


*St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church*

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

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**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

**Forefeast of & Sunday before the Nativity of Christ (The Genealogy)**

**Celebrant: Fr. Ben Kjendal**

**LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES**

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR: Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO: 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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: O ye foremost of the heavenly host, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy. Pray that we may be encompassed with the shadow of thy unearthly glory. Preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly. Deliver us from oppression since Ye are the princes of the highest power.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE: On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

**TRISAGION PRAYER**

<i>English</i>	Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have Mercy on us
<i>Arabic</i>	Qudoos El Laah, Qudoos El Qawi, Qudoos El Lathi La Yamoot, Urhamnah
<i>Greek</i>	Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, Eyleison Imas
<i>Russian</i>	Svyatij Bozhe, Svyatij Krepkij, Svatij Bessmertnij pomiluj nas

**The Mission of St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church is to love and worship God, to grow closer to Him, and to proclaim and to spread the Good News of the salvation of Jesus Christ to our parishioners, our neighbors and people everywhere.**

**We worship and pray in English. We experience the beauty and joy of living the Holy Orthodox Christian faith – sharing love and fellowship, teaching and leading by example, growing together through service, education, stewardship and forgiveness.**

**A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION:** *Since we understand Communion to mean we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all present to partake of the blessed bread distributed at the end of the service.*

**UNLESS YOU ARE INJURED OR UNABLE, PLEASE REMAIN STANDING DURING COMMUNION**

**Sunday, December 22** 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Church School  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Tuesday, December 24** 9:00 AM Royal Hours of the Eve of Nativity  
5:00 PM Festal Orthros  
6:00 PM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity  
Potluck dinner to follow!

**Saturday, December 28** 5:00 PM Vespers

**Sunday, December 29** 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Church School  
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
Pageant by Church School

**Wednesday, January 1** 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ and St. Basil

**Winter Weather announcement for St Michael Parish**

In case of inclement weather this winter on Sundays, Fr. Ben will make the decision as to whether Liturgy will take place. Communication to the parish announcing either a delay or a cancellation will be made via: the parish email; announcements on Cape radio stations - WQRC - [99.9 The Q](#), WKPE - [Cape Country 104](#), WFCC - [Classical 107.5](#), WOCN – [Ocean 104.7](#), [CapeCod.com](#); and all Boston TV station. **Be safe during storms.**

**\*\*\*In case of emergency, there are emergency numbers posted next to the telephones in the coat room and in the kitchen\*\*\***

PLEASE SEE ST MICHAEL HAPPENINGS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND CHARITABLE NEEDS OVER THE COMING WEEKS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!

**\*\*\* DON'T FORGET NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY \*\*\***

THANK YOU to Jasmine & Paul Andrews. Jourdan & Charlie Clough and to Anna Lemanis for their tireless efforts in purchasing /delivering food donations!

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR!

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARISHIONERS FOR MAKING COFFEE HOUR POSSIBLE**

This week hosted by: **Women's Group** Next 4 weeks: Rassias, Elaine Burke, Klokov, & Michelle Mullaney  
**Please let us know if you are interested in being included on the coffee hour rotation schedule!**

***Our People are our Choir! We love to hear you sing with us! WELCOME!***

***We are glad to have you worship with us today!***

Father Ben Kjendal is available to visit with you in your home for pastoral care, counseling and inquiries regarding Orthodoxy by appointment. His cell number is (978) 397-3285.

If you need anyone remembered during services (in Memory of or for Good Health of), please let Fr. Ben know **AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE** so they can be included in all the prayers during Vespers, Matins and Liturgy

## THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Nativity)

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

*For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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, 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

(For the Sunday before the Nativity: “The Genealogy”)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (1:1-25)**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ. 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 were fourteen generations. 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; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.



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### ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE  
ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

**PLEASE SUPPORT SOYO RELIGIOUS ITEMS BOUTIQUE** As a steward of St Michael, SOYO is running a religious items store for all your needs. Proceeds from the store will be **donated back** to St Michael to support a **NEEDY FUND AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS** for the parish and its friends... please stop by and help support your neighbors in need with every purchase! **The bookstore is stocked with gift items for the Nativity Season!**

**SHOP ON AMAZON AND SUPPORT ST. MICHAEL** As the **Christmas shopping** is here, please consider taking this one extra step to your normal shopping routine on Amazon! You start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and do your regular logon it. Designate St Michael The Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church as your charity. That is it! As you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase to St Michael, it's **no additional cost for you**. If you need help, ask David Easa. Please tell your family and friends about it! Together we can raise some funds for our many programs!

**Cape Cod's Christmas Wishes** We have once again adopted a family through Cape Cod's Christmas Wishes program! We will be collecting money through the end of December to help pay for the gifts that have been purchased. Thank you for bringing joy this Christmas to a struggling family!

**Family Description:** This is a single mom with 3 children. This has been an extremely tough year for this family. Mom's ex-boyfriend is now incarcerated after physical abuse to the children and mom. The children are traumatized and currently are in counseling. Mom had to quit her job and focus on the well-being of the children. The closest relative lives out of state so they are on their own to get through this horrible ordeal. Mom is determined to keep the family together and to heal all the children. Odin, male, any clothes 18-24 mos. Penelope, 9 female. Likes pink & purple and likes to be "girlie and sparkle" leggings, size 16, any kind of tops size 16. Loves Unicorns, fairies, Pokemon and Star Wars. Laurelyn, 12 female. In need of sweaters XL, Leggings XL, PJ's XL. Likes neutral colors like blue, green, black, grey. Like Pokemon, Star Wars. Mom, Colleen would like a gift card to Target for household items and maybe to buy some surprises for the children.

**Great Feast of Theophany** Join His Grace Bishop JOHN, the clergy and faithful of our Diocese on **Monday, January 6 for Matins (5:30 pm) and Divine Liturgy (7 pm) at St. George, West Roxbury** to celebrate the Great Feast of Theophany and the Blessing of Water. A reception will follow.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** depicting original artwork by Sandra Sedell are on sale in the church hall. Cards are \$2 each. Sandra is a talented artist who works in oils and watercolors. She and her husband are summer resident of East Falmouth and friends of St. Michael Church.

All proceeds will benefit the Narthex Fund.

