
St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Sunday, February 8, 2026
Tone 2 / Eothinon 2
Sunday of the Prodigal Son &
After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of Christ

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

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 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.

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE: Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Simeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.

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.

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 7**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, February 8**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - Church School
 - Teen SOYO Meeting
 - Choir Rehearsal
- **Saturday, February 14**
 - 5:00 PM Vespers
- **Sunday, February 15**
 - 9:00 AM Orthros / 9:15 AM Bible Study (kids 10+)
 - 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
 - Church School
 - 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 Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"



ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

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

TIME FOR 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 or email Father James at, dnjamesirving@gmail.com, to schedule a time for him to come and bless your home.

2026 Souper Bowl

Sunday, February 8, 2026

**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 St. Michael parishioners**
- **Hosted by the St. Michael Men's Group**

THE SYNAXARION

On February 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Theodore the General ('Stratelates'); and the Prophet Zachariah.

On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom).

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reconstituted in the Triodion.

verses

O thou who art like me, a prodigal, come forward with confidence and tranquility; For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE

- February 8: Soup Sale after Liturgy
- February 15: St. Vladimir Seminary Open House
- February 28: Men's Retreat - Worcester
- March 7: Annual Women's Retreat St. George West Roxbury
- April 18: Antiochian Women Meeting - St. George Pawtucket
- June 20: Parish Life Conference - St. George W. Roxbury (hosted by Lowell)

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. Fr. James is available for confession by appointment.
