

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

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Sunday, December 18, 2022

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

Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them

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 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

English Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have Mercy on us

Arabic Qudoos El Laah, Qudoos El Qawi, Qudoos El Lathi La Yamoot, Urhamnah

Greek Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, Eyleison Imas

Russian 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

SCHEDULE:

- **Sunday, December 18**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- **Wednesday, December 21**
 - 7:00 PM Paraklesis Service
- **Friday December 23:**
 - 8:30 AM Royal Hours
 - 4:00 PM Vespers for the Paramon (Eve) of the Nativity of Christ
- **Saturday, December 24**
 - 8:30 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Paramon of the Nativity of Christ
 - 4:00 PM Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ
- **Sunday, December 25**
 - 8:30 AM Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

<p>There is a new ecclesiastical calendar for 2023 at the back of the church. The suggested donation is \$10 for each calendar.</p>
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*****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.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Nativity)

Blessed art 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.

ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

Nativity Gift Ideas

Please support Women's Group with your purchase of our Cookbooks that include our family memories and pictures (\$30 each or 2 for \$50). We also have Angel Greeting Cards - a pack of 8 Holy Archangels as drawn by our own iconographer, Zarina Sheglov, for only \$10 a set!



Also, thanks to the generous donation of Mr Bob Hazelton in memory of his late Babuskha, Lydia Petrovna, we have some beautiful porcelain plates depicting Russian Orthodox images, still in their original shipping boxes and with narrative descriptions of the images. Only \$15 each for these rare, beautiful plates to be displayed in your home or as a hostess gift! We have a collection with varying images.



Come look thru and see what you like. These are collector items!

Please also check out a great assortment of religious gifts, incense, icons, books as offered by our SOYO group and support their efforts and projects with your purchase. Our youth group works tirelessly to support different community and parish events and proceeds from bookstore sales supports those efforts. Thank you for your continued and loving support of St Michael. A blessed Nativity season to all!

CHRISTMAS MEALS Now that Thanksgiving meals have been delivered, it is time to start working on our Christmas meal delivery! We will be donating hams, a grocery store gift card, and a tin of (HOMEMADE!) cookies to families in need this Christmas. Please consider making a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the hams and the grocery store gift cards. Also, we need about 250 DOZEN cookies to fill the cookie tins. That might sound like a lot, but each year we have managed to fill the tins to overflowing. Please bring all cookie donations to church by Sunday, December 18. We will be packaging the cookies during coffee hour. Thank you, in advance, for helping to bring the Light of Christ to struggling families this Christmas!

SOYO Adopt a Family SOYO is collecting donations to purchase Christmas gifts for a local family in need. Please consider contributing to help in this effort. The family SOYO is supporting recently moved on Cape after a tough year of transitions. One of the children is struggling with high and anxiety and depression as a result of the changes. The mom has been very proactive in making sure the kids don't feel the transitions as harshly as they could — while making hard choices for the family and raising three kids on her own. She would benefit a gift card for groceries and clothes for the kids. The 13 year old boy loves Lego's, art supplies, and soccer. The 11 year old boy loves Lego's, art supplies, Pokémon, and football. The 14 year old girl likes journals and wishes for a Walmart or 5 and Below gift card. Thank you for your help!

THE SYNAXARION

On December 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious and rightvictorious Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them.

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths. It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

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