
St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, March 09, 2025

Tone 4 / Eothinon 4

**First Sunday of Great Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)
& The Holy and Great Forty Martyrs of Sebastia**

Hierarchs and Parish Clergy:

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA (Ispere)

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 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO: Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA IN TONE ONE: Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Lover of mankind.

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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY) IN TONE EIGHT: To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

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:

MARCH IS WOMEN'S MONTH

- **Sunday, March 9**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Bible Study (kids 10+)
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy with the Procession of Icons
 - Church School for kids 3-10 years old
 - Choir Rehearsal
- **Wednesday, March 12**
 - 5:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- **Friday, March 14**
 - 5:00 PM Little Compline with Akathist Hymn
- **Saturday, March 15**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, March 16**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / Bible Study (kids 10+)
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - Church School for kids 3-10 years old
 - St. Martha & St. Mary Sisterhood 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!

THE EPISTLE

(For the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia)

Thou, O Lord, will preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (12:1-10)

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely; and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus: the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son: do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him; for the Lord disciplines him whom He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father?

THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael

answered Him, “Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 9, 2025

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, and Beloved Faithful in Christ,
Greetings to you in the Name of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I pray that all of you have been granted a good start to the Lenten journey over the course of the past week. As you continue your journey to Pascha, please be reminded of the beautiful words of one of the new saints of our Church, St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia who said, “When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, worldly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it’s not empty.” This holy season, more than any other, allows us to do just that if we immerse ourselves in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, maintaining the beautiful and time-proven traditions we have received over the centuries that edify our souls and bring us closer to God.

During our annual commemoration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we ask each parish to contribute towards the education and formation of our young men studying for the holy priesthood. As we celebrate today what is called the Triumph of Orthodoxy, we should be reminded that we have been given a precious inheritance – the “faith once and for all delivered to the saints” – through the struggles of our martyrs and ascetics, the devotion of our parents and grandparents, and the divinely enlightened writings of the Fathers. We, therefore, have a sacred responsibility to ensure the passing down of the “precious pearl” of Holy Orthodoxy to future generations as we have received it.

The young men who have answered the call to serve in the ranks of our clergy, as well as their wives and families, have sacrificially offered themselves to the Church to love and to serve Her people, and to work for the preservation of the very faith we celebrate today. I am blessed to meet and interact with them as often as my schedule allows. This is allowing me to come to know them intimately as a father knows his sons. As a result, this will help me to properly offer them to you when the time comes so that they might more fully offer themselves as shepherds of their future parishes.

Also, I want to acknowledge the following parishes for their contribution toward the hand-on training and the financial support offered to our seminarians: St. Anthony, Bergenfield; St. George, Allentown; St. George, Little Falls; St. George, Worcester; St. Ignatius, Florida; St. Mary, Brooklyn; St. Mary, Wilkes-Barre; St. Mary, Yonkers; St. Nicholas, Bridgeport; St. Nicholas, Brooklyn; St. Paul, Emmaus; St. Philip, Souderton; and St. Stephen, South Plainfield.

With that in mind, I ask all our faithful to generously donate towards the support of the seminarians and their families. This is a sacred responsibility for all of us to share, as they and their families will be sharing their lives and their love with us.

Wishing all of you a grace-filled and salvific journey to the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America



Antiochian Orthodox
Diocese of New England

LENTEN RETREAT & FAMILY DAY

- Healthy Person
- Healthy Family
- Healthy Church

Friday, March 21st
Saint George, Horwood
6:00 - Khatmit & Talk for Teens / Young Adults

Saturday, March 22nd
Saint John of Damascus, Betham
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
Breakfast & First Session
Family Day activities
Lunch, Second Session, Q & A
Great Vespers



Retreat Speaker:
Michelle Moujaes
Founder and Executive
Director of Faithtree
Resources

Advance Registration Required

<https://doame25.eventbrite.com>
Friday Night - Free
Saturday Adults - \$30 / Children - Free
Questions - Contact Fr. Erin Kemmett

Sponsored by the
Diocesan Council
& Antiochian Women



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

NEW HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Parish Council has given support for St. Michaels to form a Hospitality Committee. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry, please see Father James or Stephen Winters.

SOUP FOR THE SOUL - GREAT LENT 2025:

The Soup Chefs of St. Michael are having another Lenten Season offering of Soup for the Soul. Starting March 5th, we are offering soups for sale which can be picked up after Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays or on Sundays after Divine Liturgy throughout Lent. Cost for the soup will be \$10 per quart and proceeds will be donated to St. Michael's general operating fund.

As in past years, to give our chefs an idea of how much soup to make, we will take orders on Sundays prior. If you would like to make soup please contact Rick rsbboston@yahoo.com.

We hope you will join us in this delicious and nutritious Lenten offering!

SOYO PROJECT: Do you have a favorite book about Orthodoxy? This month's SOYO project is to spread the Gospel by donating books about the faith to local libraries. We are looking for suggestions for books you have found inspiring, educational, or helpful in your journey as an Orthodox Christian. Please reach out to one of the teens to let them know your suggestion. If you are interested in helping to defray the cost of the books please also let us know.

PASCHA CARD ORDER FORM: Women's Group mailed out the Pascha Card order form. If you would like your name on St. Michael Pascha Card, please fill out the form and return it by April 13, 2024. Proceeds of this year's Pascha card will be going to cover costs for AED defibrillator installed by the elevator in the bookstore.

THE SYNAXARION

On March 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy and Great Forty Martyrs who were martyred at Sebastia of Pontus.

Verses

We fill up the lack in Thy sufferings, O Savior, for behold, the bones of us forty are broken. On the ninth, forty men's bones were broken.

All of these martyrs were Roman soldiers. When their commander threatened to strip them of their ranks, one of them responded, "Not only the honor of being a soldier, but take away our bodies, for nothing is more dear or honorable to us than Christ our God." The angry torturers bound all of the holy martyrs and tossed them into the freezing lake. The torturers even heated a bath by the lake in sight of the frozen men. One lost his courage and entered the bath. An extraordinary light appeared from Heaven and 39 wreaths descended upon their heads. Upon seeing this, a guard on the shore removed his clothes, confessed the Name of the Lord Jesus and entered the lake so that he could become worthy of the fortieth wreath, which indeed descended upon him. The local bishop, Peter, with his clergy went out into the dark of night and beheld the martyrs shining brightly in the water. Bishop Peter honorably buried them in 320.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

Save the Date!

- 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, Chicago, IL
- August 10-16: Diocese Summer Camp

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.
