



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Sunday, January 4, 2026  
Sunday before Theophany of Christ

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America  
His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY – Diocese of LA & the West  
V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Christopher Salamy, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Peter Samore  
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams • Rev. Dn. Serafim Grove  
Rev. Dn. Basil Ritchie • Rev. Dn. Michael Haddad  
Rev. Dn. Dr. Gregory Abdalah, Pastoral Assistant • Christian Farradj, Youth Pastor  
Harpreet Kaur, Executive Assistant to the Pastor  
Jane Romley, Parish Administrator • Matthew Peters, Ministry Lead  
Valerie Haddad, Director of Ministry, Growth & Development  
Erin Thobias, Director of Communications

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE FIVE)**

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.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE FOUR)**

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE (TONE FOUR)**

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great George intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

**KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY (TONE FOUR)**

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

## THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

### **The Reading from St. Paul's Second Epistle to 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

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared 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 strap 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."

### ***THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER...***

**Living:** Romy, Chase, Paul, Mary, Joshua, Peter, Richard, Anthony, Laila, Michael, Ray, Amal, Nejwa, Randa, Regan, Theresa, Kristine, Sherry, Samira, Robert, Daniel, Jane, Jillian, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mary, Alexandros, Theopisti, David, and Donald.

Ken and Judy Salameh offer Holy Bread with prayers for a blessed, healthy and peaceful New Year 2026 to our entire St. George family. Also for God's blessings for the good health, safety, success and well being of Laila, John, Jenan, Julianna, Jimmy, Suzie, Frankie, Sandy, Wael, Linda, Laila, Sami, Nicola, Judy, Ken, Michael, Anthony, Majeda, Faisal, George, Mary, Ron, Maria, Cameron, Sophia, Angie, Diana, Muna, Laila, Fuad, Charlene, Jimmy, Greg, Remon, Suhair, Rania, Laila, Phillip, Nadia, Camel, Nader, Saman, Norma, Michael, Isam, Hannah, Amal, Elaine, George, Nicola, Linda, Suzanne, Samia, Daoud, Hala, Edmund, Kholoud, Mona, Ibtissam, Maria, Rosie, Lydia, Lisa, Charbel, Seham, Kelly and Christopher. May God protect them and grant them many years! In loving memory of Farah, Asad, Georgette, Marwan, Nimer Jr., Hanna, Misadeh, Habib, Isa, Pat, Yadibeh, Mousa, Naimeh, Nigmeh, Badia, Zahweh, Misadeh, Hanna, Samaan, Isa, Ibrahim, Margo, Butros, Suad, Maher, Jamil, and Badia. May their memory be eternal.