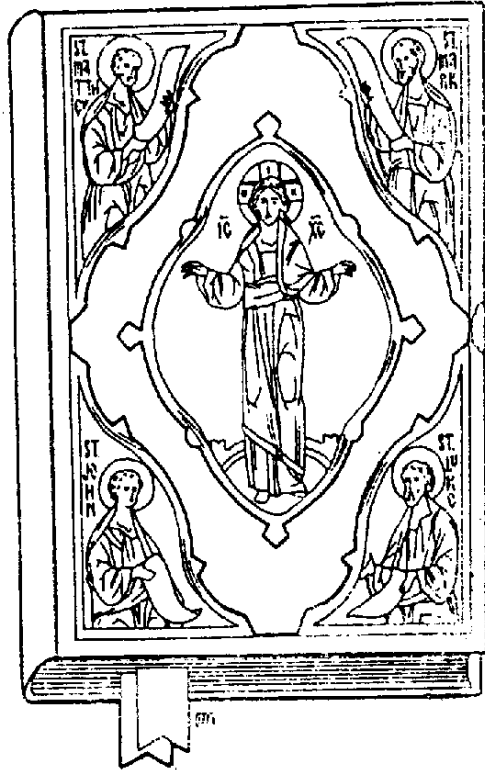


ST. ANDREW GOSPEL READING PLAN

TO BE REPEATED FOUR TIMES A YEAR



St. Andrew Orthodox Christian Church

4700 Canyon Crest Drive
Riverside, California 92507

*To the Parishioners of St. Andrew Church, Beloved of the Lord,
As we approach the New Year I raise my right hand in prayer and trace the sign of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross over each of you asking the Almighty to adorn the coming year with all manner of spiritual growth and an abundance of fruit-bearing and personal transformation into the likeness of the Lord Jesus.*

In the past many of our parishioners have on occasion agreed to a corporate Bible Reading plan. This year, 2016, I am suggesting that we read through the four Holy Gospels- 1 chapter a day throughout the year. This will allow us to read all four Gospel through four times!

The Holy Bible is not just a collection of beautiful teachings, but rather the very words of the Holy Trinity. St. Paul says, "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). When we prayerfully read the Word of God we ourselves are radically altered, changed, and molded.

The Prophet Jeremiah says that God is the potter and we are the clay (ch. 18). Reading the Scriptures is one of the ways that the hands of the Lord shape, mold, poke, stroke, polish and smash our clay.

Elder Aimilianos of the Holy Monastery of Simonopetra on Mt. Athos, one of the great contemporary Holy Fathers, says this, "Holy Scripture is the greatest gift which God has given to man...the word of God is like an instrument which punctures the hardness of our heart. It is like a charge of dynamite which blasts our passions to the left and to the right. It purges our heart and fills it with virtues...the Holy Scriptures provide us with spiritual experience...Where God's voice is, there is God, hidden within the voice. The spiritual book is a mystery, a sacrament...the words and lines of Holy Scripture are the garments of Christ."

If we attend to the Holy Gospel like this in 2016 it will change us all for the better! And it will animate our life together this year in a unique and beautiful way. Please accept my invitation to launch out on this holy project.

With love in the Lord,

Father Josiah

How to Read the Bible

Ten Principles of Orthodox Scriptural Exegesis

adapted from Bishop MICHAEL (Dahulich)

1. Christ - God is real and is incarnate in Jesus Christ; He is the Key to the Scriptures.
2. Life - One's ability to interpret depends upon one's spiritual state; one must live it in order to fully understand it.
3. A Love Letter - We read scripture to fall deeper in love with God and put on the Scriptural Mind.
4. Theosis - We read Scripture to become by grace what God is by nature.
5. Tradition - Only within the Church and her Tradition (the consensus of the Fathers) is there full and correct interpretation.
6. Scripture is a witness to the truth, the pinnacle of Holy Tradition; it is not an exhaustive manual of church life.
7. We must interpret the Bible as the Church has handed it, not try to reconstruct the canon of Scripture.
8. Personal - Ask yourself not only: what does the text mean, but what does it mean for me?
9. Humility - As many Church Fathers, consider your understanding of difficult texts as provisional.
10. Use secondary knowledge (history, literary criticism, archeology) to illuminate our understanding, not redefine dogma.

On reading Holy Scripture

St. John Chrysostom:

I exhort you, and I will not cease to exhort you to pay heed not only to what is said here, but when you are home also you should occupy yourselves attentively with the reading of Holy Scripture. Let no one say to me such cold words-worthy of judgment---as these: 'I am occupied with a trial, I have obligations in the city, I have a wife, I have to feed my children, and it is not my duty to read the Scripture but the duty of those who have renounced everything.' What are you saying?! It is not your duty to read Scripture because you are distracted by innumerable cares? On the contrary, it is your duty more than those others, more than the monks; they do not have such need of help as do you who live in the midst of such cares. You need treatment all the more, because you are constantly under such blows and are wounded so often. The reading of Scripture is a great defense against sin. Ignorance of the Scripture is a great misfortune, a great abyss. Not to know anything from the word of God is a disaster. This is what has given rise to heresies, to immorality; it has turned everything upside down.

Martyrius, The Book of Perfection:

Truly great and mighty is the power of God's word. For the word of God has changed "the offspring of vipers" into children of God. So let us constantly sow it within the hard soil of our heart, waiting for it to soften it so that the wheat-ear of life may sprout up in it. For the word of God is at the same time the seed and the water; and even though we have a heart like stone, it will be softened and split up by the water of the Spirit, so that it can bring forth holy fruit that is pleasing to God.

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Jan.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Matthew	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		23

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Jan.	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Mat. (cont)	24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		26
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		27
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		28
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Mark	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31		3
Feb.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Luke	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		2

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Feb.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Luke (cont)	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		8
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Leap year catch-up day	
Mar.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Luke (cont)	16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		23
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		24

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Mar.	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	John	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		8
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		11
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		13
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Catch-up day	

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
April	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Matthew	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		12
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		23

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
April.	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Mat. (cont)	24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		26
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		27
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		28
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Mark	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		2
May	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Luke	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		2

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
May	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Luke (cont)	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31		17
June	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		23
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Catch-up Day	

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
June	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	John	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Catch-up Day	

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
July	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Matthew	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		23

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
July.	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Mat. (cont)	24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		26
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		27
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		28
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Mark	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31		3
Aug.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Luke	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		2

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Aug.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Luke (cont)	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31		18
Sept.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		23
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Catch-up Day	

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	John	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Catch-up Days	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Oct.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Matthew	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		23

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Oct.	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Mat. (cont)	24
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		25
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		26
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		27
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		28
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Mark	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 31		3
Nov.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Luke	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		2

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
Nov.	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Luke (cont)	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 30		17
Dec.	<input type="checkbox"/> 1		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4		21
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5		22
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6		23
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7		24

Month	Day	Book	Chapter
June	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	John	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> 9		2
	<input type="checkbox"/> 10		3
	<input type="checkbox"/> 11		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> 12		5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 13		6
	<input type="checkbox"/> 14		7
	<input type="checkbox"/> 15		8
	<input type="checkbox"/> 16		9
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17		10
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18		11
	<input type="checkbox"/> 19		12
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20		13
	<input type="checkbox"/> 21		14
	<input type="checkbox"/> 22		15
	<input type="checkbox"/> 23		16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 24		17
	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Merry Christmas	
	<input type="checkbox"/> 26		18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 27		19
	<input type="checkbox"/> 28		20
	<input type="checkbox"/> 29		21
	30/31	Catch-up Days	

OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR GOSPEL BOOKS

By the Rt. Rev. Bishop BASIL,
Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid America

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John recall the events in the life of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man. The first three are called the Synoptic Gospels, in that they set forth a “common viewpoint” of the chronology of events and the message of Christ in His life and ministry.

Matthew addresses his gospel primarily to fellow Jews.

Mark is likely the first Gospel to be written, and speaks of Christ as servant of all (Mk 10:45).

Luke, himself a physician, reveals the Incarnate Christ and His earthly ancestry. This Son of Man saves and heals the fallen race.

John, the last of the four gospels to be written, emphasizes the divinity of Christ, the eternal Son and Word of God, who became Man. John’s gospel further reveals seven miracles of Christ, not all of them in chronological order.

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