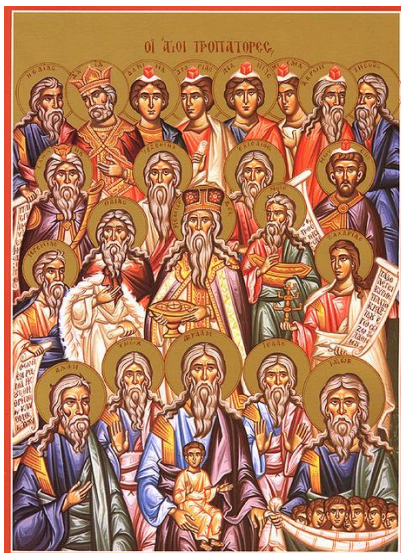

St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

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

e-mail: stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org



Sunday, December 15, 2024

Tone 8 / Eothinon 3

**Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria &
Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ**

Martyr Anthia, mother of Eleutherios;

Venerable Paul of Latra

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 EIGHT: From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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 THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO: Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

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.

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 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**
- **Saturday, December 21**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 22**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School (kids 4-9 years) & Bible Study (kids 10+)
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - Choir Rehearsal

*****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 St. Eleutherios)

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint. What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:8-18)

Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

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."



An Invitation

"Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself."
Saint Ignatius of Antioch

The Ribbon & The Cross Is
An Invitation To Become Part Of A Ministry

An Invitation Not Recognition

When you become part of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you become part of a ministry. The Order is not a club that you join. It is not a secular status symbol for recognition. The Cross and the Ribbon that Order supporters wear is an invitation to become part of a ministry. It serves as an invitation to share with one another in the greatness of Christ by giving in a manner that is unconditional and quiet. Supporting the Order's projects, Archdiocese Departments and numerous programs as one group, with Christ in our hearts and minds, should be how we *invite* the world to become part the Order's ministry.

Initiate the Questions of What? & How?

When those supporting the Order wear their ribbon and cross, it is meant to initiate others to inquire about the Order and how they can help strengthen its ministry. When people see the red ribbon and Cross that we wear, it helps begin the conversation to share what the Order does and provide the initial welcome to help expand its ministry. It provides an opportunity to ask, "What does the Order do and how can I help?"

The Order Provides A Lesson In Giving

When you give to the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you are giving in a way we are all called to give ... unconditionally. Your gift is not individually recognized. You are not able to designate your gift to a specific need you select. You are giving without recognition, without conditions and without direct gratitude of the Order's recipients. This is the manner in which a "true gift" is made. A gift made in the way Christ directs us.

The Order Teaches Us How To Give

... the Order is teaching us how to share, the Order is teaching us how to give, the Order is teaching us how to sacrifice, and how to reach out for Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. This is the miracle of The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch."

- His Eminence Metropolitan Philip of thice blessed memory, Founder of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



The Order of
 Saint Ignatius
 of Antioch

Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch



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!

DECEMBER OUTREACH

Thanks to the entire parish for its support throughout the year to help with outreach projects on Cape Cod. Due to your generosity, we are able to offer one last project in 2024 from reserves we had on hand! St Joseph Homeless shelter in Hyannis will be gifted with



35 twin blankets that they needed for their clients. The outreach team is grateful to you all and wishes you a blessed and holy Nativity. We always need volunteers and help. Please ask how you can make a difference.

WOMEN'S GROUP NATIVITY GIFTS

The women's group is grateful to everyone for supporting our Nativity Card this year, with a portion of proceeds to support Clergy widow wives. Deadline for your name to be included is Sunday December 15. The card will be mailed to the entire parish.

We are also offering other items for your Nativity needs.

- Beautiful selection of Russian mythology porcelain plates with certificates of authenticity - \$10 each
- Set of 8 archangel blank greeting cards reproduced from Zoya's icons - \$10 / packet
- Assorted gourmet items gifted to St Michael by Candace Rassias - prices vary.

Please see the display outside the kitchen as you approach the coffee hour food line and support Women's group projects. Blessed Nativity!

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.

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



The Bridgeport Islanders & the Orthodox Christian Community Presents

FAITH AND FAMILY

NIGHT

BRUINS vs ISLANDERS

Saturday, Feb 15th, 2025 | Puck Drop 5pm
Total Mortgage Arena, 600 Main St., Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets \$27 | ON SALE NOW!
*net proceeds go to IOCC for hurricane relief

TICKETS INCLUDE:

- Pre-game Speakers:
Bishop JOHN Abdalah
(Diocese of Worcester and New England)
Rev. Peter Orfanakos
(St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church, Orange, CT)
Theme: "All You Need Is Love"
- Islanders Hat
- Door Prizes
(if purchased before Jan 31st)
- & MUCH More

Each church community with 50+ tickets sold will receive a prize basket from the Bridgeport Islanders!

Center Ice Seats
Early Stadium Access
Post-game
Picture on Ice

COCKTAILS OPEN 2-4:30PM
SPEAKERS BEGIN 5PM

BRIDGEPORT ISLANDERS

BE PART OF THIS HISTORIC GATHERING OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FROM THE NEW ENGLAND AND TRI-STATE AREAS FOR AN EVENING OF HOCKEY, FELLOWSHIP, AND FAMILY FUN

For More Information
kyle.laham@stnicholasbridgeport.org

Be part of this historic gathering of Orthodox Christians from the New England and Tri-State areas for an evening of hockey, fellowship, and family fun

For More Information
kyle.laham@stnicholasbridgeport.org

THE SYNAXARION

On December 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Paul of Latra.

On this day, we also commemorate the contest of the holy Hieromartyr Eleutherios, Bishop of Illyria, and his mother, Saint Anthia.

Verses

*Eleutherios, being by nature no servant,
gave no service to error on seeing the broadswords.*

Blades on the fifteenth murdered Godlike Eleutherios and Anthia.

Anthia heard the Gospel from the great Apostle Paul himself, and was baptized by him. Being early left a widow, she entrusted her only son to the education and service of the Bishop of Rome, Anacietus. Seeing how greatly Eleutherios was gifted and illumined by the grace of God, the bishop ordained him as bishop of Illyria at age 20. This Godly man kept his flock like a good shepherd, adding to their number from day to day. In the year 120, Emperor Hadrian, a persecutor of Christians, sent a commander, Felix, with soldiers, to seize Eleutherios. Instead, Felix became a Christian, as did the Governor Choribus. They went back to the capitol where all three men were tortured and beheaded. As Anthia held the dead body of her son, she was also beheaded. Their bodies were taken to Valona in Albania, where Eleutherios glorifies the name of Christ to this day by many wonders.

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

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.
