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**St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church**

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

(508) 420-1113, [www.stmichaelcapecod.org](http://www.stmichaelcapecod.org),

e-mail: [stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org](mailto:stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org)

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**Sunday, December 08, 2024**

**Tone 7 / Eothinon 2;**

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after**

**Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Luke**

**Forefeast of the Conception of the Theotokos;**

**Venerable Patapios of Thebes;**

**Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus**

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**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**

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## 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 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. 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

*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.**

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**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:**

- **Saturday, December 7**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 8**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School (kids 4-9 years) & Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Choir Rehearsal
- **Saturday, December 14**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 15**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School (kids 4-9 years) & Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - **Annual Parish Meeting**

**\*\*\*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!***

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## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

### **The Reading 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.

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His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 568/2024

“Nothing so arouses the soul, gives it wing, sets it free from the earth, releases it from the prison of the body, teaches it to love wisdom and to despise all the things of this life, as concordant melody and sacred song composed in rhythm.” +St. John Chrysostom (On Psalm 41)

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Every year we set aside the second Sunday of December to remember and pray for our faithful church musicians. With God’s help and inspiration, they are always praying for us by chanting the sacred hymns of our Church. On this day we, in turn, say thank you and pray for them.

The hymnography of our Orthodox faith is an expression of theology. One could never pick up an academic or dogmatic book about the faith his entire life, but could still become a theologian by simply listening to and internalizing the words of these hymns.

At the same time, the richness of our hymns becomes even richer when they are chanted and sung correctly and with beauty. It is not by chance that countless numbers of people over the centuries were first attracted to the faith by the beauty of our services.

On the Sunday of Musician Appreciation Day, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music for their commitment in supporting this sacred ministry. They continue to expend the possibilities for people to learn how to chant and sing praises to our Lord through various means. We are especially grateful that, for the first time this year, we have started our Antiochian Orthodox Online Ecclesiastical Music School that trains people in both Western and Byzantine Music, according to their preferences and interests. This, in addition to the various Sacred Music Institutes, and youth and parish workshops sponsored by the Department, helps us to further develop and train our current and future musicians.

We also gratefully honor all of our choir directors, singers and chanters, the vast majority of whom dedicate themselves to this sacred ministry for little or no compensation. For them, it is indeed a labor of love. Wishing you God’s every blessing, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

✙ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

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## **ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS**

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

### **LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT?**

Don't forget to check out the SOYO bookstore for lots of great gifts for your loved ones! We have icons, books, jewelry and more. Stop by today!

**THE SOYO ADOPT-A-FAMILY TREE** is now available in the fellowship hall. There are ornaments with the names of children from local families who need help purchasing gifts. If you are able to help, please take

an ornament with a child on it and return the gifts unwrapped and in a bag labelled with the child's name and family number on Sunday 12/15. Any questions, please contact Ned. Thank you for your help!

### **NATIVITY FLOWERS**

On Sunday, December 8th after Liturgy, Olga DiSavino will be decorating the Iconostasis with garland. Please help if you are able. We will be buying flowers and garland and also using local "greens" from the area. Please see Olga if you are able to help or bring them on December 8th.

### **SAVE THE DATE! ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING SEMESTER OF ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ECCLESIASTICAL ONLINE MUSIC SCHOOL**

With the enthusiastic blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Saba, the Department of Sacred Music announces the Spring, 2025 semester of the Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School!

Enrollment will officially open on Monday, Dec. 9 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Each individual class will have a size limit. Forms will be collected in time-stamp order, first come, first served. If accepted, registrants will be notified via email, with payment link. The payment deadline is Friday, Jan. 10 and must be received in order to retain a place in the class.

- Byzantine and Choral music education
  - For new and experienced Orthodox church musicians
  - A special class on the Typicon, how to organize divine services
  - Enrollment opens Monday, Dec 9, 2024
  - Spring Semester: Jan 13 through May 16, 2025, with breaks for Clean Week, Holy Week and Bright Week
  - Classes meet one time weekly
  - Tuition rate: \$300 for each class
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## **ALTAR BOYS ROBES**

For the season leading up to Pascha, purple altar boys robes are used in most Orthodox churches. It is the color of mourning and repentance and also of royalty. St. Michael has no purple altar boys robes and we will be ordering some soon. If you would like to contribute to these robes, please mark it clearly on your check or on the envelope when you donate.

## **SPONSOR A MUSIC BOOK**

The Archdiocese had updated the music books for North American. St Michael had purchased new books to replace the current books. If you would like to sponsor one or more books please place a donation in the collection basket or talk to myself or David Easa. The suggested donation is \$10 per book. The sponsorship will be recognized by the person(s) name displayed on the inside cover of the book. You can sponsor a book for yourself, a family member, a loved one, for the health or in remembrance of someone.

## **ST. MICHAEL NATIVITY CARD 2024**

This year, St. Michael Women will be sending out a Nativity Greeting to all our parish members. This isn't just a greeting card - 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. 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 15, 2024. Please make your donations out to St. Michael Women and write 'Nativity Card' in the memo. You also have the option to donate via VENMO.

We thank you for your continued generosity.

## **Save the Date!**

- **December 15: Annual Parish Meeting**
  - Jan 25: Diocese Antiochian Women Meeting @ St Mary, Pawtucket
  - March 3: Great Lent begins
  - March 22: Diocese Family Day
  - April 13: Palm Sunday
  - April 20: PASCHA
  - June 20 - 21: PLC
  - August 10-16: Diocese Summer Camp
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## THE SYNAXARION

On December 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Patapios of Thebes in Egypt.

### **Verses**

*Having patently forsaken the earth's corruptible pathways,  
Thou patterest, O Patapios, where the feet of the meek do patter.  
On the eighth, O Patapios, thou trodest green pasture.*

Patapios abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they came to him for solace in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, thinking he could hide himself more easily in a big city; but a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight to look upon God's creation and praise Him all the more. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapios performed many other miracles, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. In great old age, he peacefully entered the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate the forefeast of the conception of the Theotokos; and Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

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**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](mailto:dnjamesirving@gmail.com).**

**Fr. James is available for confession by appointment.**

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