

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 Archdiocesan Website: <https://www.antiochian.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, December 24, 2023; Tone 4 / Eothinon 7 Sunday before Nativity of Christ (Sunday of the Genealogy), Which Falls on Paramon (Eve) of Nativity of Christ Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her.

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 for the Resurrection, in tone four

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the Disciples saying: Death has been spoiled, Christ God is risen granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion of the Forefathers tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Troparion of the Paramon of the Nativity tone 4

As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the small town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen a foretime.

Troparion of the Archangels 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 three

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

Prokeimenon: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For You are just in all that

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you O Lord the God of our fathers for you are just in all that you have done to us!

The reading from the Epistle of St Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others

suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel

Refer p. 14 of service book

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (1: 1-25)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, **4** and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6** and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7** and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, **8** and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, **9** and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **10** and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, **11** and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. **12** And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, **13** and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, **14** and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, **15** and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, **16** and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. **17** So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. **18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; **19** and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; **21** she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Important Messages

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

Our Liturgical Calendar and Events



Event details can also be found on our calendar here:

<http://smg.org.au/whats-oncalendar/>

To join our database, please complete the link below and select your areas of interest.

<https://antiochian.breezechms.com/form/smg>



Ladies Auxiliary Bible study

Sessions are held every Monday at 10.30am. after the Paraklesis service. Hosted by Fr Michal.

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

Adult Bible study

Next session:

Fortnightly at parish hall at 7.00 pm

For more information, please contact

Lydia Gore; 0404224060

or

Nada Saad |email <accounts@smg.org.au>



Orthodox Youth and Young Adults (OYYA) Bible Study and Spiritual Talks

Weekly Bible Studies and Spiritual Talks

For more information, please contact

Mary Khoury | maryhkhoury@gmail.com

| 0401 399 920

SMG Under 5's Playgroup



Playgroup is held every Thursday during school term, 10.30am-12.30pm at Sts Michael & Gabriel Church hall 72 Belmore St Ryde

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 on drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au or 0414 547 842. Facebook: SMG Playgroup Meadowbank.

Church



School

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

For more information please contact:

Dr Victoria Khoury on drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au or 0414 547 842.

SMG Bookshop



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

EFPTOS facility is now available for any purchase at SMG Bookshop.

NOW SELLING

CDs "Out of the Mouths of Infants" (Hymns of the Orthodox Great Feasts for Children) \$15

PENS "Sts Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church" with **stylus** \$5 each or 5 for \$20

For any further information please see Maria Haddad (mhaddad391@gmail.com) or Raymond Haddad (raymondhaddad5@gmail.com)

- Recent release book titles
- New range of jewellery including handmade crosses, bracelets and prayer ropes



Nativity Services

Friday 22/12/2023 @ 9.00am - Royal Hours

Saturday 23/12/2023 @ 6.00pm - Vespers

Sunday 24/12/2023 @ 9.00am - Matins & Liturgy

Sunday 24/12/2023 @ 6.00pm - Nativity Vespers

Monday 25/12/2023 @ 9.00am

Nativity Matins & Liturgy



New Year Feast

Sunday 31-12-2023

6.00 pm Vespers

Monday 01-01-2024

Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church Punchbowl

Time: Matins 9.30 am

Liturgy 10.30 am