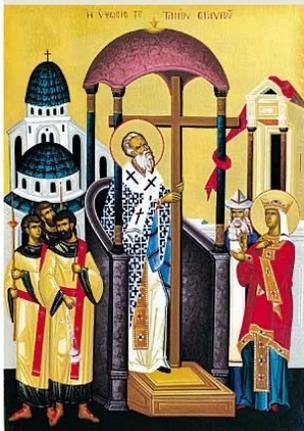


# The Antelope Valley Beacon

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## *Upcoming Feast*



### Kontakion (Fourth Tone)

You who were lifted upon the Cross of Your own will, O Christ our God, bestow Your compassions upon the commonwealth that invokes Your Name. By Your power, gladden our faithful rulers, giving them victory over their adversaries. May your alliance be for them a shield for peace, an invincible standard.

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# PASTORAL MESSAGE

## Visit this vineyard which Thy right hand planted



The body of Christ, His Church, is like a flourishing vine planted by God in good soil; it sends out new shoots and its roots penetrate deeply into the soil. Its branches thicken and grow strong, able to bear the weight of the ripening fruit that clusters on them. The first planting of God's vine was

the House of Israel, who were to flourish in the safety of the vineyard He made for them so that they may bear fruit of the spirit to Him, though they disobeyed Him and 'brought forth thorns instead of fruit' (Is. 5:2 ff.). God purged His vineyard Israel, renewing the vine that had grown wild and unproductive; He sent forth His Son Jesus to be the True Vine:

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” (Jn. 15:1-2)

The first fruit of the Israel Christ renewed and fed with His own Blood were the people whom Jesus touched and healed in his three years' ministry before his Crucifixion, and who did not lose hope in Him after His Life-giving Death on the Cross. Soon more were added to the Vineyard through the preaching of Christ the Messiah to the Jews in the Temple and synagogues, first in Jerusalem and subsequently abroad in the hinterlands, among Jew

and gentile in Galilee, then in Syria and throughout the cities of the whole Roman world. Wherever souls hungered and thirsted for the righteousness and mercy of God, the gentle rain of His love that turns a thorny and unproductive wasteland into a fruitful garden, they were ready to join the True Vine of Christ.

The sacred narrative of God's Vineyard continues unbroken and coherent from its opening chapters where its root is established amid the chaos of the fallen world described in the Old Testament, throughout the establishment of the peace of the Kingdom of God told in the Gospels of Christ and the Acts and Epistles of the Holy Apostles. The story does not end with St. John's Revelation, though the Evangelist unveils the mystery of The End and the Divine Liturgy in that inspired book. The story of the spread of the Church, the New Israel of God is the same story as that begun in Holy Scripture and all its ways are laid out in Divine Law and Grace found therein. Conforming to God's Grace by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, our own Heavenly Patrons, Ss. Constantine and Helen wrote a new chapter in salvation history by devoting their ruling efforts to render the Roman Empire a 'walled and fortified garden, with a tower in its midst' – a world of political and social order safe for the preaching of Christ. In their time the Church of Christ indeed flourished, and the Emperor Constantine himself fostered unity and promoted Orthodox teaching in the churches.

Before St. Constantine made the Roman world safe for Christians, the community grew gradually through adult conversions, first among Jews who knew the Father, in the Old Dispensation, and always in fear of state persecution. When he ended Roman persecution, St. Constantine demonstrated to all that the God of Israel had triumphed, and that His Son ruled the Heavens and all the kingdoms of the Earth, relegating the idols to non-being

and freeing the followers of Jesus from fear of the state. Millions of souls then flooded the churches seeking rebirth in Holy Baptism, publicly confessing Christ as their only Lord and Savior. Their children with them, they became the first generation of mass Christian confession. Those children who grew up in St. Constantine's peace baptized their own sons and daughters in infancy and this has been the pattern of initiation into the Mysteries of Christ ever since, first in the Roman world and then beyond it as emperors and kings throughout the world fell in love with Christ and joined their peoples in the peace of His worship.

Seventeen centuries later, we find ourselves in a changed world. The last Christian Emperor was slain a century ago and schism and heresy abound, rendering the precise preaching of the Gospel in the Orthodox way a thing which the many will not follow. Our forefathers did preach the Gospel of Christ to all the ends of the Earth and we joined in their labor to establish God's Vineyard throughout her, but not every vine's shoot proved productive. Yet we persist, fighting the good fight and striving to complete the race we run for the sake of our salvation.

Taking a look at our own community here in Antelope Valley we see that our vine is not altogether withered up: God continues to bless us with increase. Not only has our parish diversified to become a refuge for all and sundry who would be saved in Christ, from among many nations, but also our young families are growing. We bless the recent birth of two healthy children, baby Alexandra to Pam and Philip Evola and baby Jacob to Stephanie & Michael Hutchison, both of whom await baptism. The pious parents who dedicate these innocent newborn souls to the man-loving God await suitable sponsors for their baptisms. We must as their spiritual community support their efforts to rear their children in piety; from among us some should come forward to stand with them and recite the Creed for these infants at the Mystery of Holy Baptism. This way our community fulfills its sacred duty to foster the next generation in Christ at the Font, as in St. Constantine's day publicly and with-

out fear.

Also very recently our church has attracted two young adults desiring to worship Christ with us in Orthodox manner. We liturgically inducted Dymphna and Maximos into the *Catechumenate* on the recent feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross with prayers and exorcism (!) in the narthex of our temple. After vehement denunciation of the devil and his whiles, they boldly confessed their reliance on Christ and recited the Nicene Creed of Orthodox faith together. These young students of the Church now begin their study of the Orthodox faith to enter when they are ready into Holy Communion as full members of the Body of Christ. We should remember Dymphna and Maximos in our daily prayers and at Divine Liturgy, that they grow in piety and discernment imbibing the Spirit of wisdom worshipping the Holy Trinity with us week by week.

With Love in Christ,  
Fr. John

Catechesis/Adult Christian Education Class coming in October. Children's Sunday School Classes Commence on October 6th.



To receive text reminders of upcoming events, email your cell phone number to [Webmaster@stsch.org](mailto:Webmaster@stsch.org)



Questions for Father John? Reach him at [frjohnbeal@stsch.org](mailto:frjohnbeal@stsch.org)

## Message of Archbishop Elpidophoros to Students

My beloved students

Of the Greek-American Day Schools,  
Greek Afternoon/ Saturday Schools and  
Sunday Schools,

Today, with the Agiasmos (Blessings) a  
new school year begins, a new journey, a  
journey not to unknown destinations, but  
to the knowledge, exploration and learn-  
ing of the Greek language, Greek culture,  
and our Orthodox faith and traditions.

In this educational journey no matter  
how difficult it may be, you should know  
that you are not alone, because you have  
your parents and teachers beside you,  
who love and support you in your en-

deavor to cultivate, and make your own, all of the above cultural elements, giv-  
ing their best in order to provide you with a comprehensive education, and also  
an enjoyable school experience.

I too, wish to become your companion on this beautiful and exciting education-  
al journey as well as a participant in your joy, since returning to school means  
reuniting with your friend. I, therefore, address each of you personally, sending  
you my warm paternal wishes for progress and prosperity. May the good Lord  
give you the strength and enlightenment to meet your learning responsibilities,  
rewarding you with His grace for your labors on your path to acquire  
knowledge.

Have a Happy and Blessed School Year!

### Serbian Orthodox Church 800 years of Autocephaly

The people of Serbia—and the Orthodox Church  
of Serbia—are very dear to His All-Holiness.  
There has been a special bond of brotherhood  
between the Serbian Orthodox and the Greek  
Orthodox communities throughout these many  
years. On an occasion such as this, the words of  
the Psalmist come immediately to mind (Psalm  
132/133:1)— Ἰδοὺ δὴ τί καλὸν ἢ τί τερπνόν, ἀλλ’ ἢ  
τὸ κατοικεῖν ἀδελφούς ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό; “Behold, how  
good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell  
together in unity!”

We rejoice in the long and close relationship be-  
tween the Mother Church of Constantinople and  
the Patriarchate of Serbia. Over the centuries,  
the Ecumenical Patriarchate recognized the  
strength and maturity of the Serbian churches.  
In light of this, the Church of Constantinople  
granted the Church of Serbia first autonomy,  
and then autocephaly. So it was that in the year  
1219, in the cathedral of Nicaea, Ecumenical Pa-  
triarch Manuel consecrated as the first Archbish-  
op of the Serbians a monk, whom we now know  
as Saint Sava the Enlightener.

—Archbishop Elpidophoros

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## *Fellowship Hour Schedule*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Sept 1	Coffee Hour	TBD
Sept 8	Coffee Hour	Elias and Hind Qarmout
Sept 15	Coffee Hour	Annie Halkias
Sept 22	AV Greek Festival	No coffee hour
Sept 29	Parish Festival Celebration	Church & Hellenic Center
Oct 6	Coffee Hour	Saveta Nikolich
Oct 13	Coffee Hour	Mitzi Bouras
Oct 22	Coffee Hour	Denise Christou
Oct 27	Coffee Hour	Presvytera Medea

Anyone interested in doing a memorial luncheon or interested in sponsoring a Fellowship Hour, may contact Helen Poulos at 661-618-8607 (Cell). Yes, Helen!

## *September-October Special Services*

Sept 13	Fri	7:00 PM	Elevation of Precious Cross Great Vespers
Sept 14	Sat	9/10AM	Elevation of Precious Cross Matins/Liturgy
Sep 29	Sun	11:30AM	Festival Celebration Luncheon
Oct 5	Sat	7:00 PM	Great Vespers
Oct 6	Sun	10 AM	Start of Church School Year.
Oct 19	Sat	7:00 PM	Great Vespers
Oct 26	Sat	8:30-10:30AM	Feed the Hungry

## *Memorial Services*

Georgia Sanchez offered a memorial service for Elias and other family; Athanasios, Ekaterina, George, Panayula, Zenado, Rufino, Anthony, and Jose.

Anna Conti offered a memorial service for her Uncle and Aunt, Michael and Ionna, and other family; Stefanos, Askale-Maria, Eeni, Georgia, George, Maria, Stephen, George, Alfredo, Antonio, Michela, Renato, and Judith.

Elaine Grado offered a four-year memorial for her husband Frank, and other family members.

Catalina Brunson offered a three-year memorial for Anca, the sister of Marilena Bos-Pavel.

Tom Harris offered a three-year memorial for Dan Lusk.

Saveta Nikolich and Alexander Patananan offered a one-year memorial for Milica, the mother of Saveta.

Esther Loukrezis offered a six-month memorial for her husband Andreas.

### **Memorials**

We are providing a form on which Parishioners can notify Fr. John of planned memorials. Please ask for the form at the candle stand. If possible, please submit the form at least one Sunday prior to the planned date.

According to the rules of the Church memorials are not permitted: from the Saturday of Lazarus through Thomas Sunday. Also, memorials are not allowed on the Great Feast Days of the Lord and of the Theotokos.

### **Ernest Kappas**

**1930-2019**

Following a brief illness Ernest A. Kappas fell asleep in the Lord on August 2, 2019.

Ernest was the son of Andrew and Demetra Kappas who were among the founding fathers of our parish. Even after moving from Lancaster, Ernest remained closely connected with us as he regularly participated in our gulf tournaments and continued as a lifetime steward of our parish.

Earlier this year with Ernest being the Executor, the estate of his mother, Demetra Kappas, was settled. Our parish, with great appreciation, received a generous gift of \$5,000.00 from the settlement.

The funeral service for Ernest was Saturday, August 10, 2019, at Saint Nicholas Church in Northridge. His internment was at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills. Ernest's wife, Annette, preceded him in death, having fallen asleep in the Lord on September 11, 1995.

The following Obituary Notice is taken from the AV Press.

“Ernie was the heart and head of our family and the space left by his loss will never be filled. Ernie was a beloved husband to Annette, father to Andrew; son to Andrew and Demetra; brother to Nick and Tony; brother-in-law to George and Sofia; uncle to Tammy, Andrew, Angela and Alexis; Godfather, cousin, friend, golfing buddy, and the kindest most gentle man the world has ever been blessed with. He leaves a legacy of love and joy to all who knew him.”

# Jacob Hector Hutchison Forty Day Blessing



Jacob Hector Hutchison received a Forty Day Blessing on September 1, 2019. Congratulations to mother and father, Stephanie and Michael Hutchison, and to big sister, Eleni!



## New Catechumens!

Welcome to Maximos and Dymphna. Catechesis/Adult Christian Education classes to Commence in October; Schedule to be announced.

## Helpful Resources at [www.goarch.org/chapel](http://www.goarch.org/chapel)

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 <https://www.goarch.org/chapel> 📄 ☆ ⚙️ 🔍

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

About News Archbishop Chapel Library Directories Ways to Give Enthronement 🔍

Online Chapel

📅 Thursday, July 04, 2019

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.  
Today we commemorate

- ✦ Andrew of Crete Author of the Great Canon »
- ✦ Martha, mother of St. Symeon Stylites the Younger
- ✦ Asclepias the Wonderworker
- ✦ Holy Royal Martyrs of Russia »

View all for July 4 »

Prayer of the Hour  
Ninth Hour Prayers

Ⲡ Christ God, Who at the ninth hour tasted death in the flesh for our sake, put to death the arrogance of our flesh and save us! When the Thief saw the Author of Life hanging on the cross he said: If God had not become flesh, He would not have been crucified with us, nor would the sun have hidden its rays. »

In 2019 we celebrate:  
Great Lent: March 11  
Holy Pascha (Easter): April 28  
Holy Pentecost: June 16

Find the Date of Pascha in: 📅  
How is the Date of Pascha Determined?

# *New Titles in the Bookstore!*

## Deluxe 'Smokeless' Incense Burner



### **Deluxe 'Smokeless' Incense Burner**

*Simple & Clean Incense Burning  
Ideal for Home Use!*



Northern Africa  
Frankincense

1 oz. \$8.00



Beeswax Tea Light

Candles \$2.25



### **Product Description**

With this amazing candle incense burner, combine the gentle fragrance of your favorite incense and the gentle glow of candle light as you offer your prayers to God.

Ideal for homes where low smoke and no mess is necessary or desired, while still using incense in prayer.

This incredible brass incense burner uses a candle instead of charcoal, resulting in a cleaner burn of pure incense fragrance. The small amount of smoke generated is pure incense fragrance, with no smoky charcoal odor.

The height of the incense pan is adjustable. (5.5 inches tall)

**BRASS DELUXE 'SMOKELESS' INCENSE BURNER \$50.00**



## Young Adult Fall Retreat

Join Orthodox Young Adults from across the West Coast (and beyond) for a Fall Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. Young Adults from all Orthodox Jurisdictions are welcome to attend!

We will spend time having discussions and fellowship at the Ranch, enjoy an evening fireside chat down at the lake, as well as visit and help the Sisters at the Monastery with a work project.

**DATE:** November 1-3, 2019

**LOCATION:** St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA

**WHO:** This retreat is open to all Orthodox Young Adults ages 18-30's.

## Young Adult Winter Retreat

Join us for the 13th Annual Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe! The retreat center is located on the shore of the lake with spectacular views, incredible homemade food, and awesome accommodations! Not to mention, we have a weekend packed full of fun and fellowship with young adults from all over the West Coast!

**DATE:** January 17-20, 2020 (MLK Weekend)

**LOCATION:** South Lake Tahoe at Galilee Camp and Conference Center

**WHO:** This retreat is open to all Orthodox Young Adults ages 18-30's.





**Saints Constantine & Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church**

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**The Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross**



**The Antelope Valley Beacon  
September-October 2019**

**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church**

