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

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**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**Tone 2 / Eothinon 5**

**After-feast of & Sunday after the Nativity of Christ  
Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed,  
David the Prophet and King,  
and James the brother of God**

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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**

**Father John Bacon, Celebrant**

**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 TWO: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR: Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO: Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE: On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as 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**

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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:**

- **Sunday, December 29**
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
- **Friday, January 3**
  - 9:30 AM Baptism
- **Saturday, January 4**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, January 5**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / Church School (kids 4-9 years) & Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - **Blessing of Waters**
  - Teen SOYO Meeting
  - Outreach Meeting
  - Trip to the Icon Museum and Study Center in Clinton, MA

**\*\*\*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

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

*God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

## GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:13-23)**

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord

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appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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# Great Blessing of the Waters



**Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:30 PM**

**Sandwich Recreational Area  
12 Freezer Rd, Sandwich**

**Come together in faith for the  
Pan Orthodox Outdoor Blessing of Cape Cod  
Canal Waters**



**Celebrate the feast of Theophany with:**

- St. George of Centerville**
- St. Michael the Archangel in Cotuit**
- St. Mark of Ephesus in Kingston**





## ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

### MEDICATION AND FASTING

Orthodox Christians fast from food and drink from midnight the night before receiving Holy Communion. There are some exceptions. In regard to health: Fasting should not be detrimental to one's health. For example, if you need to take medicine in the morning, you can take it with food.

**NEXT SOYO EVENT:** Trip to the Icon Museum and Study Center in Clinton, MA after church on 1/5. All ages are welcome, we will be back on Cape approximately 5:00 PM. Please let Ned know if you are able to come so we can arrange enough drivers. It should be a great trip!

**DIOCESE SUMMER CAMP ST. JOSEPH OF DAMASCUS: taking place August 10-16, 2025 in Lenox, MA:** Registration will open on Jan 2. Camp St. Joseph of Damascus is open to all youth in the Diocese of Worcester and New England, ages 9-17. Tuition will be \$575 per camper. More information at [www.campstjoseph.org](http://www.campstjoseph.org)



### **Save the Date!**

- Jan 12 at 2:30 pm: Blessing of the Waters outside-Cape Cod Canal
  - 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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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.: 625/2024

Nativity 2024

Beloved in Christ,

I extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you in these blessed days of the Nativity, holding you in my prayers and asking our loving and incarnate Lord to lift you to His glory and to pour upon you His abundant earthly and heavenly blessings.

On this sacred day, heaven bent down to embrace the earth, lifting it to itself. Before Christ, humanity knew God as a mighty, powerful, awe-inspiring, and distant figure, one whose wrath they sought to avoid. Yet, in Christ, we came to see a completely different face of God. Through His incarnation, we encountered a God who is loving, embracing, near, and fully present—one who shares in all things with us, except for sin.

God did not merely come to us; He became one of us, like us. He shared in our suffering, and through this, He raised us to Himself. The birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh forever transformed humanity's understanding of God. But have we, as individuals and as Christian communities throughout history, always lived according to what He has revealed and given to us? Often, we have failed to reflect His loving and participatory nature. Yet history is also rich with luminous examples—countless saints and faithful who have reflected the face of Christ in this suffering world.

In this joyous season, let us ask ourselves: How can we be born anew in Christ? How can we contribute to comforting this broken and weary world in which we live? This holy feast challenges us to follow the example of our Savior by embracing those in pain, those who are afraid, and those weighed down by the burdens of life. It calls us to offer them a spark of hope—a light to lift them beyond their worries, their pain, and their fears.

On this feast, let us remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those in the East, who endure hardships and long to experience the joy of our Lord. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him within ourselves first so that we may see His presence in the faces of others.

I greet you with love and joy, saying: *Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.*

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saba". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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## THE SYNAXARION

On December 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the fourteen thousand infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem; George, bishop of Nicomedia; Venerable Abbot Markellos of the “Unsleeping Ones” Monastery; and all Orthodox Christians who have died from hunger, thirst, the sword and freezing.

On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.

### **Verses**

*I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen. Thou art a carpenter’s son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O blest James. What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have found David.*

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David’s seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the “Brother of the Lord” because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us and save 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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