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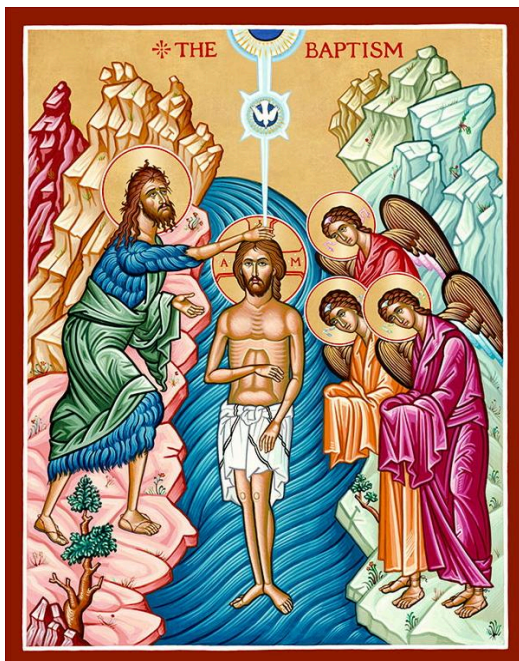
## **St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church**

62 Main Street, Cotuit, MA 02635

(508) 420-1113, [www.stmichaelcapecod.org](http://www.stmichaelcapecod.org),

e-mail: [stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org](mailto:stmichael@stmichaelcapecod.org)

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**Sunday, January 04, 2026**

**Tone 5 / Eothinon 8**

**Forefeast of & Sunday before Theophany of Christ**

**Synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles;**

**Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily**

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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 FIVE: Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR: Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR: In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

### 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.**

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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, 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
- **Saturday, January 10**
  - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, January 11**
  - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
  - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
  - Church School
  - **Annual Meeting**
  - 2:30 PM Great Blessing of Waters at Cape Cod Canal

**\*\*\*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 before the Theophany of Christ)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.*

*Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

### **The Reading from St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy. (4:5-8)**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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## **ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS**

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

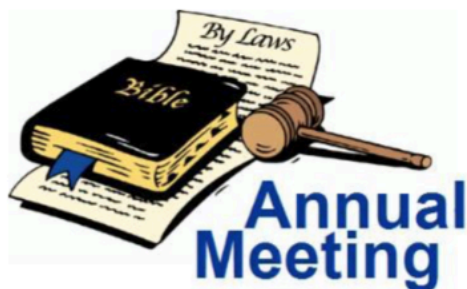
### **2026 CALENDARS**

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 **Khouri's Oriental Rug Company.**

### **PARISH COUNCIL OPENINGS**

There are open seats on the Parish Council. If you are interested in being on the Parish Council please contact Father James or Steven Winters.



**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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# Great Blessing of the Waters



**Sunday, January 11, 2026 2:30 PM**

**Sandwich Recreational Area**

**Ed Moffitt Dr, Sandwich**

**Parking Area**

**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 of Cotuit**

**St. Mark of Ephesus of Kingston**



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## THE SYNAXARION

On January 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we prepare to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy Seventy Apostles.

### **Verses**

*It is right to acclaim with songs all together all of the Seventy glorious Apostles. On the fourth we glorify men of mighty renown.*

In addition to the twelve Great Apostles, the Lord chose seventy other, lesser apostles and sent them to preach to the Jews. He sent them out two by two before His face, to each town and place, saying: "Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves" (Luke 10:1-5). But as Judas, one of the Twelve, fell away from the Lord, so some among these Seventy withdrew from Him, not with the intention of betraying Him but from human weakness and lack of faith (John 6:66). The apostles elected new ones to take the fallen apostles' places. These Seventy labored in the same way as the twelve Great Apostles; they were the assistants of the Twelve in the spreading and strengthening of the Church of God in the world. They suffered much torture and malice, from men and from demons, but their firm faith and burning love for the risen Lord made them conquerors of the world and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### SAVE THE DATE

- **January 11: Annual Parish Meeting**
- **January 11 at 2:30 PM: Great Blessing of Waters at Cape Cod Canal**

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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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