

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

**Sunday, December 31, 2023; Tone 5 / Eothinon 8 Sunday after Nativity of Christ, Which Falls on the Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Nativity of Christ Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome**

### **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 the Fifth Tone**

**Let us** believers praise and worship the Word coeternal with the Father and the spirit born of the virgin for our salvation for He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

#### **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.

#### **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 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**

**Prokeimenon:** O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Unto You will I cry, O Lord my God.

#### **The Reading from the second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)**

**Timothy,** my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

# The Gospel

*Refer p. 14 of service book*

## The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark (1:1-8)

**The beginning** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit".

## 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](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 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](mailto: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](mailto:drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au) or 0414 547 842. Facebook: SMG Playgroup Meadowbank.

Church



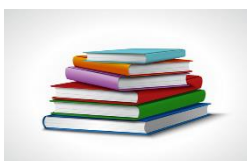
School

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mhaddad391@gmail.com)) or Raymond Haddad ([raymondhaddad5@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhaddad5@gmail.com))

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

**New Year Feast**  
**Sunday 31-12-2023 6.00 pm Vespers at Sts Michael and**  
**Gabriel Church Ryde**  
**Monday 01-01-2024**  
**Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas Church Punchbowl**  
**Time: Matins 9.30 am Liturgy 10.30 am**

## **Feast of Theophany**



Please join us to  
celebrate the  
Feast of the  
Theophany of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ

**Friday 5 January 2024 @ 9.00am**

Royal Hours

**Friday 5 January 2024 @ 7.00pm**

Vespers Liturgy & blessing of the waters

**Saturday 6 January 2024 @ 9.00am**

Matins & Divine Liturgy & blessing of the  
waters

