



St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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TONE 7

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

EOTHINON 5

PROTO-MARTYR THEKLA, EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

عيد القديسة العظيمة في الشاهيدات والمعادلة الرسل تقلا وألحد الأول من انجيل لوقا

VENERABLE SILOUAN OF ATHOS
WONDER-WORKING ICON OF THE THEOTOKOS OF THE MYRTLE TREE
SYNAXIS OF ALL SAINTS OF ALASKA



The Monastery and Orphanage of St. Thekla in Maaloula, Syria

LITURGY VARIATIONS

3RD ANTIPHON (TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, TONE 7)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross;
Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou
didst turn the sadness of the ointment-
bearing women into joy and didst bid Thine
Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast
risen, O Christ, granting to the world the
Great Mercy.

حَطَمْتَ بِصَلْبِكَ الْمَوْتَ، وَفَتَحْتَ لِلصَّيْرِ الْفِرْدَوْسَ، وَحَوَّلْتَ
نُوحَ حَامِلَاتِ الطِّيبِ إِلَى فَرَحٍ، وَأَمَرْتَ رُسُلَكَ أَنْ يَكْرِزُوا،
بَأَنَّكَ قَدْ قُمْتَ أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الرَّحْمَةَ
الْعُظْمَى.

Schedule of Regular Weekly Services

Sundays: Matins, 9:15 AM
Divine Liturgy, 10:30 AM

Saturdays: Great Vespers, 6:00 PM

Confession: After Saturday Vespers
During Sunday Matins
Or by Appointment



See Calendar for Feast Days and Other Weekday Services Scheduled

Please turn cell phones off!

Order for Holy Communion

Members of the Orthodox Church age seven and above must prepare for Holy Communion with a recent confession, prayer, fasting from all food and drink from midnight (unless a medical condition preclude it), being in church *before* the Epistle and Gospel readings, and being at peace with everyone.

CHILDREN going to church school and their teachers should come down the center aisle first. (Small children may need to be assisted by their parents.)

ALL OTHERS should wait until an usher dismisses your row from the center aisle. Then return to your place by a side aisle for the prayers of thanksgiving and the final blessing and dismissal. Please let choir members pass when they come down for Communion.

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in **Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church** in good standing, who have prepared with prayer, fasting and a recent confession.

For all others: though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread (from the large bowls). Please also sign our guest book and introduce yourself to Fr. Nabil or Fr. Andrew during coffee hour. You may inquire with them how you can become a member.

APOLYTIKIA AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of The Resurrection (Tone ٧)

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross....

حَطَمْتَ بِصَلْبِكَ الْمَوْتَ....

Troparion of St. Thekla (Tone 3)

O glorious Thekla, Companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine Preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ, thy Groom, to grant us His great mercy.

أَيْثُهَا الْمَجِيدَةُ ثَقْلًا، يَا رَفِيقَةَ بُولَسَ الْإِلَهِيِّ. لَمَّا أَلْتَهَيْتِ بِحُبِّ خَالِقِكَ، مِنْ تَعَالِيمِ الْكَارِزِ الْإِلَهِيِّ، أَرْدَرَيْتِ الْأَرْضِيَّاتِ الزَّائِلَةَ، وَقَدَّمْتِ نَفْسَكَ لِلَّهِ ضَحِيَّةً مُقَدَّسَةً مُقْبُولَةً، غَيْرَ خَائِفَةٍ مِنَ الْعَذَابَاتِ. فَأَبْتَهَلِي إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ حَتْبَتِكَ، أَنْ يَمْنَحَنَا الرَّحْمَةَ الْعُظْمَى.

Troparion of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos (Tone 4)

By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

بِصَلَوَاتِكَ أَقْتَبَلْتَ الْمَسِيحَ كَمِثْلِ مُعَلِّمِكَ، عَلَى سِكَّةِ التَّوَاضُعِ. وَالرُّوحُ الْقُدُّوسُ شَهِدَ فِي قَلْبِكَ لِحَلَاصِكَ. لِذَلِكَ كُلُّ الشُّعُوبِ الْمَدْعُوعَةِ إِلَى الْحَلَاصِ تَفْرَحُ وَتُعَبِّدُ لِتَذْكَارِكَ. فَيَا أَبُّهَا الْأَبَّ سِلْوَانُسُ، تَشْفَعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ، فِي حَلَاصِ نَفُوسِنَا.

Troparion of St. Nicholas (Tone 4)

The verity of your actions revealed you to your flock, a rule of faith, an icon of mildness, and teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas; wherefore by humility you have achieved exaltation and by poverty richness. Intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

لَقَدْ أَظْهَرْتَنِي أَعْمَالُ الْحَقِّ لِرِعْيَتِكَ قَانُونًا لِلْإِيمَانِ، وَصُورَةً لِلْوَدَاعَةِ، وَمُعَلِّمًا لِلْإِمْسَاكِ، أَيُّهَا الْأَبُّ وَرَيْسُ الْكَهَنَةِ نِيقُولَاوَسُ. فَلِذَلِكَ أَحْرَزْتَ بِالتَّوَاضُعِ الرَّفْعَةَ، وَبِالْمَسْكِنَةِ الْغِنَى. فَتَشْفَعْ إِلَى الْمَسِيحِ الْإِلَهِ أَنْ يُخَلِّصَ نَفُوسَنَا.

Kontakion of the Theotokos (Tone 2)

O undisputed Intercessor of Christians, the Mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, although we be sinners; come to us with aid in time, who cry unto Thee in faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

يا شَفِيعَةَ الْمَسِيحِيِّينَ غَيْرِ الْخَازِنَةِ، الْوَسِيطَةَ لَدَى الْخَالِقِ غَيْرِ الْمَرْذُودَةِ، لَا تُعْرِضِي عَنِّ أَصْوَاتِ طَلِبَاتِنَا نَحْنُ الْخَطَّاءُ، بَلْ تَدَارِكِينَا بِالْمَعُونَةِ بِمَا أَنْتَ صَالِحَةٌ، نَحْنُ الصَّارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ بِإِيمَانٍ: بَادِرِي إِلَى الشَّفَاعَةِ وَأَسْرِعِي فِي الطَّلِبَةِ، يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، الْمَتَشَفِّعَةَ دَائِمًا بِمَكْرَمِيكَ.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Prokeimenon (Psalm 67.35, 26 LXX; Tone 4)

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations!

From St. Paul's 2nd Epistle to Timothy (3.10-15; St. Thekla)

TIMOTHY, MY SON, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me.

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

بروكيمنون (مزمو ٢٤، ١٠٢، ١؛ اللحن الرابع)

ما أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالِكَ، يَا رَبُّ. كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ.

بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.

من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى تيموثاوس (١٠، ٣-١٥؛ للقديسة تقلا)

وَلَدِي تِيموثَاوَسَ، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي، وَسِيرَتِي، وَقَصْدِي، وَإِيمَانِي، وَأَنَايَ، وَحُبَّتِي، وَصَبْرِي. وَاضْطِهَادَاتِي، وَأَلَامِي، وَمَا أَصَابَنِي فِي إِنْطَاكِيَّةٍ وَأَيْقُونِيَّةٍ وَلِسْتَرَةَ. وَأَيَّةَ اضْطِهَادَاتٍ احْتَمَلْتُ، وَقَدْ أَنْقَذَنِي الرَّبُّ مِنْ جَمِيعِهَا.

وَجَمِيعَ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَعِيشُوا بِالْتَّقْوَى فِي الْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ يُضْطَهَدُونَ. أَمَّا الْأَشْرَارُ وَالْمَعْوُونَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَيَزْدَادُونَ شَرًّا، مُضِلِّينَ وَمُضَلَّلِينَ. فَاسْتَمِرِّي أَنْتِ عَلَى مَا تَعَلَّمْتَهُ وَأَيُّقَنْتِ بِهِ، عَالِمًا بِمَنْ تَعَلَّمْتِ. وَأَنَّكَ مِنْذُ الطُّفُولِيَّةِ تَعْرِفُ الْكُتُبَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الْقَادِرَةَ أَنْ تُصَيِّرَكَ حَكِيمًا لِلْخَلَاصِ بِالْإِيمَانِ بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

**Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
(5.1-11; 1st Sunday Luke)**

AT THAT TIME: Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقِدِّيسِ لَوْقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ
(١١-٥، ١؛ للأحد الأول من لوقا)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ وَاقِفٌ عِنْدَ بُحَيْرَةِ جَنَيْسَارَتِ، رَأَى سَفِينَتَيْنِ وَاقِفَتَيْنِ عِنْدَ شَاطِئِ الْبُحَيْرَةِ، وَقَدْ اُخْتَدَرَ مِنْهُمَا الصِّيَادُونَ يَعْغِشُونَ الشَّبَاكَ. فَدَخَلَ إِحْدَى السَّفِينَتَيْنِ، وَكَانَتْ لِسِمْعَانَ، وَسَأَلَهُ أَنْ يَتْبَاعِدَ قَلِيلاً عَنِ الْبَرِّ، وَجَلَسَ يُعَلِّمُ الْجُمُوعَ مِنَ السَّفِينَةِ. وَلَمَّا فَرَّغَ مِنَ الْكَلَامِ، قَالَ لِسِمْعَانَ: "تَقَدَّمْ إِلَى الْعُمُقِ وَأَلْقُوا شَبَاكَكُمْ لِلصَّيْدِ." فَأَجَابَ سِمْعَانَ وَقَالَ لَهُ: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، إِنَّا قَدْ نَعِبْنَا اللَّيْلَ كُلَّهُ وَلَمْ نَصِبْ شَيْئاً، وَلَكِنْ بِكَلِمَتِكَ أَلْقِي الشَّبَاكَ." فَلَمَّا فَعَلُوا ذَلِكَ، اخْتَارُوا مِنَ السَّمَكِ شَيْئاً كَثِيراً حَتَّى تَحَرَّقَتْ شَبَاكَتُهُمْ. فَأَشَارُوا إِلَى شُرَكَائِهِمْ فِي السَّفِينَةِ الْأُخْرَى أَنْ يَأْتُوا وَيُعَاوَنُوهُمْ. فَأَتُوا وَمَلَأُوا السَّفِينَتَيْنِ حَتَّى كَادَتَا تَغْرَقَانِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَى ذَلِكَ سِمْعَانُ بُطْرُسُ، حَرَّ عِنْدَ رُكْبَتَيْ يَسُوعَ قَائِلاً: "أُخْرِجْ عَنِّي يَا رَبُّ، فَإِنِّي رَجُلٌ خَاطِئٌ." لِأَنَّ الْإِنْذِهَالَ اعْتَرَاهُ هُوَ وَكُلٌّ مَنِ مَعَهُ لِصَيْدِ السَّمَكِ الَّذِي أَصَابَهُ. وَكَذَلِكَ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوَحْنَا ابْنَا زَبْدَى اللَّذَانِ كَانَا رَفِيقَيْنِ لِسِمْعَانَ. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِسِمْعَانَ: "لَا تَخَفْ، فَإِنَّكَ مِنَ الْآنَ تَكُونُ صَيَّاداً لِلنَّاسِ." فَلَمَّا بَلَّغُوا بِالسَّفِينَتَيْنِ إِلَى الْبَرِّ، تَرَكُوا كُلَّ شَيْءٍ وَتَبِعُوهُ.

HOLY OBLATIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Offered by	For the Health of	In Memory of
Salwa Ayoub	Andrew Mitchell (grandson, on his 20 th birthday) and all her family	Emil Ayoub (husband) and Gretta Ayoub Casalnuovo (daughter)
Robin Nicholas	Dorothy Nicholas (aunt; speedy recovery)	

Anonymous	Lilo Delilah Perez (cancer)
Antoine Nader	Marion Deeb and Carl Fred Milkie Sr.
George, Mariam, Mark, Antonio and Hend Bshara	
Ehab, Rania, Sami, Selena and Anthony Dahabreh	Hani Tadros (Rania's father) and Nawal Hawatmeh Dahabreh (Ehab's mother)

To offer Holy Oblations and Memorials please use the form at <https://stnicholasla.com/makeaprayerrequest> or call the Cathedral office by Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER LITURGY

Following the dismissal and announcements, come forward for a blessing, then exit via the south (right side/chapel area) doors, and join us in the Heritage Ballroom for refreshments.

Please consider sponsoring a Coffee Hour after Liturgy. *The time of fellowship after the Divine Liturgy is integral to the life of our community. It provides an opportunity for visitors to be fully welcomed and for the rest of us to enjoy visiting with our church family members.*

We have many openings for YOU to host coffee hour. Please select a Sunday to host a coffee hour. You can also team up with another family. Bring whatever you would like to share—donuts, cookies, mini bagels, zaatar, etc. The Ladies Society will provide the coffee and paper goods. Call/text Jouvou George (562)-522-1322, or email her at ginageorge@verizon.net to reserve a Sunday.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOLLOWS HOLY COMMUNION

Today: our classes will introduce St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, its setting and what was going on at the time, before we dive into the text. We will also share this material in a summary at the end of Liturgy, so you will be able to discuss it with your children at home and to reinforce their lessons.

Please register new students for Church School online (scan the brown QR code or enter <https://forms.gle/xRSfTz1dCGKJDPCv5> manually).

You will find the **Church School Calendar online** and updated with changes (scan the black QR code at right, or enter <https://bit.ly/SNCschool23-24>).



Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Camping Program
CAMP ST. NICHOLAS
 WINTER CAMP 2024

IF IT IS POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS DEPENDS ON YOU,
 LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.
 ROMANS 12:18

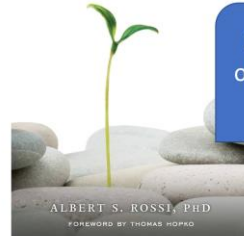
AGES: SEVENTH - TWELFTH GRADES
 COST: \$265
 ARRIVE: 4:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16
 DEPART: 10:00AM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND FULL OF FRIENDSHIPS,
 FAITH, FUN (IN THE SNOW, HOPEFULLY) AND THE
 BEAUTY OF GOD'S CREATION.

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 1, 2023 8:00 PM.
 SIGN UP USING THIS LINK
[HTTPS://EVENTS.CIRCUITREE.COM/CAMPSTNICHOLAS/](https://events.circuitree.com/campstnicholas/)

Join St. Nicholas Cathedral's
 Ladies Society
Book Club!
Becoming a Healing Presence
 by Albert S. Rossi

BECOMING
 A HEALING
 PRESENCE



Purchase in
 our Cathedral
 Bookstore!

Learn more about our faith and
 enjoy time with your sisters in Christ!

Our Book Club will meet on October 21
 at our One-Day Retreat!

Questions? Contact Lauren Malouf
 (818) 687-0406
lmalouf@hchc.edu

ST. PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH INVITES YOU TO THE

**OCMC PAN-ORTHODOX
 VESPERS & MISSIONS DINNER**

Keynote Address by:
Fr. Martin Ritsi
 OCMC Executive Director

Opening Remarks by: **Anastasia Barksdale**
OCMC Parish Engagement Coordinator

Local Presentation by:
Alex Gorbenko
St. Paul's Mission Is Possible Program Coordinator

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
 4949 Alton Parkway | Irvine, CA 92604

\$50 Dinner Ticket
 Table reservation are for 10 people.
 (Proceeds will benefit OCMC efforts around the world.)

Saturday, Sept. 30
 Pan-Orthodox Vespers at 5:00 PM
 Dinner & Program at 6:15 PM

Register Online by Sept. 20.
For questions, please contact:
 OCMC staff by email at events@ocmc.org

Please register or donate at www.ocmc.org/Irvine-Dinner.

ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 7-8

Mark your calendars now, and plan to be with us the first full weekend of October. We need everyone working together as one family for the Festival.

Please stop by the Festival Table in the hall, during coffee hour today.

- Please see our Festival Chairman Ehab Dahabreh during coffee hour today, or email him at tony@sspetro.com
- See Lamia Qafaiti to donate items for the silent auction. We can use new items, antiques and gift certificates for services.
- We have **sponsorship opportunities**, where you can showcase your business. Let your fellow Cathedral members know about services you can provide them, as well as advertising your business to all our guests, as you will be recognized in our publicity, in a brochure to be handed out to all our Festival guests and on our website. **The hard deadline for getting ads in is Sep. 26. Call Ziad Saleh (818-288-8716), or see someone at the Festival table today for more information.**

St. Nicholas Festival
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2023**
2300 W. 3RD STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90057

SATURDAY: 3:00PM - 11:00PM SUNDAY: 12:00PM - 10:00PM

LIVE MUSIC & DJ

FORE FEMMO MICHEL ASHRAH MICHEL ASLAN CHARBEL BASSIL FADI HANNI

VENDORS AND RENTAL INQUIRIES, AD BOOK, DONATIONS: PLEASE CONTACT ZIAD SALEH AT 818-288-8716

MANAKEESH
KABAB, GYRO, TACOS
FALAFEL, KIBBEH, MASHWEH
SWEETS & MUCH MORE

BEER
WINE

KIDS ACTIVITIES
CARNIVAL GAMES
BOUNCY HOUSE & MORE

SILENT AUCTION
2023 TOYOTA CAMRY
SPORT COLLECTIBLES

SMOKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY

Help Spread the Word about the Festival



Flyers are available for you to take and help us get the word out.

- Please take flyers and posters to put wherever there's a bulletin board that allows it. Flyers will be available at coffee hour.
- Post about the Festival on Facebook, Twitter, etc., and personally invite all your friends.

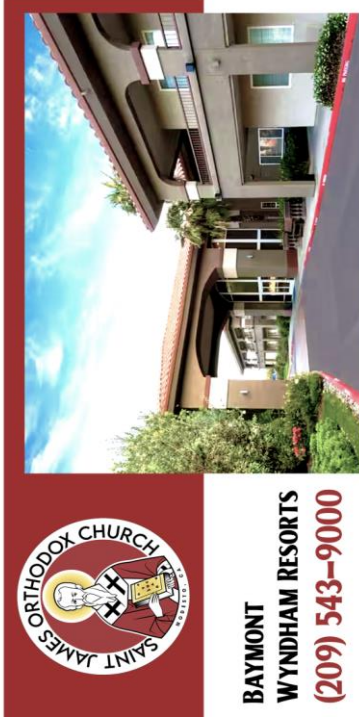
Please sign up for at least one shift

We want everyone to have a chance to enjoy the Festival. To do that, we will also need everyone to work, so the effort doesn't fall on a small number of people. *Many hands make light work!*



2023 FALL GATHERING HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HOSTED BY SAINT JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH



**BAYMONT
WYNDHAM RESORTS
(209) 543-9000**

4100 SALIDA BOULEVARD, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95358

WE HAVE A BLOCK OF ROOMS FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF \$124+TAX (SINGLEBED) OR \$134+TAX (DOUBLE BED) FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM BY SEPTEMBER 27TH

FOR THE DISCOUNTED RATE. ANY RESERVATION MADE AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE DISCOUNT.

THE HOTEL IS A 6-MILE DISTANCE FROM THE CHURCH.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY FOLLOWING THE LINK BELOW OR CALLING THE HOTEL DIRECTLY. JUST MENTION THE "SAINT JAMES ROOM RATE."

ROOM INCLUDES FREE PARKING & COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST.

BOOKING LINK:

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/modesto-california/payment/modesto-california-payment-salle-modesto-salle-hotels-rates?checkedOutDate=10/13/2023&checkedInDate=10/15/2023&groupCode=101123574>



YES is coming to your community!

- Be guided through an educational and formational service-learning experience
- Learn about the current struggles of your community
- Connect with organizations doing great work in your city
- Come together with other young people eager to serve

WHEN?

Saturday, September 30h from 9:30am - 4:30pm

WHERE?

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral
2300 W 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90057

WHO?

13- to 18- year-olds

COST?

A donation of \$65 per person will support the outreach efforts and make it possible for the YES Program to prepare and execute the Trip.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration is open!
www.yesnorthamerica.org

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please contact **Wadeed Fakhoury**
Program Manager
wfakhoury@focusna.org

SAINT THEKLA



St. Thekla was born in Iconium of eminent pagan parents. She was betrothed at the age of 18 to a young man. At the same time, St. Paul had come to Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. St. Thekla had the opportunity to listen to St. Paul for three days and nights. She became a Christian and vowed to live her new life as a virgin, in asceticism, so that she could dedicate her entire life to Christ. Her mother, enraged that Thekla had spurned her betrothed, beat her, starved her, then turned her over to the judge and demanded that Thekla be burned. The judge sent her to be burned, but God preserved the saint from the flames. Thekla then followed St. Paul to Antioch. There, attracted by her beauty, an elder of the city tried to take her by force. Thekla refused him, so the man dragged her before the judge and denounced her as a Christian. She was thrown to the wild beasts, but they would not harm her. Amazed, the judge released her. She then began to preach the Gospel and brought many to Christ.

With the blessing of St. Paul, she then retreated to a solitary place near Seleucia where she lived for a long time in asceticism. God granted her the gift of healing, which she used freely, thus bringing many to the Christian faith. The doctors in Seleucia were jealous of her healing power, so they sent some young men to assault her, hoping that if she lost her virginity she would lose her miraculous healing power as well. Thekla fled, but seeing that the young men were about to capture her, she prayed to God for help in front of a gigantic rock. The rock opened and hid her. This open rock became the cave in which she spent the remainder of her life and eventually became her tomb.

Saint Thekla continued her life of asceticism and then peacefully fell asleep in Christ at the age of 90. Shortly after her repose a community of virgins went to live in her mountain cell, building a small chapel to enshrine her body. **The Convent of Saint Thekla still exists today near the village of Maaloula, Syria, and is depicted on the cover of this bulletin.**

St. Thekla is called "The Protomartyr among Women." Usually, we think of a martyr as someone who has died for Christ. Yet St. Thekla lived to a ripe old age and died a peaceful death. So, what does "martyr" mean in her case? The word martyr is a Greek word, which means witness. A Christian martyr, therefore, is someone who witnesses to Christ in his or her life. Because she converted so many people to Christianity she is also known as an "Equal-to-the-Apostles."

St. Thekla is a wonderful role model for our girls and young women.

CONCERNING SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Our battle wages every day, every hour.

1. If you have upbraided, or passed judgment on, or vexed your brother, your peace is lost.
2. If you have been boastful, or have exalted yourself above your fellow, you have lost grace.
3. If you did not drive away forthwith the wanton (dissolute) thought that came to you, your soul will lose love for God and boldness in prayer.
4. If you are fond of power, or money you will never know the Love of God.
5. If you have followed your own will, then you are vanquished by the enemy, and despondency will come upon your soul.
6. If you detest your brother, it means that you have fallen away from God, and an evil spirit has taken possession of you.
7. But if you will do good for your brother, you will gain quiet for your conscience.
8. If you subdue your own will, your enemies will be driven, off and you will receive peace in your soul.
9. If you forgive your brother the affronts he puts upon you, and love your enemies, then you will receive forgiveness for your sins, and the Lord will give to you the love of the Holy Spirit.
10. And when you have entirely humbled yourself, you will find perfect rest in the Lord.
11. But if a soul is puffed up, then her day of rejoicing is over, for grace forsakes her and she can no longer pray with a pure heart, and evil thoughts come to harass her.
12. Why is it that man suffers on earth and is beset by afflictions and adversities?
13. We suffer because we lack humility. The Holy Spirit dwells in the humble soul, bringing freedom, peace, love and blessedness.
14. If misfortune overcomes you, do not lose heart, but recollect that the Lord in mercy looks upon you, and do not allow yourself to think, "Is the Lord going to look upon me when I grieve Him?" For mercy is the nature of the Lord.
15. Instead, turn to God in faith, and like the prodigal son say, "I am no longer worthy to be called thy son," and you will see how pleasing you will be to the Father, and your soul will be filled with joy indescribable.



St. Silouan of Mt. Athos

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST

Please include in your daily prayers the following—those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request.)

LIVING

Fr. Antony and **Kh. Dina** Bahou, St. George Church, San Diego, 10/18

Evonne Chala, home, 10/31

Dorothy Nicholas, home, 10/28

Veronica Chala, home, 10/18

Albert Malouf, home, 10/3

Ousama Zabaneh, home, 9/29

Adrienne Andrews, hospital, 9/28

Nicholas Nicola, brother-in-law of Renée Crawford and Barbara Bray, 10/26

Kristen Schamp, goddaughter of Fr. Nabil and Kh. Elaine, 10/26

Foster Dauzat, uncle of Jordan Dauzat, 10/23

Charles Malouf, brother of Ed Malouf, 10/15

Elizabeth Bwarie, niece of Bob and Renee Crawford, 10/4

All those suffering from natural disasters, illness, violence and want in this country and throughout the world

DEPARTED

Fr. Paul Eyler, retired from St. Michael's, Las Vegas, 9/26

John Abraham, 9/30

Helen O'Connor, 9/20

Anis Madanat, Faten Crawford's father, 10/5

Larry Stenman, former member of the Cathedral, 9/27

Victims of natural disasters and violence in this country and everywhere

Future Dates to Remember

- **Pre-Christmas Fast** starts Nov. 15
- **Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos**, Nov. 21
- **St. Nicholas Day** celebration, Dec. 3

ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

September 2023

Sun. 24	Spanish Mission Liturgy , 7:45 am • Fellowship and Bible Study in Spanish Matins , 9:15 am Divine Liturgy , 10:30 am • Church School • Coffee Hour
Tue. 26	Church School Staff meeting, 7 pm
Thu. 28	Bus Trip to Sam Maloof Family Museum, 9:30 am
Sat. 30	Teen SOYO "Yes" day trip, 9:30 am Great Vespers and Confessions, 6 pm

October 2023

Sun. 1	Spanish Mission Liturgy , 7:45 am • Fellowship and Bible Study in Spanish Matins , 9:15 am Divine Liturgy , 10:30 am • Church School • Coffee Hour
Tue. 3	Choir dinner and practice, 6:30 pm
Fri. 6	Festival Setup , 9 am – 9 pm
Sat. 7	St. Nicholas Festival , 1 pm – 11 pm
Sun. 8	Divine Liturgy , 9:30 AM – <i>note time</i> St. Nicholas Festival , noon – 10 pm
Tue. 10	Church School Staff meeting, 7 pm
Fri. 13 – Sun. 15	Diocese Fall Gathering , Modesto, CA
Sat. 14	FOCUS food distribution, 9 am

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR and latest additions and updates at stnicholasla.org/parishcalendar