

# **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](http://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](mailto:parishpriest@smg.org.au)

**Sunday, December 30, 2018; Tone 6 / Eothinon 9**

**After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ**

**Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the brother of the Lord**

## **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 Nativity of Christ (Tone 4)**

**Your** Nativity, O Christ our God, has shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for there-by they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Day-spring from on high. O Lord, glory be to You.

### **The Troparion for the resurrection tone 6**

**When** Mary stood at Your grave, looking for Your sacred body, angelic powers shone above Your revered tomb and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men You led Hades captives and was not tempted thereby, You did meet the Virgin and did give life to the world O You who are risen from the dead O Lord Glory to You.

### **Troparion of Sunday after the Nativity in tone two**

**Proclaim**, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for you have seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds you did give glory, with the Magi you did worship, and by the angel it was revealed to you. Wherefore, plead you with Christ God to save our souls.

### **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 for Christ's Nativity, In Tone 3**

**On this** day the Virgin bears the Transcendent in Essence; the the Unapproachable, the earth does offer a small cave, Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a start the Magi travel up on their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

## The Epistle

Refer p. 13 of service book

**Prokeimenon:** *God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.*

### The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)

**Brethren,** I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

## The Gospel

Refer p. 14 of service book

### The reading from the Holy Gospel according St. Matthew (2:13-23)

**When** the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## 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.

We ask people hosting to please observe fasting guidelines. Please also note that Sts. Michael and Gabriel parish supplies coffee, tea, milk, cups, plates and cutlery.

Please contact Fr Michal 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Our Liturgical Calendar



### Holy Theophany of our Lord

Please join us for the following services to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### *Friday 4 January 2019*

Service of the Royal Hours  
Time: 9.30am

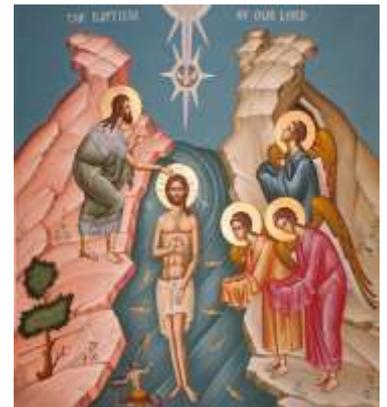
#### *Saturday 5 January 2019*

Great Vespers  
Time: 6.00pm

#### *Sunday 6 January 2019*

1. Matins – 9.00am  
Divine Liturgy – 10.00am  
followed by the Blessing of the Waters

2. Arabic Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters  
Time: 6.00pm



## SMG Adult Bible Study

### Adult Bible study



**Next session: Friday 1 February 2019 at 7pm.**

For more information please contact Ray via [raymondhaddad5@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhaddad5@gmail.com)

### Ladies Auxiliary Bible study

Session are held every second Monday 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



**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. All children must be supervised by an adult carer.

For more information please contact: Dr Victoria Khoury via [drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au](mailto:drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au) or 0414 547 842. 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.**

Contact: Christine Ayoub, SMG Church School  
Director

0410643685 | [cjabbour23@hotmail.com](mailto:cjabbour23@hotmail.com)

Church School has now concluded for 2018 and will recommence after school holiday

## SMG Bookshop



**EFPTOS** facility is now available for any purchases at SMG Bookshop.

Please also note that stock is now permanently located in the new cabinets opposite the kitchen.

So, come and browse some of our **new books** and **Christmas stock!**

**2019 Archdiocese calendars** are now available for sale in the bookshop.

Donation - \$20.

For any further information please contact

Maria Haddad ([mhaddad391@gmail.com](mailto:mhaddad391@gmail.com))

or Raymond Haddad ([raymondhaddad5@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhaddad5@gmail.com))

**NO PARKING**  
**KEEP DRIVEWAY**  
**CLEAR**  
**THANK YOU**

**Please do not block our neighbours' driveways or park on any footpath or grassed areas.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**