

ANNIVERSARY OR OUR DEPARTED FOR THIS SUNDAY

<u>DAY</u>	<u>NAME OF THE DEPARTED</u>	<u>ANNIVERSARY</u>
15	Gertrude Vera Habib	57
15	Sam Peters	52
15	Najla Haddad	49
15	Roghieh Fekri	21
16	Sami Haddad	33
17	Nadim Semaan Elabou	1
17	Martha Aziz	30
18	Azizeh Issa Nasser	22
19	Mireille Mussawar	8
21	Emmeline Langfeld Hanna	26

- **Please**, pray for the health of the following parishioners: Ellen, Robert, Alex, Sam, Elias, Nassar, Valentine, George, Nina, Sonia, George, Elizabeth, Beshara, Samer, Irene and Toni. If you have any names of people who need prayers, email them to father.

ETERNAL LIGHT

- **Mar 21:** in loving memory of **Jeries and Nahil Irbib** from Nadim Irbib and family.
- **Mar 28:** for the good health of **Christina Ghneim Shehata** & family from her parents.
for the good health of **Issa Bisharat, his children and Grandchildren.**
- **April 11:** for the good health of **Issa Bisharat, his children and Grandchildren.**
- **April 18:** in loving memory of **Yousef and Sumaya Musallam** from Nadim Irbib and family
For the good health of **Nicole Shami from Adel, Reem & J.P. Shami.**
- **April 25:** for the good health of **Issa Bisharat, his children and Grandchildren.**
- **May 2:** for the good health of **Issa Bisharat, his children and Grandchildren.**

- **Saturday March 20th at 5 PM: 10 years memorial for Mr. Farid Zaccak offered by his wife Georgette and her children and their families. May his memory be eternal.**

- **Feast of the Annunciation next week will be celebrated with Vespers Wednesday at 7 PM with the blessing of the 5 loaves. Thursday evening at 7 PM Vesperal Liturgy. Fish is permitted.**

- **THE SYNODICON: THE AFFIRMATION OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH**
As the Prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the Teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth, as Truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ has awarded: thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our true God, and honor His Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshiping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all, and accordingly offering them veneration.
This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; this is the Faith of the Orthodox; this is the Faith which has established the universe!

- **Ushers for March 14: Sana Besharat, Katia AlHaddad, Regina Helou, Violette Boutros and Colette El-Hajj.**

- **Mariam Mansour - to read epistle in English**
- **Zeina Isber - to read epistle in Arabic**

- March is Ladies Month. Our ladies will be ushering and reading the epistle (in Arabic and English) for the whole month of March. Please call Colette at 416-558-8665 if you are able to usher and/or read the epistle in either Arabic or English.

- **Lenten Luncheons:** Our Church will be hosting a Lenten Luncheon every Sunday following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendar. This Sunday, Coffee and Falafel will be served outside under the tent.

- **Engaged meeting** March 23 7:30 pm
- Please note effective Sunday March 28th, parishioners should book through EVENTBRITE a maximum of two Sundays in a row.
If there are bookings for more than two Sundays, with Father George's blessing, your registration will be cancelled for the third liturgy to give other parishioners a chance to attend.
You will get notified of this cancellation by email. By Friday night, if there are available seats, then you can register for the upcoming Sunday or you can then book for the following Sunday. Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation. For any questions, please call Colette at 416-558-8665

- **Memorial:** if you are planning on doing a memorial for a loved one and you are expecting more than 15-20 people, please consider doing it on a Saturday in the evening. Thank you.

- **PLEDGE FORM 2021:** Please fill your pledge form if you have not done so as to allow us to budget for this year. **Please see attached form.**

- We are in need of a lot of **flowers for Good Friday** to decorate the bier of Christ. If your family would like to donate towards flowers, please see or call **Fouad Kodsi 416-917-5457**
We are in need of **Easter Lilies** to decorate the Church. Please see **Fouad Kodsi**, if you would like to donate. Thank you

- **Kindly Submit your Contribution through the Following Methods: Connect to the Church**
Website www.stgeorgeto.org Click on ***Donate***
- "e-transfer" info@stgeorgeantiochianchurch.org Account Name: St. George Church
- PayPal, or send your Cheque by Mail to: St. George Antiochian Church, 9116 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill ON, L4B 3M9
Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. (Psalm 112:5)

- **If you are not receiving The Word magazine at your home address, please email your information to registrar@antiochian.org. You must be an Orthodox and a member of St. George Church.**

- ***Bible study will resume on Thursday January 14th with a session on the Orthodox Faith from 7-8, and the Gospel of John from 8-9:30.***

- ***House Blessing: Father is blessing homes. Please, don't email the office but Fr. George directly at frdahdouh@sbcglobal.net or call Father.***

- **Bookstore:** New icons have just arrived in our bookstore. The Bookstore is located in the church's basement. Icons are great gifts for newborn, new home, your car or your children, and Christmas gifts. Please see Colette El-Hajj or Odette Boutros to see these new icons.
- **Please, don't forget to send your sacrificial giving to your church of St. George via e-transfer, or you can still bring your envelope with you and place it in the box by the candles. Your sacrificial giving (financial donation/support) will keep our doors open.**
- **Canned Food Drive:** please bring non-perishable canned food to donate to the needy and place them in the box outside in the Narthex.
- **Online Sunday School has begun and is in full swing. You may still register your children at any time. For further assistance contact Amanda Qaqish at orthodoxchristianeducation@gmail.com.**
- **MASKS ARE STILL MANDATORY INSIDE THE CHURCH. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- **Please, sign up to attend the Liturgy on Sunday on Eventbrite. You don't have to sign up for services during the week.**

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

VENERABLE-CONFESSOR JAMES THE NEW, BISHOP OF CATANIA; THOMAS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; NEW-MARTYR MICHAEL

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

الشَّماس: مِنْ أَجْلِ الْمَثْرُوبُولِيَّتِ بُولُسَ وَالْمِطْرَانَ
يُوحَنَّا وَقَائِكَ أَسْرِهِمَا وَعَوْدَتِهِمَا سَالِمِينَ، إِلَى الرَّبِّ
نَطْلُبُ.
الجوقة: يَا رَبُّ ارْحَمْنَا.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can cause all his praises to be heard? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (**Refrain**)

Glory... Both now... (**Refrain**)

الرَّبُّ قَدْ مَلَكَ، وَالْجَلَالَ لَبَسَ. لَبَسَ الرَّبُّ الْقُوَّةَ وَتَمَنَطَ
بِهَا. لِأَنَّهُ ثَبَّتَ الْمَسْكُونَةَ فَلَا تَتَزَعَّعُ.

اللازمة: بِشَفَاعَاتِ وَالِدَةِ الْإِلَهِ، يَا مُخَلِّصُ خَلِّصْنَا.

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُحَدِّثُ عَنْ عَظَائِمِ الرَّبِّ؟ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي
يُخَبِّرُ بِجَمِيعِ مَدَائِحِهِ؟ لِيَقُلْ هَذَا مَفْدِيُوهُ الرَّبِّ الَّذِينَ
افْتَدَاهُمْ مِنْ أَيْدِي الْأَعْدَاءِ. (اللازمة)

المجدُ الآنَ وَكُلَّ أَوَانٍ (اللازمة)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Let them praise the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders. (**Refrain**)

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to hear the groaning of the prisoners, to loose the sons of the slain. (**Refrain**)

فَلْيُعْبَرُوا لِلرَّبِّ بِمَرَاحِمِهِ وَبِعَجَائِبِهِ لِبَنِي الْبَشَرِ.

اللازمة: خَلِّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ
الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتَلَّ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.

لِيُعْظِمُوهُ فِي مَجْمَعِ الشُّعُوبِ وَلِيُسَبِّحُوهُ فِي مَجْلِسِ
الشُّيُوخِ. (اللازمة)

هَذَا إِنَّ عَيْنِي الرَّبِّ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يَخَافُونَهُ، الَّذِينَ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ
عَلَى رَحْمَتِهِ. لِيَسْمَعَ أُنِينَ الْمُعْتَقَلِينَ وَيَقُلَّ أَبْنَاءَ
الْمَائِتِينَ. (اللازمة)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...	المَجْدُ الآنَ وَكُلَّ أوانٍ (اللازمة)
THE THIRD ANTIPHON	
Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.	لِتُسَبِّحَهُ السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ. هَذَا هُوَ الْيَوْمُ الَّذِي صَنَعَهُ الرَّبُّ فَلْنَتَهَلَّلْ وَلْنَفْرَحْ بِهِ. أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ إِلَهِي إِيَّاكَ أَحْمَدُ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the First Sunday of Great Lent. Then, chant the Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn).</i> 	
THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY SUNDAYS	
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead ; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.	هَلُمُّوا لِنَسْجُدْ وَنَزْكَعْ لِلْمَسِيحِ، مَلِكِنَا وَإِلَهِنَا. خَلَّصْنَا يَا ابْنَ اللَّهِ، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، لِنُرْتِّلَ لَكَ. هَلْلُويَا.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>After the Little Entrance, chant the apolytikia in the following order:</i> 	
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT	
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.	انْحَدَرْتَ مِنَ الْعُلُوِّ يَا مُتَحَنِّنٍ، وَقَبِلْتَ الدَّفْنَ ذَا الثَّلَاثَةِ الْأَيَّامِ، لِكَيْ تُعْتَقَنَا مِنَ الْأَلَامِ، فَيَا حَيَاتِنَا وَقِيَامَتَنَا، يَا رَبُّ الْمَجْدُ لَكَ.
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.	لِصُورَتِكَ الطَّاهِرَةِ نَسْجُدُ أَيُّهَا الصَّالِحُ، طَالِبِينَ غُفْرَانَ الْخَطَايَا، أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهِنَا، لِأَنَّكَ قَبِلْتَ أَنْ تَرْتَفِعَ بِالْجَسَدِ عَلَى الصَّلِيبِ طَوْعاً، لِتُنَجِّيَ الَّذِينَ خَلَقْتَ مِنْ عُبُودِيَّةِ الْعَدُوِّ. لِذَلِكَ نَهْتَفُ إِلَيْكَ بِشُكْرِ: لَقَدْ مَلَأْتَ الْكُلَّ فَرَحاً يَا مُخَلِّصَنَا، إِذْ أَتَيْتَ لِتُخَلِّصَ الْعَالَمَ.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.</i> 	
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	إِنِّي أَنَا عَبْدُكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ * أَكْتُبُ لَكَ رَايَاتِ الْعَلْبَةِ * يَا جُنْدِيَّةَ مُحَامِيَّةَ * وَأَقْدِمُ لَكَ الشُّكْرَ كَمُنْقَذَةٍ مِنْ الشَّدَائِدِ * لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَكَ الْعِزَّةَ الَّتِي لَا تُحَارَبُ *

me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

أَعْتَقِنِي مِنْ صُنُوفِ الشَّدَائِدِ * حَتَّى أَصْرُخَ إِلَيْكَ:
إِفْرَحِي يَا عَرُوساً لَا عَرُوسَ لَهَا.

THE EPISTLE (For First Sunday of Lent)

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 Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.
لَأَنَّكَ عَادِلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.
فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولَسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى
الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (11:24-26, 32-40)
يَا إِخْوَةَ، بِالْإِيمَانِ مَوْسَى لَمَّا كَبُرَ أَبِي أَنْ يُدْعَى ابْنًا
لِابْنَةِ فِرْعَوْنَ. مُخْتَارًا الشَّقَاءَ مَعَ شَعْبِ اللَّهِ عَلَى التَّمَتُّعِ
الْوَقْتِيِّ بِالْخَطِيئَةِ. وَمُعْتَبِرًا عَارَ الْمَسِيحِ غِنَىٰ أَعْظَمَ مِنْ
كُنُوزِ مِصْرَ، لِأَنَّهُ نَظَرَ إِلَى الثَّوَابِ. وَمَاذَا أَقُولُ أَيْضًا؟
إِنَّهُ يَضِيقُ بِي الْوَقْتُ إِنْ أُخْبِرْتُ عَنْ جِدْعُونَ وَبَارَاقَ
وَشَمْشُونَ وَيَفْتَاخَ وَدَاوِدَ وَصَمُوئِيلَ وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ. الَّذِينَ
بِالْإِيمَانِ قَهَرُوا الْمَمَالِكَ، وَعَمَلُوا الْبِرَّ، وَتَالُوا الْمَوَاعِدَ،
وَسَدُّوا أَفْوَاهِ الْأَسُودِ. وَأَطْفَأُوا حِدَّةَ النَّارِ، وَنَجَّوْا مِنْ حَدِّ
السَّيْفِ، وَتَقَوَّوْا مِنْ ضَعْفٍ، وَصَارُوا أَشِدَّاءَ فِي
الْحَرْبِ، وَكَسَرُوا مَعْسَكَرَاتِ الْأَجَانِبِ. وَأَخَذَتْ نِسَاءٌ
أَمْوَاتَهُنَّ بِالْقِيَامَةِ. وَعُدِّبَ آخَرُونَ بِتَوْتِيرِ الْأَعْضَاءِ
وَالضَّرْبِ، وَلَمْ يَقْبَلُوا بِالنَّجَاةِ، لِيَحْصَلُوا عَلَى قِيَامَةِ
أَفْضَلِ. وَآخَرُونَ ذَاقُوا الْهَزْءَ وَالْجَلْدَ وَالْقُبُودَ أَيْضًا
وَالسَّجْنَ. وَرُجِمُوا، وَنُشِرُوا، وَامْتَحِنُوا، وَمَاتُوا بِحَدِّ
السَّيْفِ، وَسَاحُوا فِي جُلُودِ غَنَمٍ وَمَعِزٍ، وَهُمْ مُعَوَّزُونَ
مُضَائِقُونَ مَجْهُودُونَ، (وَلَمْ يَكُنِ الْعَالَمُ مُسْتَحِقًّا لَهُمْ)
وَكَانُوا تَائِهِينَ فِي الْبَرَارِيِّ وَالْجِبَالِ، وَالْمَغَاوِرِ وَكُهُوفِ
الْأَرْضِ. فَهَؤُلَاءِ كُلُّهُمْ مَشْهُودًا لَهُمْ بِالْإِيمَانِ، لَمْ يَنَالُوا
الْمَوْعِدَ. لِأَنَّ اللَّهَ سَبَقَ فَنَظَرَ لَنَا شَيْئًا أَفْضَلَ، أَنْ لَا
يَكْمُلُوا بَدُونِنَا.

THE GOSPEL (For First Sunday of 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."

فَصَلُّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير، والتلميذ الطاهر. (1:43-51)

في ذلك الزمان، أراد يسوع الخروج إلى الجليل فوجد فيلبس فقال له: اتبعني. وكان فيلبس من بيت صيدا من مدينة أندراوس وبطرس. فوجد فيلبس نثنائيل، فقال له: إن الذي كتب عنه موسى في الناموس والأنبياء قد وجدناه، وهو يسوع بن يوسف الذي من الناصرة. فقال له نثنائيل: أمِن الناصرة يمكن أن يكون شيء صالح؟ فقال له فيلبس: تعال وانظر. فرأى يسوع نثنائيل مقبلاً إليه، فقال عنه: هوذا إسرائيلي حقا لا غش فيه. فقال له نثنائيل: من أين تعرفني؟ أجاب يسوع، وقال له: قبل أن يدعوك فيلبس وأنت تحت التينة رأيتك. أجاب نثنائيل وقال له: يا معلم، أنت ابن الله، أنت ملك إسرائيل. أجاب يسوع وقال له: لأنني قلت لك إنني رأيتك تحت التينة أمنت؟ إنك ستعابن أعظم من هذا. وقال له: الحق الحق أقول لكم، إنكم من الآن ترون السماء مفتوحة، وملائكة الله يصعدون وينزلون على ابن البشر.

• The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual with the following variables.

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation: the angelic hosts, and the race of men, O hallowed Temple and noetic paradise, glory of Virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God Who is before all the ages; for He made thy womb a throne, and thy body He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation; and it glorifieth thee.

إنَّ البرايا بأسرها، تفرح بك يا مُمْتَلِئَةٌ نِعْمَةً: مَحَافِلُ الملائكة، وأجناس البشر. أيتها الهيكل المُتَقَدِّس، والفردوس الناطق، فخر البتولية مريم، التي منها تجسد الإله، وصار طفلاً، وهو إلهنا الذي قبل الدهور. لأنه صنع مستودعك عرشاً، وجعل بطنك أرحب من السماوات. لذلك يا مُمْتَلِئَةٌ نِعْمَةً، تفرح بك كلُّ البرايا وتُمجِّدك.

• Parishes are to offer the Procession of Icons around the church for the Sunday of Orthodoxy either

following “Blessed be the Name of the Lord” in Divine Liturgy, or later tonight in Lenten Sunday Vespers. Take the order as found in Lenten Sunday Vespers published for tonight.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; **of our father among the saints, Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated;** of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of the Venerable-confessor James the New, bishop of Catania; Thomas, patriarch of Constantinople; and New-martyr Michael, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

الكاهن: أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا الْحَقِيقِي، يَا مَنْ قَامَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ، بِشَفَاعَاتِ أُمَّكَ الْكَلِيَّةِ الطَّهَارَةِ وَالْبَرِيَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ عَيْبٍ؛ وَبِقُدْرَةِ الصَّلِيبِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمُخْيِي؛ وَبِطَلْبَاتِ الْقُوَّاتِ السَّمَاوِيَّةِ الْمُكْرَمَةِ الْعَادِمَةِ الْأَجْسَادِ؛ وَالنَّبِيِّ الْكَرِيمِ السَّابِقِ الْمَجِيدِ يُوْحَنَّا الْمَعْمَدَانِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمُشْرَفِينَ الرُّسُلِ الْجَدِيرِينَ بِكُلِّ مَدِيحٍ؛ وَأَبِينَا الْجَلِيلِ فِي الْقَدِيسِينَ بَاسِيلْيُوسَ الْكَبِيرِ رَأْسِ اسَّاقِفَةِ الْقَيْصَرِيَّةِ وَكَبَادُوكْيَا كَاتِبِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ الشَّرِيفَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الْمَجِيدِينَ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْمُتَأَلِّقِينَ بِالظَّفَرِ؛ وَأَبَائِنَا الْأَبْرَارِ الْمُتَوَشَّحِينَ بِاللَّهِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِ (فُلَانِ) شَفِيعِ وَحَامِي هَذِهِ الرَّعِيَّةِ الْمُقَدَّسَةِ؛ وَالْقَدِيسِينَ الصَّدِيقِينَ يُوَاكِيمَ وَحَنَّةَ جَدِّي الْمَسِيحِ إِلَهُنَا؛ وَالْبَارَّ يَعْقُوبَ الْمُعْتَرِفِ الْجَدِيدِ أَسْقَفِ كَاتَانِيَا، تُوْمَا بَطْرِيْرِكِ الْقَسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ، وَالشَّهِيدِ الْجَدِيدِ مِيخَائِيلِ، الَّذِيْنَ نَقِيْمُ تَذَكَارَهُمُ الْيَوْمَ، وَجَمِيعِ قَدِيسِيْكَ: ارْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا بِمَا أَنْكَ صَالِحٌ وَمُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

الكاهن: بِصَلَوَاتِ آبَائِنَا الْقَدِيسِينَ، أَيُّهَا الرَّبُّ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ إِلَهُنَا، ارْحَمْنَا وَخَلِّصْنَا.

Choir: Amen.

الجوق: آمين.

These texts have been prepared by the Department of Liturgics of the Antiochian Archdiocese

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Become a Living Icon: Homily for the Sunday of Orthodoxy [Fr. Philip LeMasters](#)



Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40
St. John 1: 44-52

At the end of Liturgy today, we will parade around the church carrying our icons in celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, which commemorates the restoration of icons to the church after the period of iconoclasm many centuries ago. We do so because Icons are not mere works of decorative art to us; they are windows to heaven which remind us that the Son of God really has become one of us, with a visible human body, and that we are called to become like the saints whose images are portrayed in them. For we are all icons of God, created in His image and likeness. Jesus Christ is the new Adam Who has restored and healed every dimension of our fallen humanity, and brought us into the very life of the Holy Trinity. It may help us to think of Lent as a time to make ourselves better icons of the Lord.

When we recall the great saints of the Old Testament mentioned in today's reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews, we are humbled by their faithfulness, obedience, and humility. But even they "did not receive the promise, God provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us." As hard as it is to believe, we have been blessed beyond them, for God's promises in Jesus Christ were not fulfilled in their lifetimes; they hoped for what they did not receive, but their lives were still icons of faithful anticipation of the Messiah.

We live many generations after the New Testament saints Peter, Andrew, and Nathanael encountered Jesus Christ. And the Lord's promise to Nathanael, "you shall see the heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man," is the fulfillment of all the hopes and dreams of the Old Testament. In Jesus Christ, humanity and God are united; no longer shut out of paradise, we are raised to the life of the Heavenly Kingdom by our Lord. Our destiny is not for the dust and decay of the tomb, but for life everlasting because of His glorious third-day resurrection.

In Lent, we take small, humble, imperfect steps to open ourselves to this new life in Christ, to become better living icons—living images—of what it means for human beings to share in God's salvation. The point of Lent is not to punish ourselves or simply to make us feel guilty, miserable, or deprived. Instead, the purpose of our spiritual exercises is to help us share more fully in the promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want His holiness, love, mercy, and blessing to reshape every dimension of our lives, to be evident in how we go through the day, in how we treat others, in what we say, think, and feel.

And the more we grow in His image and likeness, the more we will become our true selves. Icons portray particular human beings whose lives have shown brightly with the holiness of God. The unbelievable truth is that, in Christ Jesus, we may do the same. No matter our age, health, occupation, family circumstances, personality quirks, or anything else, we too may become living, breathing manifestations of our Lord's salvation when we open ourselves to His healing mercy through prayer, fasting, forgiveness, generosity to the needy, and all the various forms of spiritual nourishment given through the life of the Church.

There could be no greater optimism about us than what we proclaim on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. We not only carry icons, we are icons. We not only venerate icons, we are called to become living proof of what happens to a human being who enters into the eternal blessedness of God, even as we walk around

Abilene. Let this sink in: What the Old Testament saints hoped for, we possess. This Lent, let's take Jesus Christ as His word, and prepare—with humility, persistence, and mindfulness- to “see the heaven open and angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” For that is the good news of our salvation.

THE SYNODICON: THE AFFIRMATION OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH

As the Prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the Teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth, as Truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ has awarded: thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our true God, and honor His Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshiping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all, and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; this is the Faith of the Orthodox; this is the Faith which has established the universe!

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

March 21, 2021

To Be Read from the Pulpit and Printed in the Bulletin

Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Members of the Parish Council, and Beloved Faithful:

Greetings and blessings to you in the Name of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

I pray that, having completed the first week of the fast, you have been strengthened by the beautiful services and fasting discipline in order to complete the rest of this holy journey.

When we wrote this appeal to you last year and celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy, who knew that just over one week later our world as we know it would change and, for the first time in a century we would have to endure the consequences of a world-wide pandemic and restrict access to our churches during this most holy season. What we hoped would be a short period of suffering has lasted for an entire year. While there are many signs of hope we remain vigilant, but nevertheless are thankful that we can participate liturgically in the Fast this year *in person*. I encourage you therefore, to come back to the Church if you have been missing, being mindful and careful, but also realizing that it is time to return home to the cradle of the Church.

Having said that, we remind you that it is been a long-standing tradition in our archdiocese to give scholarships to our seminarians studying for the priesthood. We are blessed this year to have 19 seminarians studying in three seminaries (St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's and Holy Cross). More than ever, these young men (and their families in many cases), have had to endure so much this past year including being locked down on campuses, unable to travel to our parishes for training, attending classes virtually, and missing out on the full liturgical life of the Church that is so necessary to their priestly formation while at seminary. Let us show our love and appreciation for this sacrifice by at least making sure they can start their ministry to you and your families without the added burden of great debt from seminary. Please give generously so we, in turn, can continue to be generous with them. Believe me when I tell you that they are deeply grateful for this expression of love.

Wishing you all a blessed journey that will help lead us to the heavenly kingdom, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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