
St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, December 24, 2023

Tone 4 / Eothinon 7

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

**Which Falls on Paramon (Eve) of Nativity of Christ
Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her**

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 FOUR: Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

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 FOR THE PARAMON (EVE) OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR: As the fruit of David's seed, Mary was registered of old with the Elder Joseph in the little town of Bethlehem, when she conceived with a seedless and pure conception. Behold, the time was come that she should bear her Child, but no place was found within the inn for them; yet the cave proved a delightful palace for the pure Lady and Queen of all. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

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 23**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers with Litia
- **Sunday, December 24**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - **5:00 PM Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ**
- **Saturday, December 30**
 - **No Vespers**
- **Sunday, December 31**
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Celebrant: Fr. John Bacon

*****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 Sunday before the Nativity)

Blessed are 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

THANK YOU FROM FR. JAMES

Thank You to all our parishioners who contributed to and or served in the many projects and collections we held this year. May God continue to bless our work and may we continue to bring the message of Christ to all we serve.

STEWARDSHIP FORM 2024

The Stewardship form 2024 has been mailed out. Please fill it out and return before January 15, 2024. Also, you can find the forms at the back.

SOYO ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFT DRIVE Many thanks to those who contributed to the SOYO Adopt-a-family gift drive! The collection covered about 2/3 of the cost of the gifts for Jazzy and Jayden!

JAN 4: Diocese Hierarchical Liturgy For The Pre-Feast Of Theophany

On Thursday, January 4, the Diocese will gather around His Grace Bishop John for the Pre-Feast of Theophany with Divine Liturgy at St. George Church in Lowell. A meal will follow in the parish hall.

USHERS NEEDED

We need ushers to serve one Sunday per month. Please see Soraya 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.

AVAILABLE BOARD POSITIONS

The Ladies of St. Michael and the Parish Council have open leadership positions. 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.

DECEMBER IS THE ORDER OF SAINT IGNATIUS' MONTH

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.

- 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.

3V3 INDOOR BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: JAN 6 @ ST. GEORGE WORCESTER

St. George Cathedral in Worcester invites youth to participate in a 3 on 3 indoor basketball tournament on Saturday January 6 beginning at 11 am (check-in and warm-ups at 10 am). The cost is \$20 per person (\$60 per team). There will be two brackets: grades 8 and below and grades 9 and above. All age groups, including adults, are allowed to play.

The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch
what is The Meaning Behind The Order Logo?



3 Hearts
The three hearts represent the three persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The hearts are interlocking, symbolizing the unity and love between them. The letters 'ICJXC' are in the center, representing the Order's devotion to the Holy Trinity.

Cross
The cross is a symbol of faith and sacrifice. It is placed below the hearts, representing the Order's commitment to the Gospel and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

ICJXC Inscription
The letters 'ICJXC' are an acronym for 'In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.' This inscription is a reminder of the Order's devotion to the Holy Trinity.

Color Red
The color red is a symbol of love, passion, and sacrifice. It is the primary color of the Order's logo, representing the Order's commitment to the Gospel and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch is a lay organization of the Catholic Church. It is dedicated to the promotion of the faith and the service of the community. The Order is open to all Catholics who are committed to the Gospel and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**ST. GEORGE'S ANNUAL
3 V 3 INDOOR
BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT**

GAME SCHEDULE:
Saturday, January 6th
11am Start Time
Team Check-in

**SIGN UP
BEFORE
JANUARY 4TH
HERE!!!**

ADMISSION:
\$20 per person

LOCATION:
30 Anna Street
Worcester MA, 01604

**PRIZES FOR
WINNING TEAM!**

FOR MORE INFO, CALL 774-834-1181

THE SYNAXARION

On December 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her.

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.
