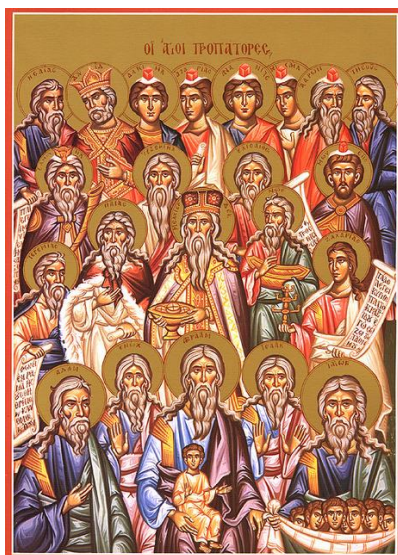

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

(508) 420-1113, www.stmichaelcapecod.org,

e-mail: stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org



Sunday, December 17, 2023

Tone 3 / Eothinon 6

Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Prophet Daniel and

the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael;

Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker

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 THREE: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO: Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, 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, 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 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
- **Saturday, December 23**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 24**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School/ 9:15 AM Bible Study for Kids 10+
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - 5:00 PM **Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ**

*****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

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE

ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE FORMING

Our January outreach project is being planned with scarves for the homeless, thanks for the efforts of Vicky Abodeely who has been knitting all year!

We need people to join our committee to help with the planning and execution of this and future projects. Please contact Macrina or Soraya if you are able to help!

Thank you for your commitment to St. Michael and for living our Christian Faith by being involved in outreach to the Cape Cod community.

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!

SOYO CHRISTMAS PROJECT

The SOYO Christmas service project this year is shopping for clothes and Christmas gifts for 2 children through the Homeless Prevention Council's "Adopt-a-Family" program. 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.

LAST CALL!! ST. MICHAEL NATIVITY CARD DEADLINE DECEMBER 17

This year, St. Michael Women will be sending out a Nativity Greeting to all our parish members. This isn't just a greeting card - 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. This fund will cover some of their needs for utilities, food, shelter.

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 no later 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.

Through the generosity of our many Governing Council volunteers who give of their time, talents, and treasure, we are thankful to share that only 7.7% and 7.2% of total revenue went to administrative expense in FY 2022 and the last 5 fiscal years, respectively. Together, we were able to support the many ministries of the Archdiocese over the past 7 ½ years in a meaningful way.

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- Provides reassurance to our clergy during their golden years from funding of the Retired Clergy Fund.
- Helps plant seeds of Orthodoxy, the true faith, throughout North America with the Order's support of the Department of Missions and Evangelism.
- Supports youth programs that strengthen the faith and prepare the future leaders of our parishes and Archdiocese.
- Provides summer camp scholarships for children that would not otherwise be able to attend camp due to financial reasons.

THE SYNAXARION

On December 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; and Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

Verses

*Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.*

Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.
