
St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, September 24, 2023

Proto-martyr Thekla, equal-to-the-Apostles

& First Sunday of Luke

Venerable Silouan of Athos

Clergy:

Dn. Chris Hatzopoulos

Sdn. Joseph Boruch

HYMNS OF THE DAY

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO: 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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN: Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. THEKLA THE PROTO-MARTYR IN TONE THREE: O glorious Thekla, companion of Paul the divine, thou wast enflamed with the love of thy Creator, by the teaching of the divine preacher. Thou didst despise the passing earthly pleasures, and offered thyself to God as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice, disregarding all suffering. Intercede with Christ thy Groom to grant us His Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SILOUAN THE ATHONITE IN TONE FOUR: By prayer thou didst receive Christ as thy teacher in the way of humility, and the Spirit bore witness to salvation in thy heart. Wherefore, all peoples called unto hope rejoice in this day of thy memorial, O sacred Father Silouan. Pray unto Christ our God for the salvation of 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.

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***

If you or your loved ones need to contact a member of the clergy in the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Deacon James Irving, who can be reached by phone or text at (781) 468-8709 or by email at dnjamesirving@gmail.com.

We're looking for Youth Epistle Readers for October, which is Youth Month. Please reach out to David Easa.

SCHEDULE:

- **Saturday, September 23**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers - Celebrant: Fr. Timothy Curren
 - **Sunday, September 24**
 - 9:15 AM Readers Orthros / Bible Study for Kids 10+
 - 10:15 AM Typika Service with Communion - Celebrant: Dn. Chris Hatzopoulos
 - Choir Rehearsal
 - **Saturday, September 30**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- *** OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH *****
- **Sunday, October 1**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study for Kids 10+
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR

It is a great joy to have so many people join us for coffee hour!

Please remember that coffee hour is potluck and is successful when we all pitch in by bringing food, serving, helping with set up and clean up or offering donations in the offering box on the counter.

Please ask someone in the kitchen how you can help. May God continue to bless our community!

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

THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous among His saints. Bless ye God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all, who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (5:1-11)

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Thy word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish, which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Church School for younger kids will start after all materials are ready. This is why we are calling all artists. We need help painting fine details and drawing figures on pre-cut forms for our Atrium church school program. Please consider donating your talent to help teach our children the faith using this tactile and immersive teaching program. We have lots of items to be completed in order to proceed to the next level in our course. See Macrina (Colleen) Stewart if you can help or would like more information.



THE FAMILY PANTRY OF CAPE COD IS REQUESTING NON-FOOD DONATIONS as their current need is great for health and beauty products. We would like to collect items by the end of October. Please consider the following sample list of items – think of things you find in the pharmacy: toothpaste/toothbrush/floss; shampoo/conditioner; soap; razors/shaving gel; bandaids; nail clippers; body lotion; comb / hairbrush. This is just a sample of products. Anything would be appreciated, although they specifically said NO FEMININE HYGIENE products. Please consider bringing a few items

to each service that you attend to help us collect as many items as possible by the end of October.

**2023 MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL & BAZAAR -
St. George, West Roxbury, October 6-8, 2023**

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Boston is proud to announce their Middle Eastern Festival & Bazaar at their location, 55 Emmonsedale Road, West Roxbury, MA, on Friday and Saturday, October 6th and 7th from 11:00AM to 10:00PM and Sunday, October 8th from 12PM – 4:00PM – FREE ADMISSION/WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. Three days of fun-filled excitement. Authentic Middle Eastern Cuisine and Pastry, American Foods and Pastry, Ice Cream, Fried Dough, Fresh Little Neck Clams, Music, Dancing, Kids Activities, Raffles, White Elephant Table and much more. Purchase Galaxy Raffle tickets to win fabulous prizes! There's something for everyone at the St. George Church Festival & Bazaar! For more information, please call the church at (617)327-6500. Proceeds to benefit church projects.

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Awareness Sunday is Sep 24

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has designated the 4th Sunday of September as an annual event. In this inaugural year of this commemoration, the day falls on Sunday, September 24, 2023. Approximately 60% of youth are leaving the Church once they become adults. This stark statistic reminds us that it's vital for everyone – clergy, lay leaders, parents, and other caring adults – to work together in helping our young people find joy in Christ and become full participants in the life of the Church. Learn more at <https://www.theoym.org/>

Save the Date!

- November 3-4: St. John Dedham Annual Bazaar
 - November 3-5: St. Mary Pawtucket Annual Bazaar
 - April 6, 2024: Annual Lenten Retreat @ St. George in West Roxbury sponsored by the Diocese Antiochian Women
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Teen SOYO Volunteer Opportunity at Feed My Starving Children

Diocese of Worcester & New England Teen SOYO invites ALL TEENS (7th-12th Grade), families, clergy, and pre-teens to our: Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Opportunity on October 6, 2023. Register to volunteer from 5-9 pm at <https://forms.gle/hGwLS8qDuPi84BZh7> Email any questions to downeyouthdirector@gmail.com



October 6, 2023

Feed My Starving Children DOWNE SOYO

St. George Orthodox Cathedral

30 Anna St., Worcester, MA 01604

**Register to Volunteer from 5-9 pm at:
<https://forms.gle/hGwLS8qDuPi84BZh7>**

email any questions to downeyouthdirector@gmail.com

THE SYNAXARION

On September 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Thekla, equal-to-the- Apostles.

Verses

*Himself that rent the rock saveth thee, O Thekla,
At Whose Passion once the rocks were rent asunder.
On the twenty-fourth the rock welcomed Thekla.*

She was born in Iconium of eminent but pagan parents. At age 18, she was betrothed to a young man named Thamyris at the same time that the Apostle Paul arrived in Iconium with Barnabas to preach the Gospel. Hearing Paul's testimony for three days and nights, Thekla converted to the Christian Faith, and vowed to live in virginity. Her mother, seeing that she was now ignoring her betrothal, tried to dissuade her, and then beat her and tortured her by starvation. Finally, this wicked mother turned Thekla over to the judge and demanded that Thekla be burned. The judge threw her into the fire, but God preserved her unharmed by pouring rain on the fire. Once in an arena and sentenced to death, Thekla saw a vat of water that contained carnivorous seals. Thekla jumped into the vat and baptized herself. Lightning killed all of the seals before they could eat her. Another time, a lioness protected her from other wild beasts. Once, as a group of arrogant young men were about to catch Thekla, a large rock opened up and hid this holy virgin. This rock in Maaloula, Syria was her refuge and her tomb, and the site of the monastery which she founded, the oldest Christian convent in the world. Thousands of pilgrims flock to it yearly for healing of ailments. On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Silouan of Athos, born in 1866 as Simeon Ivanovich Antonov of devout parents of Sovsk, Tambov, Russia. At age 27, he received the prayers of St. John of Kronstadt and went to Mt. Athos where he became a monk at the Russian monastery of St. Panteleimon. He received from the Holy Theotokos the gift of unceasing prayer, and had a vision of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory in the church of the holy Prophet Elias adjoining the mill of the monastery. After the withdrawal of that first grace, he was oppressed by profound grief and great temptations for fifteen years, after which he received from Christ the teaching, "Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not." He reposed on September 24, 1938. He left behind his writings which were edited by his disciple and pupil, St. Sophrony of Essex. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.
