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

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**Sunday, February 02, 2025**

**Tone 7 / Eothinon 10**

**Presentation (Meeting) of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

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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 THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE: Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

### 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

### MEGALYNARION OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE THREE (CHANT) (CHORAL)

O Theotokos, \* thou hope of all Christians; \* keep and shelter and preserve \* them that set their hope in thee.

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful contemplate a prefiguring: Every male child that openeth the womb is holy unto God. Therefore, do we magnify the first-born Word, the Son of the Father Who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who hath not known wedlock.

### KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

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**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, February 1**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
  - 6:00 PM SOYO: Bring a Friend to Church - Fun & Fellowship Night
- **Sunday, February 2 - The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Teen SOYO Meeting
  - Outreach Meeting
- **Saturday, February 8**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, February 9**
  - 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!***

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## THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)**

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)**

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of

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the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

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## ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

**OUTREACH:** The Outreach committee will be doing a collection after Liturgy on February 2 to benefit those affected by the wildfires in L.A. We will be sending our contributions to FOCUS North America (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve). Deadline to donate is Sunday February 9. Please make your check payable to St Michael Orthodox Church with Memo – LA Fire relief.

FOCUS is responding with love and action through the Los Angeles Fire Relief Fund. Our financial donation to the Fund will directly provide:

- Gift cards for immediate needs,
- Essential items like food, clothing, and hygiene supplies and
- Rebuilding assistance to help families restore what was lost.

Support after these devastating fires is invaluable in this time of crisis. Through the LA Fire Relief Fund, families can begin to rebuild their lives and remember that they are not alone. This tangible expression of Christ's love can bring hope and relief to those in great need. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this worthy cause. We do have **matching funds** to offer, so please be generous to make the most impact on those in need.

Please see, Michelle, Emma or Soraya with any questions.

**HOUSE BLESSINGS:** It is a tradition within the Orthodox Church that the Priest visits the homes of his parishioners to bless their houses with holy water that is blessed in church on the Feast of Theophany (January 6). In this way, God's sanctification of all things through Christ's Baptism extends into our lives. The family home is considered a small representation of the church where we fill our lives daily with Christ through prayer and togetherness with our family members. When the Priest arrives, he will offer a short prayer, then move through the house sprinkling the holy water and chanting the Theophany hymn. Everyone then gathers back together and the Priest will offer a prayer and blessing for all who are present. It usually takes less than fifteen minutes. If you want him to pray for any members of your family or friends, also have a piece of paper with first names of the living on one side and those who have passed on the other. Please call, 781-468-8709, or text Fr. James to schedule a time for him to come and bless your home.

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# **2025 Souper Bowl**

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Come and enjoy a Bowl of Soup at Coffee Hour  
or Get One to Go.



**Suggested Prices:**

- **Bowl \$5**
- **16 oz container to go \$5**
- **32 oz container to go \$10**
- **Homemade Soup made by the Men's Group**

**Save the Date!**

- March 3: Great Lent begins
  - March 22: Diocese Lenten Retreat & Family Day @ St. John's
  - April 13: Palm Sunday
  - April 20: PASCHA
  - June 20-21: Tentative Dates for Diocese PLC
  - July 20-27: Archdiocese Convention hosted by St. George in Cicero, IL
  - August 10-16: Diocese Summer Camp
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## THE SYNAXARION

On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

### **Verses**

*The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict, O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.*

*On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.*

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus’ first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. “Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. 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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