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

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**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Tone 2 / Eothion 5**

**Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ**

**Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia;  
Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of  
Alexandria**

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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 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 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 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, Quodoos 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 13**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 14**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Church School
  - Pancake Breakfast
  - Sisterhood Meeting & Elections
- **Saturday, December 20**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, December 21**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Christmas Pageant

**\*\*\*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 Holy Forefathers)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.*

*For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)**

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## THE 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."

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## **ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS**

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

### **NATIVITY CARD**

Please return your Nativity Card order form by  
December 14.

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# Hope

## The Order of St. Ignatius Supports

IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities  
Syrian Relief Fund  
Project Mexico  
Treehouse Ministries



Hope is the "real" gift you give that provides a needed "hand up" to the lives of those struggling to provide the basic necessities for their children and families.

## The 3 Tenets Of The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

### Act Of Faith

Rooted In Love &  
Compassion

All the way back to our earliest years as a child we are taught to share with others, especially those less fortunate. When we share, we give up what we believe to be control in our lives. We put our faith in God that He will provide for our needs in abundance. Through your financial commitment, you are allowing God to work through you for the benefit of others. Your gift to the Order is an expression of love and compassion for countless lives and most importantly ... it is an act of Faith.

### A Sacrifice

Immeasurable In Its  
Capacity

To sacrifice for one another is to love. Deciding to "do without" for the benefit of someone you don't know is the beginning of a true sacrifice. Your sacrifice helps a struggling family send their children to camp enabling them to experience God's world if only for a few days. It provides reassurance to a new parish, that it can meet its monthly financial obligations and continue its ministry. As a member of the Order you may consider your sacrifice to be small, but it is immeasurable in its capacity to change people's lives.

### Infinite In Its Effect

Making A Difference  
Together

Your annual gift, less than the cost of your daily cup of coffee, is merely a drop of water in a vast ocean of need. However, the ripple from your gift never ends. It expands to enrich the lives of our youth by strengthening their hearts and minds as future leaders of the Faith. It multiplies to help care for our retired clergy and our devoted seminarians. The ripple from your annual or lifetime gift touches the lives of so many that you would never have been able to reach alone.



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

The Order of St. Ignatius Of Antioch 140 Church Camp Trail Bolivar, PA 15923 Email: [theorder@antiochian.org](mailto:theorder@antiochian.org) Ph: (724) 238-3677, xt 410

# The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch

*Inspiring Faith, Hope, Selflessness & Gratitude For 50 Years*

## Changing The World, One Life At A Time For Almost 50 Years

Dear Saint Ignatius,  
Thank you for sponsoring me so I could go to  
Antiochian village this summer. This is my  
first time going to camp, and I can't wait. I  
am excited to try something different, make  
new friends, and create memories. I will never  
forget your generosity. Thank you for  
making this experience possible.  
-Best of wishes,  
Luke

Dear board of trustees,  
Thank you for helping the camp run! Without you there  
would be no camp.  
Nick

Dear Saint Ignatius,  
Thank you for help running camp. Thank  
you so much. You are the best board of  
trustees and I adore you. And I lay my life  
before you on how much I love you.

Dear Ignatius,

You did so much for this village and make it strong and lovely.

Dear Mr. Ignatius, thank you for all you've done for camp and without you most of us would not be here. Lord have  
mercy—Emile.

Dear Order of Saint Ignatius  
Thank you for giving The Gift to come here and having fun. It is a  
blessing for a little kid to come here.

Dear Saint Ignatius,

Thank you for everything you do for us and doing good deeds  
and treating people good.

Dear Order of Saint Ignatius,  
Thank you to all of the support and help you have given our camp to  
make it a better place for the campers. Thank you for everything that  
you have done. Without your help, a lot of these campers would be stuck  
in places full of trouble. The Village is a safe place for me and my  
friends to talk and ask for help from them and God. Everyone here at  
AV prays for you and hopes that you will always support the Village and  
the other camps and all of us campers. I went to a other camp before and  
that was great too.

Love,  
Me

Dear Order of Saint Ignatius,

You have helped me and a lot of other campers be here and have a  
wonderful time. I love all of the time you put into helping this  
camp. One of my favorite parts of camp is Gnome shop. I also  
really love how beautiful and nice the cabins are. I love talking,  
playing, and making bracelets with my cabinmates. When I grow  
up, I want to send my kids here and I still think it will be as great as  
this. All of the fun activities keep us going if we have a hardship or  
miss our parents. This is a place that we have fun praying to God  
and meeting new people. I hope I never leave.

THANK YOU!!!!

Love,

A camper who loves this place.

Dear Order of Saint Ignatius,

Thank you for everything you do for this ministry. Your love and  
appreciation for camp and its campers makes this place so special.  
You have helped take care of this camp in a number of ways, but  
most importantly by aiding campers with your scholarships. So  
many children have been able to come to camp, grow in faith, and  
grateful. We love you and are praying for you.  
Thank you,

AV Staff member 2023

Dear Dr. Ignatius

I thank you and God bless you for all the  
great donations that you gave to this  
camp. My life is better today.  
Thank you.

Dear Order of Saint Ignatius,

I love this camp. We are all siblings in Christ  
and it is very fun. Thank you for donating  
money to us kids to have this experience.

Dear Saint Ignatius,  
I live in Michigan too.

Your generosity that allowed us to attend the Antiochian  
Village this summer for the first time. With three of us  
attending and our long-travel from where we live, the  
financial assistance we received was the only way we  
could make going to camp possible this summer. We could  
not have done it without your help.  
Thank you.

*Commemorating 50 Years Of Caring For Others*

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## THE SYNAXARION

On December 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; and the Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

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

### **Verses**

*Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,  
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.*

*Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.*

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### SAVE THE DATE

- December 14: Pancake Breakfast
- December 21: Christmas Pageant
- January 10: Antiochian Women Winter Meeting at St. George in Norwood
- March 21: Annual Women's Retreat St. George Norwood
- April 18: Antiochian Women Spring Meeting - St. George Pawtucket
- June 20: Parish Life Conference - St. George W. Roxbury

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**If you 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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