Food & Clothing
- Education & Enrichment
- Health & Wellness
- Community Engagement
- Homelessness Assistance

DONATIONS NEEDED

We are collecting new or gently used clothing, shoes, and other essential items for people of all ages and genders.

Diapers of all sizes are needed to help children in need.

HOW TO DONATE

Please check your closets for items you no longer need. Sort donations by size and place them in the designated bins in the church hall on:

Sunday, November 22 & Sunday, November 29

Donations will be picked up the following week.

amazon **Family & Baby Supplies**
https://a.co/0fVJxNxo

amazon **Everyday Essentials**
https://a.co/0gil8xrW

QUESTIONS?
Please contact Roula Haddad, Ladies Auxiliary officers, or Church office.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Orthodox Church of the Redeemer

Young Adult Annual Friendsgiving

Pan-Orthodox Gathering

Join us for our Annual Young Adult Friendsgiving Celebration!

A wonderful evening of fellowship, friendship, gratitude, and delicious food with young adults from Orthodox churches across the Bay Area!

Friday, November 20th | 6:00 PM

Potluck Style!

Please sign up to bring a dish to share for our Friendsgiving feast!



Come celebrate friendship, faith, and fellowship with our Orthodox young adult community!

Orthodox Church of the Redeemer

Celebrate and Build our Future

Christmas Party

All Proceeds to the Building Matching Fund

Tannourine Restaurant

120 W 25th Ave, San Mateo, CA 94403

Friday, December 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Full Mezza, Dinner and Wine

Featuring Singer

Sami Ihsane

Donation: $125 *Per Guest*

Your ticket price will be matched and doubled.

Purchase Your Tickets ASAP – Limited Seating!

RSVP by Dec 1st

For Tickets, Please Contact:

Ibtisam Kreitem @ 408-594-3000 | Church Office @ office@orthodoxredeemer.org



Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Redeemer

Proudly Presents

Al-Salam Choir's

12th Annual

Christmas Recital

directed by Vocalist/Psalti **NADER ZAKI**

music by **Taghreed Haddad**







Sunday, December 13th (6:00 pm)

380 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA 94024

Free Admission. Free parking. All are welcome.

2026 PLEDGE MEMBERS

Thank you to all the members who submitted their pledges. 2026 pledges will roll into 2027. Please if you are able to increase your pledges to inform the office/ treasurer. These names are not the final list, if you do not see your name please submit your pledge online. For questions contact the treasure, Henry Veizades at treasurer@orthodoxredeemer.org. We are encouraging all parishioners to pledge online at www.orthodoxredeemer.org. Thank you for your love to Christ and His Church.

(If you want your name to be Anonymous, Please notify the office).

Members pledging	Members pledging	Members pledging
Abboud, Fayez & Rima	Gussous, Yazeed & Rawia	Mapar, Kevin & Victoria
Abboud Aida	Habib, Yousif & Amal	Mawla, Shawn & Carol
Aboujudom, David & Hala	Haddad, Sami & Ramza	Michael, Rizik & Sylvia
Aboujudom, Edmond	Haddad, Bachour & Jane	Mitri, George & Mona
Ajlouni, Amal	Haddad, Francois & Maya	Mogannam, John & Norma
Ajlouni, Basem & Maha	Haddad, Hanna & Rania	Mogannam, Anthony
Ajlouni, Yacoub & Inaya	Haddad, Roula	Naser, Nuha
Ajlouny, Edward & Nellie	Hadaddin, Angela	Nassif, Faris & Mabell
Akkary, Marwan & Yara	Hadaya, William & Aiya	Nicholson, Adla
Akkary, Johnny & Narmen	Hage, Samuel & Maya	Nijmeh, Anton
Akra, Ibrahim & Nadia	Halteh, Anwar & Diana	Nystrom, Alia
Amireh, Daad	Hanani, Elias & Wardia	Odeh, Rajai & Suhaila
Amireh, Nahida	Hanani, Maher & Randa	Omran, George & Jeanette
Anagnos, Gus & Christina	Hanhan, Sal & Laila	Oshana, Johnny & Mera
Appelton, Lovette	Hanhan, Yvonne	Otell, Daniel & Jocelyne
Araj, David & May	Hanna, David & Marta	Rubenstein, Sara
Asfour, Jeannette	Hanna, Margaret	Saah, Widad
Asfour, Salim & Wardeh	Horn, Bobby & Mihaela	Saah, Abdallah & Hala
Assefa, Helen	Jaber, Najla	Saah, David, Najwa & Rami
Awad, Marwan & Mona	Jaber, Nawal	Saba, Tony & Marianne
Aweiss, Salem & Samia	Jammal, Mary	Sakellar, Virginia
Azar, Bashar & Alexandra	Jammal, Michel & Therese	Sakkab, Hilda
Azar, Nicholas & Sonia	Jammal, Peter & Maria	Salah, John & Linda
Baker, Jonathan & Dania	Jarrouche, Yaacoub & Terry	Salah, Mary
Barghash, Hadi & Suzan	Kacker, Viraj	Salah, Paul
Bargouth, George & Rowida	Kakunda, Bishara & Marlene	Salameh, Majida
Bateh, Jad & Elaine	Kakunda, Michael & Leila	Salameh, Nader & Summer
Bateh, Nawal	Kassis, Samer & Rana	Skikos, Steve & Ida
Bateh, George	Kattuah, Suad	Samawi, Karam
Batmani, Nabil & Basma	Kawwas, Charlie & Carol Sara	Sara, Msalam & Majd
Batmani, Spir & Jehan	Kerba, Emile & Jacqueline	Saoud, Suzan
Baransy, Anan & Lubna	Kerba, Nabil & Josette	Swanson, Giselle Salloum
Bou Reslan, Hani & Nicole	Khamis, Johnny & Joulyana	Sayigh, Basim & Sonia
Daya, Anis & May	Khinno, Edmund & Maria	Segal, Mitchell & Maria
Dimes, Violette	Khoury, Bassam & Dima	Skaff, George & May
Doughert, Annemarie	Khoury, Richard	Sleiman, Nayla
Dughman, Sami & Amal	Khoury, Sami & Kamilia	Srouji, Almaza
DeVore, Noah	Kreitem, George & Adele	Stratton, Katherine
Eid, Richard & Annette	Kreitem, Ibtisam	Tarazi, Ibtisam & Dalia
Eideh, Hanna & Suad	Labban, George & Ghazal	Tarazi, Raja & Fadwa
Eideh, Sana	Lara, Christian & Yessica	Tepper, Maxx
Elmasu, Osama & Hala	Leopold, Weston & Angela	Theologides, Athanasios & Maria
Fasheh. Diana	Liwi, Adrena	Timothy, Jake & Caitlin
Fasheh, Hiyam	Liwi, Douglas	Vaisberg, Victor & Inessa
Fasheh, Maher & Dimah	Lomeli, Scott & Vivian	Veizades, Henry & Sheila
Gannage, Michel & Rima	Louis, Joseph & Najah	Xu, Esther
Ghattas, Hanna & Madlen	Lutton, Chip & Jennifer	Youssef, Dimitry
Godfrey, Richard & Nancy	Lutton, Richard	Youssef, Fr. Samer and Julianna
Green, David & Lauren		Zabaneh, Randy & Mary

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

$500,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE!

By God's grace, we are closer than ever to beginning construction of our new Fellowship Hall, Sunday School classrooms, administrative space, and Preschool.
We have been blessed with an extraordinary $500,000 Matching Challenge. Every donation made toward the Building Project through December 31, 2026, will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $500,000. Your gift will have DOUBLE the impact!
$100 becomes $200 • $500 becomes $1,000 • $5,000 becomes $10,000
The Building Committee and Parish Council continue working diligently to finalize the general contractor selection and remaining project details. A General Parish Meeting will be held in October to present the latest project updates, financial information, and proposed construction timeline. The meeting date will be announced soon.
This is an important moment in the life of our parish. We prayerfully encourage every parishioner and friend of the Church of the Redeemer to participate and help us take advantage of the full $500,000 match. Together, we are building for our children, our families, our ministries, and future generations.

DOUBLE the Impact. DOUBLE the Blessing.
Give by December 31, 2026.

GIVE TO ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

https://www.orthodoxredeemer.org/funds



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Sunday school is having a Community Christmas Card fundraiser. This card is used to spread the greetings of Christ's birth to families and friends throughout the community. This Christmas, as you reflect your blessing and perhaps even on some of the challenges that have helped you grow; **take a minute to support the Sunday school in raising money that will go towards Four Homes of Mercy and to the Sunday school program**. By making a donation your name will appear inside the Community Christmas Card and it will be mailed to all members of the church. You can help donate by completing the form attached to this letter and return it to church office by December 8, 2026.

Online Donation Link: https://orthodoxredeemer.breezechms.com/give/online

Thank you for your participation and efforts in support of the Community Christmas Card Program!



Name_____

Address_____

_____

Donation $10_____ $20_____ $50_____ Other_____



DECORATING THE ALTAR

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. We invite all the parishioners to participate in decorating our Church Altar by donating Poinsettias as a tradition for the good health or in memory of your beloved ones.

Please fill out the attached form and submit to the church office.

Online Donation Link: https://orthodoxredeemer.breezechms.com/give/online

Poinsettias for the Altar

This is my Donation to get poinsettia(s) for Christmas to decorate the Altar.

_____ **(Number)** of poinsettias **@ $10 each = $_____** (Please Print)

For the Good Health of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____