

**SUNDAY READINGS &
VARIABLE HYMNS**
for October 04, 2026



St. James Antiochian Orthodox Church

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Father Thomas Zell, Pastor (209) 484-5155

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Rev. Deacon George Younathan, Rev. Deacon David Diaz,

Rev. Deacon Nektarios Quilici

725 Maze Blvd, Modesto, CA 95351

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Welcome to Saint James Orthodox Church! We are honored to have you with us today, and pray that your time here will draw you closer to Christ and His Church.

If you are from a non-Orthodox background, some aspects of our worship may seem unusual, and even a bit unsettling the first time around. Vestments and icons, incense and liturgical worship, people making the sign of the cross, or receiving blessings from the priest—all may seem novel to Christians from modern Protestant denominations. We encourage you to participate with us only as you feel comfortable. You are welcome to enter in completely, or simply to observe and enjoy the beauty of Orthodox worship. In either case, please know that the practices you observe here today are biblically based, and have been a part of the Church's ongoing worship for 2000 years. They are commonplace in all Orthodox churches throughout the world today.

Communion. For Orthodox Christians, the sacrament of communion—the Eucharist—is the supreme expression of our union with Christ and with one another. For this reason, only those who are members in good standing of the Orthodox Church, and who have prepared themselves properly through prayer, fasting, and recent confession may participate in Holy Communion. We long for, and pray for the unity of all Christians, but humbly ask that our non-Orthodox visitors refrain from the chalice.

Everyone is invited to come forward during communion to receive blessed bread from one of the baskets at either side of the aisle at front. ***Ushers will release everyone row by row proceeding down the central aisle.***

SAINT JAMES SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Classes are now in session. The schedule is as follows:

- St. Kyriacos—Preschool, ages 3 to kindergarten
- St. Demetrios—Elementary School, 1st grade to 6th grade
- St. John SOYO—Middle and High School

Preschool to 6th grade (St. Kyriacos and St. Demetrios)— Parents, please have your children come forward for communion before the rest of the congregation and meet their teachers near the Holy Water container. They will then proceed to class with their teachers to maximize teaching time. Parents will be required to pick up their children after the final prayers for Liturgy are completed.

The Middle and High School group (St. John SOYO)— 7th - 12th grade students will head to the St John Sunday School classroom (in the Fellowship Hall wing) *directly after* communion.

SYNAXARION FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 04, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &

SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE

HIEROMARTYR HIEROTHEOS, BISHOP OF ATHENS

HIEROMARTYR PETER OF CAPITOLIA IN SYRIA; MARTYRS DOMNINA AND
HER DAUGHTERS OF SYRIA

On October 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Hierotheos, bishop of Athens.

Verses

*Of old Hierotheos to Thee was consecrated;
Now gone hence, O Word, he hath to Thee been united.
On the fourth dawn, the grave covered Hierotheos.*

He was a friend of Dionysios the Areopagite, and received the Christian faith from the Apostle Paul a little after Dionysios. This Apostle later made Hierotheos the first bishop of Athens. At the time of the Dormition of the most holy Mother of God, Hierotheos arrived in Jerusalem, carried by the clouds, and took part in the funeral. With his divine singing, he brought heartfelt joy to many and showed himself to be greatly inspired. He labored greatly for the sake of the Gospel, brought many pagans to the truth, governed his flock well and finally ended a martyr for Christ in the first century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Peter of Capitolia in Syria; and Martyrs Domnina and her daughters of Syria. By the intercessions of thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

TODAY'S VARIABLE HYMNS:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

TROPARION OF SAINT JAMES (TONE 4)

As a disciple of the Lord, righteous James, thou didst receive the Gospel; and as a martyr thou art never turned away; as the brother of God thou hast boldness; and as a hierarch thou dost always intercede. Entreat Christ God, that He save our souls.

ORDINARY KONTAKION (TONE 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

PROKEIMENON

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

THE READING FROM THE SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS. (9:6-11)

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (6:31-36)

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to

you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

Parish Council Members:

Fr. Thomas Zell, Pastor; Deacon Nektarios Quilici, Chairman;
Devin Peterson, Secretary; Ryan Collins, Treasurer; Rita Younathan, Choir;
Lauren Forquer, Josh Wharton, and Nina Erickson.

HOW TO GIVE TO SAINT JAMES ONLINE

2) Download the “Church Center” app from your mobile app store or by scanning the QR code below with your mobile phone’s camera:



Once downloaded, choose the option to search manually, enter our zip code (95351), scroll down and select “St. James Antiochian Orthodox Church”, then follow the prompts to get signed in.

From both our website or the app you can setup either one-time or recurring donations with just a few clicks. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Subdeacon David Quilici or Devin Peterson.

OCTOBER IS SEMINARIAN MONTH!

Today, we will collect a special tray to support seminarians in our Archdiocese. Please see the attached letter from Metropolitan Saba!

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH!

Bake Sale Sign Ups: Please support the Annual Special Olympics Bake Sale! Donated Baked Goods are appreciated and can be signed up for in the Hall. All goods can be delivered, packaged and priced, on October 17th after Vespers or 10/18 before Liturgy! Bake Sale after Liturgy on October 18th!

Franklin Head Start Mini Pumpkin Drive: We will be collecting 65 pumpkins for our SOYO Month Community Almsgiving project! Pumpkins need to be 5-8" in size...sugar pumpkins are great for this! Pumpkins will be delivered on October 27th to our neighborhood Head Start Program for their annual Fall Literacy Day! Drop off your pumpkins outside of the teen Sunday School room on the bleachers!

SAVE THE DATE...ST JAMES FEAST DAY!

Oct 22nd 6 pm Festal Vespers and Reception

Oct 25th after Liturgy *Chili Cook Off* with music and dancing! Look for potluck sign-up sheets

2026 DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST FALL GATHERING OCT 23-25TH

Please use the following link to get info on this wonderful diocesan event! <https://stmichaelwhittier.org/fall-gathering-2026-registration/>

ATTENTION ALL MAKERS & CRAFTERS

Bring your creations to the Maker Fair! Whether you crochet, draw, bake, make jams, create jewelry, build things, or enjoy another creative hobby, bring your work to display and sell with the community. Anything you make is welcome! Ten percent of each seller's proceeds will go to the Building Fund.

Please contact Kimberly Swehla in the book nook to reserve your table!

Date: Sunday, November 8th after Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 am—**Morning Prayers and Breakfast at Casa Cielo**
- Wednesday, October 7, 8:00 am—**Woman's Walk and Talk** at the Virginia Corridor. See Roberta for details!

- Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 pm—**Paraklesis (Arabic, Assyrian and English)-*followed by refreshments!***
- Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 to 9:00 pm—**Teen SOYO**
- Thursday, October 8, 1:00 pm—**St James Homeschool Group**

PROSPHORA & FELLOWSHIP LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

Please be in touch with Amy Patterson if you would like to change scheduled dates, or have questions about the schedule. Note: Fellowship lunch sponsors are responsible for clean-up unless otherwise noted.

Date	Prospora	Fellowship lunch sponsor
Sunday, October 4	Diaz/Quilici	Potluck
Sunday, October 11	Sh Salwa	Men's Group: Team Diego John
Sunday, October 18	Mervat	Potluck
Thursday, October 22	Jessica	Chocolate, Wine and Cheese <i>Sign-Ups Needed</i>
Sunday, October 25	Lauren	Chili Cook Off <i>Sign-Ups Needed!</i>

MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!!!

October 4—Mia Vasquez's Birthday

October 4—Galina Galovina's Birthday

October 5—Julie Adley's Birthday

October 6—Zack and Stephanie McCary's Anniversary

October 6—Father Thomas (alternate), Julian De Graft Johnson, Antonio Estrella, and Austin Souza's Name Day *St Thomas the Apostle*

October 7—Emery Peterson's Birthday

October 7—Miguel Gutierrez's Birthday

October 7—Sargon Younathan's Name Day *St Sergius*

October 8—Vasiliy Korikova's Birthday

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 536/2026

October 2026

Youth Month and Seminary Month

Beloved clergy and faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The Church is always called to look toward the future—not simply by preserving what we have received, but by faithfully handing the Orthodox Christian life to those who will come after us. St. John Chrysostom reminds us of this sacred responsibility: “The care of children is the greatest of all arts.” The formation of our young people and the formation of those who will shepherd them are therefore inseparable responsibilities.

In the Antiochian Archdiocese, October is traditionally observed as “Youth Month and Seminary Month.” These two observances belong together because the young people of today are the faithful, parents, parish leaders, and clergy of tomorrow. At the same time, the seminarians of today are preparing to become the priests who will baptize and chrismate our children, teach the faith, celebrate the Divine Mysteries, counsel families, comfort the suffering, visit the sick, reconcile the penitent, and proclaim the Gospel of Christ to a world that desperately needs His truth and mercy.

Priests must possess knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, the teachings of the Fathers, theology, history, and pastoral ministry. But they must also be formed in prayer, humility, repentance, compassion, and love for the people whom they will one day serve. Education and spirituality must work together so that our future priests are prepared not only to speak about Christ, but to live and proclaim life in Christ.

Our seminarians depend upon the generosity of the faithful, and so do the institutions who help form them: St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and the Archdiocese's own Antiochian House of Studies. Supporting these institutions is an investment in the spiritual life of our parishes.

Prayerfully consider making a generous contribution through your parishes to help prepare the shepherds who will serve our parishes and strengthen the Church that will nurture our children and grandchildren.

May our Lord bless our youth and our seminaries. May He bless you and your families and reward your generosity.

Your Father in Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)

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