

Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church (SMG)

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Michal Zghaib

72 Belmore St Ryde NSW 2112

Keep in touch with us: www.smg.org.au

Facebook: Sts Michael and Gabriel Orthodox Church;

SMG Playgroup Meadowbank; SMG OYYA

Rev Fr Michal Zghaib: 0403 847 690 or parishpriest@smg.org.au

Sunday, 26 November 2017

9am Matins – Orthros | 10am Divine Liturgy (English) | 6pm Divine Liturgy (Arabic)

Tone 8 | Eothinon 3 | Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

Commemorated today: Venerable Alypios the Stylite of Adrianople Nikon the preacher of repentance; Venerable Stylianos of Paphlagonia; New-martyr George of Chios; repose of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk

Welcome to SMG

Welcome to our parish and please stay after the Divine Liturgy to share in fellowship with us as we would love to get to know you better. During school term, your children are also welcome to join our Church School lessons, which takes place directly after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish house.

You will notice that at SMG we do not pass a plate collection, and that general donations and offerings can be placed in the donation boxes located at the candle stands as you enter the Church. Generally, our parishioners participate in the Financial Stewardship Program based on regular ongoing pledging.

We look forward to meeting you. And please feel free to take this bulletin home.

Today's Divine Liturgy

Refer p.11 of service book

Troparion Of The Resurrection, In Tone 8

From the heights You did descend, O Compassionate One and You did submit to the three day burial, that You might deliver us from passions. You are our life and our resurrection, O Lord, glory to You.

Troparion Of The Archangels, In Tone 4

Commanders of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you; by your prayers encompass us under the wings of your incorporeal glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to you; deliver us from all harm, for you are the commanders of the powers on high.

Kontakion Of Preparation Of Christ's Nativity, In Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when you hear, and glorify with the angels and shepherds him shall appear by his own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

The Epistle

Refer p. 13 of service book

Prokeimenon: *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.

The Gospel

Refer p. 14 of service book

The Reading From The Holy Gospel According To St Luke (18: 18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Reflection On The Gospel Reading

Thirteenth Sunday of Luke

The ruler has addressed Jesus as "good teacher" and asked the way to inherit eternal life, i.e. to enter the Kingdom of God, or to be saved. The young ruler sees Jesus as a man only, a Good Teacher of the written Law. Jesus answers him in the orthodox Jewish manner by citing the commandments. When the man claims to have kept them, Jesus probes deeper.

The Lord's shocking statement about giving everything away challenges the rich young ruler to stop thinking of his life before God in legalistic terms.

This man is rich and powerful and loved his possessions, so he becomes very sad and apparently walks away. The Lord knows how hard it was for people who have it all in this life to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, for they are tempted strongly to love their possessions and status more than God and neighbour. (Still, as the Lord said to his stunned disciples, 'the things which are impossible with man are possible with God.)

Jesus challenges this man to stop thinking about his relationship with God as a matter of law, a set of behaviour, which he could master. Formal observance of the Law does not equal fulfilment of all the commandments of God. Indeed, saying that one has kept the letter of the Law can create a false satisfaction about virtue. Salvation, we are taught, does not depend upon external things, whether they be many or few, great or small, but on the virtues of the soul – faith, hope and love – the reward of which is salvation. These virtues the young man still lacked.

Jesus jolted this young ruler out of his delusion, of his false self confidence, by giving him a commandment that He knew he couldn't keep.

Much of the lesson from last week's Gospel is re-affirmed here. As we continue to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, we are reminded that this life is for us, to be a time of spiritual preparation. A time, not gifted to us by God for the pursuit of power, pleasure and acquisition of worldly things; but as a time for us to draw ourselves closer to the Creator God who loves us and desires that we commune with Him for eternity.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for holiness, for they will have their fill." (Mt 5:6)

Important Messages

Hospitality Sundays



"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

As many of you know, following Sunday Divine Liturgy we gather to enjoy fellowship and a light snack. This is a wonderful time to catch up with fellow parishioners and greet our guests. Hospitality Sundays are hosted by parish volunteers, one of the many service opportunities at Sts. Michael and Gabriel.

Maybe you also want to celebrate a special occasion in your family? Hosting a Hospitality Sunday is a great way to bring that celebration into the church family.

To make things easier for our host families, hosting guidelines and calendar of available dates are on our website <http://www.smg.org.au/ministries-community/hospitality-sundays/>. We ask people hosting to please observe fasting guidelines provided. Please also note that Sts. Michael and Gabriel parish supplies coffee, tea, milk, cups, plates and cutlery.

Please email Monica Ibrahim via monica.ibrahimi@gmail.com with your preferred date.

Confessions and prayer requests



Father Michal is available to hear confessions and receive prayer requests at any time during the week and weekend.

Please contact Fr Michal via mobile/ SMS on 0403 847 690 or email parishpriest@smg.org.au

SMG Financial Stewardship Program



The Financial Stewardship Program at SMG is a simple, practical and a Christian plan aimed at funding the operations of the parish and its ministry programs. Participation encourages us to express our financial commitment in a Christ-centred way as expressed in the scriptures, and creates a predictable flow of income. For more information about our Stewardship Program or to start a regular pledge, please speak to SMG Treasurer, Marisa Gazaleh, or contact her via treasurer@smg.org.au. New pledging forms can be found at the entry of the Church.

Pledges and/or general donations can be made by EFT to the following bank account: Commonwealth Bank | Name: Sts Michael & Gabriel Orthodox Church | BSB: 062-310 | Account: 1012 8321

Calendar Of Events

Our Liturgical Calendar



Nativity Fast

15 November to 25 December. We wish a joyous fast to our parishioners!

St Andrew

Wednesday, 29 November 2017, 7pm
Divine Liturgy

St Nicholas the Wonderworker

Tuesday, 5 December 2017 at 7
Divine Liturgy

Royal Hours of the Nativity

Friday, 22 December 2017 at 9.30am

Great Vespers

Saturday, 23rd December 2017 at 6pm

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24 December 2017 at 9am and 10am Divine Liturgy.
6pm Vespers of Nativity of our Lord

Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Monday, 25 December 2017 at 9am
Matins and Divine Liturgy

SMG Adult Bible Study



Adult Bible study

Next session and topic: tbc

Ladies Auxiliary Bible study

Session are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7pm.
after the Paraklesis service. Hosted by Fr Michal.

For more information please contact Fr Michal or Nouha on 0404 886 964.

SMG Under 5's Playgroup



ST MICHAEL AND GABRIEL
PLAYGROUP
www.smg.org.au

Playgroup is held every Thursday during school term, 10am-12pm at Shepherd's Bay Community Centre, 3a Bay Drive, Meadowbank.

The playgroup is an informal gathering for parents and caregivers with children under the age of 5.

For more information please contact: Dr Victoria Khoury via drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au or 0414 547 842, Evelene Safadi via evelene_safadi@hotmail.com or 0416 140 378, or Monica Ibrahim via monica.ibrahim1@gmail.com.

Facebook: SMG Playgroup Meadowbank.

SMG Church School



Church School lessons are held in the parish house after Divine Liturgy during school term. All students are encouraged and welcome to join the children's choir.

Church school in on as usual today after Holy Communion; however we will be offering morning tea to the students along with the rest of the parish after the AGM.

Please note following important dates:

Sunday 3rd December: St. Nicholas Day Celebrations - light lunch followed by visit from St. Nicholas and gift receiving. Gift's will be organised for your children by the church school teachers. We kindly ask you on the day to make a donation(\$10 recommendation) to our chosen charity in participation with our only annual Church School Charity fundraiser. This year we will be assisting: The Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (DERD) for the Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East. Our money goes through the Rebuild Aleppo Charity an initiative of St. Juvenaly Orthodox Mission Hawaii. The Pastor of that parish, Fr John Schroedel has recently visited Aleppo to report on the work being done there. For more info please see Christine Ayoub.

Sunday 10th December: Church School Nativity Play - All Children are invited to participate. Many have already been given their lines. If you missed out, please come and see Christine. Please attend Church School in the coming weeks to ensure your placement and costume instructions etc.

Sunday 17th December: Nursing Home Visit - a light lunch will be served after Liturgy and parents are invited to join children as they sing, perform and give gifts to elderly residents. More details to follow.

NEW DATE, DETAILS AND TIME for Church School Day Retreat and Confession Day : Wednesday 20th December. Fr Michel will be available for confession throughout the day. Refreshments will be served throughout the day. RSVP ESSENTIAL to Christine 0410643685.

Contact: Christine Ayoub, SMG Church School Director
0410643685 | cjabbour23@hotmail.com

SMG Annual General Meeting Notice



Dear Parishioners,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of St's Michael & Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church will be held on:

Sunday 26 November 2016 at 11.30am (following Divine Liturgy), in the Church, 72 Belmore St Ryde, NSW, 2112

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting.

In Christ,

Very Rev Fr Michal Zghaib and the Parish Council of Sts Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Enthronement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Basilios and visit by His Beatitude Patriarch John X



Enthronement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Basilios

Saturday, 16 December 2017 at 11am
St George Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral, Cnr Walker and Cooper Sts, Redfern

Archdiocese Vespers

Saturday, 16 December 2017 at 6pm
St Mary, 91 Hemphill Av, Mt Prichard

Divine Liturgy with His Beatitude, Patriarch John X and Newly Enthroned Metropolitan Basilios

Sunday, 17 December 2017 at 9am and 10am
Matins and Divine Liturgy
St Nicholas, 11 Henry St, Punchbowl

Banquet dinner for His Beatitude John X and Newly Enthroned Metropolitan Basilios

Monday, 18 December 2017 at 7pm
Le Montage Function Centre, 38 Frazer St, Lilyfield. Tickets \$150pp.
Please contact Fr Michael for ticket purchases.