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

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**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

**Tone 4 / Eothinon 7**

**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**

**Fr. 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 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 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 people everywhere. We worship and pray in English. We experience the**

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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 27**
  - 5:00 PM Readers Vespers
- **Sunday, December 28**
  - 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Celebrant Fr. John Bacon
  - Church School
  - Church Rehearsal
- **Saturday, January 3**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, January 4**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Blessing of Waters
  - Church School
  - Teen SOYO Meeting
  - Outreach 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!***

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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.

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## THE 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 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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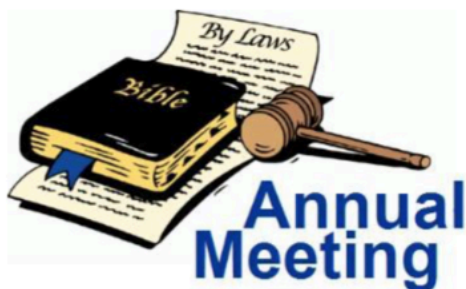
## **ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS**

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

### **2026 CALENDARS**

Once again St Michael church has purchased calendars displaying beautiful icons. These calendars help us to know when to fast, the readings for services, Saints of the day and feast day information. Please pick up a calendar for your home or work. This year the calendar has been generously

sponsored by **Khouris's Oriental Rug Company.**



**Please plan to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting of**

**St. Michael the Archangel Church**

**January 11, 2026**

**To be held in the church after Divine Liturgy**

**Any questions contact Stephen Winters, Parish  
Council President, or Fr. James Irving**

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# Gratitude

The Order of St. Ignatius Supports  
The Retired Clergy Allowance

... you help give comfort and financial assurance to our retired clergy and their families. You express your gratitude to your beloved priest, faithful counselor and comforting friend who's been with you during your times of need, joy and sorrow.

## We Need Your Help To Do More ...

For over 48 years, members of the **Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch** have shown steadfast generosity. Since 1976, your nearly **\$50 million in gifts** have fueled the ministries and charitable work of our Antiochian Archdiocese. As the Archdiocese grows, so do its needs. We ask for your continued support—not just to sustain our efforts, but to expand them for future generations.

The Order now provides **\$270,000** annually for the Retired Clergy Allowance.

With more clergy entering retirement, this need continues to rise and we need to help.

In a world pulling young people away from the Church, we must do more. Our current **\$380,000** budget supports vital programs, but demand is outpacing resources. These are just two of the many areas where your generosity can make a lasting difference.

Help us do more. For our clergy. For our youth. For our Church.

**\$500 or \$1,000 In 2025 Just  
Doesn't Go As Far As It Did In 1976**

It takes  
\$1,677 today  
to maintain  
the purchasing power of  
\$500 in 1976



It takes  
\$3,353 today  
to maintain  
the purchasing power of  
\$1,000 in 1976

NOTE: Calculations are based on a 2.5% inflation rate over a 48 year period and are for illustrative purposes only.



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

### Annual Gift Increase

Increase your gift of  
**\$500/yr. or \$41.67/mth**  
as a Knight or Dame  
to  
**\$1,000/yr. or \$83.33/mth**  
as a Knight or Dame Commander

### Life & Metropolitan Upgrade

The Order of St. Ignatius Loyalty Program

You can upgrade to Life Member or  
Metropolitan Member for a gift of  
**\$10,000 or \$20,000**  
paid over a 2-year or 3-year period.

See gifting options page for more details.

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## THE SYNAXARION

On December 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the twenty thousand martyrs burned in Nicomedia; and Venerable Simon the myrrh-streaming, founder of Simonopetra monastery on Athos.

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.

## SAVE THE DATE

- **January 11: Annual Parish Meeting**

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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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