
St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 10, 2023

**Tone 2 / Eothinon 5; Twenty-seventh Sunday after
Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Luke
Martyrs Menas, Eugraphos & Hermogenes of Alexandria
Venerable Thomas Dephourkinos of Bithynia**

Hierarchs and Parish Clergy:

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA (Isper)

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Grace Bishop JOHN (Abdalah)

Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester & New England

Father James Irving, Pastor

Subdeacon Joseph Boruch

LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): 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 SS. MENAS, EUGRAPHOS & HERMOGENES IN TONE EIGHT: Since they had slain through their abstinence and struggles the fiery ragings and fierce motions of the passions, the staunch Martyrs of Christ God laid hold on the graces to drive off the pains and illnesses of the sick and work wonders both while living and after death. Strange indeed is the miracle: that these bare bones should pour forth such overflowing streams of cures. Glory be to our only God.

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, Quodoos El Qawi, Qudoos El Lathi La Yamoot, Urhamnah

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

Slavonic: 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***

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

Fr. James is available for confession by appointment.

SCHEDULE:

- **Saturday, December 9**
 - No Vespers
- **Sunday, December 10**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School/ 9:15 AM Bible Study for Kids 10+
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Memorial Service for Kh. Euphoria "Effie" Manikas
 - Men's Group Pancake Breakfast
 - Women's Group Meeting
- **Saturday, December 16**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 17**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School/ 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

The Lord is my strength and my song.

With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

WOMEN'S MEETING & GROUP PICTURE FOR PARISH DIRECTORY

The Women's Group will have a meeting directly after liturgy. We will take our group picture for the directory and then hold our meeting in the church.

We are looking for officers for next year. Please consider serving this sisterhood and its projects. You will have the full support and assistance of the

entire membership and past officers.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Our directory project is ongoing. Please see Stephen Winters for more information, or if you haven't given him your photo and contact information to be included in the directory. Thank you.

USHERS NEEDED

We need ushers to serve one Sunday per month. Please see Soraya Bandeli if you are interested in greeting guests as they enter church and helping with the flow of the liturgy.

This is a fun way to serve and meet people.

DECEMBER OUTREACH - HELP OUR VETERANS!

During December, with your help, the Outreach Team is supporting Falmouth Veterans Council. They currently assist 42 veteran families.

Your monetary donation would be appreciated by December 17 so we can deliver everything in time to The Falmouth Veterans Council for distribution! Please make your checks payable St. Michael Outreach with memo "veterans". May God bless you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior who requires us to help those in need!

If you would like to be on the Outreach Committee in planning these programs for 2024, please contact Soraya Bandeli : 617-842-8591 // sbandeli@comcast.net

ST. MICHAEL'S MEN'S GROUP PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The St. Michael's Men's group will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 10, 2023. All proceeds to benefit the 2024 Parish Life Conference (PLC). Donation \$5 per person or \$10 per family.



SOYO CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The SOYO Christmas service project this year will be shopping for clothes and Christmas gifts for 2 children through the Homeless Prevention Council's "Adopt-a-Family" program. The items will need to be dropped off by Dec. 14 so we will be shopping at the mall after church THIS SUNDAY 12/10. Please join us if you are able. If you would like to help us cover our costs, we will have a second collection on Sunday, December 17th.

AVAILABLE BOARD POSITIONS

The Ladies of St. Michael and the Parish Council will have open leadership positions soon. You can support St. Michael's Church by serving as a member of the council or as an officer in the Ladies of St. Michael. Please see Fr. James, a member of the Ladies Group, or a Parish Council member for more details.

ST. MICHAEL NATIVITY CARD 2023

This year, St. Michael Women will be sending out a Nativity Greeting to all our parish members. A portion of the proceeds of this year's Nativity card will be going to the Clergy Widows Fund. These women who have dedicated their lives and their families to the church will always be our "Khourie" / "Presvitera" / "Matushka" – even after they suffer the loss of their priest-husbands. The order form for the Nativity Greeting has been mailed out. If you would like your name on the St. Michael Nativity Card, please fill out the form and return it by December 17, 2023. Please make your donations out to St. Michael Women and write 'Nativity Card' in the memo. We thank you for your continued generosity.

THANK YOU FOR BEAUTIFYING OUR CHURCH FOR NATIVITY!

Thanks to all volunteers who helped to beautify our church for the Nativity. Thanks to Elaine Burke and Olga DiSavino for leading.



THE SYNAXARION

On December 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the contest of the holy Martyrs of Christ: Menas the Most Eloquent, Eugraphos and Hermogenes, who suffered martyrdom in Alexandria.

Verses

*Though Menas when beheaded hath nothing with which to sing,
He doth muzzle impiety's mouth from its dinning.
Having shown impiety scorn and dishonor, Hermogenes by a sword
became a Martyr. Enduring the nibs of the swords,
O Eugraphos, thou art the swift pen of God, splendidly writing.
On the tenth, mellifluous Menas gave the sword his neck.*

Menas was known for his great learning and eloquence of speech. When a dispute flared up between the Christians and the pagans in Alexandria, Emperor Maximian dispatched Menas to root out the Christians from the city. Menas went and restored peace, but he declared himself a Christian and converted many pagans to the true Faith by his many miracles. Hearing of this, the emperor sent Eparch Hermogenes of Byzantium to punish Menas and to smother Christianity. Hermogenes brought Menas to trial, cut off his feet and tongue, gouged out his eyes, and then cast him into prison. There, the Lord Jesus Himself appeared and healed Menas. Seeing this, Hermogenes was baptized. He began to preach the Christian Faith and was consecrated as Bishop of Alexandria. Then the enraged Maximian went to Alexandria himself and subjected Menas and Hermogenes to cruel tortures. Beholding the bravery of these soldiers of Christ and the miracles of God upon them, Eugraphos, secretary and friend of Menas, cried out to the emperor's face: "I too am a Christian!" All three men were beheaded. Their holy relics, thrown into the sea, miraculously floated to Constantinople, where the bishop, to whom this was revealed in a dream, solemnly met them and honorably buried them in the early fourth century. On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Thomas Dephourkinos of Bithynia. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

BOOK CLUB

We will soon be ordering our new book "Pearl of Great Price" by Sergel Hackel. Please let Father James know if you will be attending if you haven't done so already. We will be meeting to discuss the book before Vespers on Saturday or after liturgy on Sunday.

dnjamesirving@gmail.com
