

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

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Sunday, December 26, 2021

Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos &

Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

**Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet
and King, and James the brother of God**

Celebrant: Fr. Ben Kjendal

LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. 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 NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO: Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE: On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN: As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE)

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

SCHEDULE:

Friday, December 24 8:00 AM Royal Hours
9:30 AM Vespers Divine Liturgy
10:30 PM Orthros & Divine Liturgy for
The Nativity of Christ

No services on December 25

Sunday, December 26 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 1 9:00 AM Orthros
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy for **Circumcision of Our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Sunday, January 2 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

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 & CHARITABLE NEEDS OVER THE COMING WEEKS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

***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, Orthros (Matins) and Liturgy

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

God is wondrous in His saints. In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she

refused to be consoled, because they were no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

SHOP ON AMAZON AND SUPPORT ST. MICHAEL

Please consider taking this one extra step to your normal shopping routine on Amazon! You start at 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!

CHRISTMAS MEALS: We delivered 50 Christmas meals to Faith Family Kitchen on Monday 12/20. Each meal contained a ham, a grocery store gift card and a tint with homemade cookies. Thank you for sharing the light of Christ this Nativity season!



CALENDARS: There is a new ecclesiastical calendar for 2022 at the back of the church. The suggested donation is \$5 for each calendar.

Congratulations Patti!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Nativity Basket Women's Group raffle. Thanks to Candace Rassias who donated the basket from her Brookline store Rue de Saveur. Follow her and Like her on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/vomfassbrookline/>

Congratulations to Patti Sowpel who won the drawing !!!

Blessed Nativity from St Michael Women's Group.

Supply Chain Blues? Shop SOYO bookstore

We have your Nativity or any occasion needs covered. Books. Icons. Incense. Crosses. Prayer ropes. So much variety for you. Our bookstore is fully stocked and ready. If you need something specific please speak with one of our teens. All proceed support projects in our local community. Thank you as always for your continued support of St. Michael.



Based on recent reports from various medical experts, the new COVID variants are highly transmissible. In light of this, St. Michael's goal is to be cautious, not only to protect all parishioners but to make all who attend church feel at ease. As a community, it is our obligation to work together to safeguard all.

Consistent with CDC and Massachusetts guidelines that advise people to wear a mask or face covering when indoors, we invite / encourage all parishioners and guests to wear a mask or face covering during services. At same time, we respect those who either choose not to, or for medical reasons are unable to, wear a mask. We are blessed that our attendance is growing so we will do everything possible, within our very limited space, to accommodate social distancing, including the opening of windows and doors of the church except for extenuating circumstances. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

THE SYNAXARION

On December 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the first day of the After-feast of the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate Euthymios the Confessor, bishop of Sardis; and Hieromartyr Constantios the Russian of the Great Lavra on Athos.

On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos.

Verses

With words as blameless gifts, I welcome the blameless Mother, Who not knowing the bed of man, now lieth in child-bed. On the twenty-sixth I sing a song to the Most Pure in child-bed.

This Synaxis, or our coming together, to glorify the Theotokos is celebrated especially in her honor because she gave birth supernaturally to the Son and Word of God, and thus became the instrument of the salvation of mankind. This feast of Mary is one of the earliest in Orthodox Christian tradition.

Verses on the Most Holy Theotokos' Flight into Egypt

He that smote thee of old, cometh to thee, O Egypt; Tremble before Him, and mind Him as God Almighty.

God saw the wicked King Herod's plan to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel commanded him to take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt. Joseph did this. They first travelled to Nazareth (Lk. 2:39), where Joseph set his household affairs in order and then, taking his son James with them, went off to Egypt (Matt. 2:14). And so the words of the prophet: "The Lord, riding upon a swift cloud, shall come into Egypt" (Is. 19:1), were fulfilled. The family lived in Egypt for several years, and then returned to Palestine in response to a command by an angel of God. And so a second prophecy was fulfilled: "Out of Egypt have I called My Son" (Hosea 11:1). On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the first bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

Verses

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen. Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O blest James. What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.