



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Sunday, March 1, 2026
First Sunday of Great Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

His Eminence, Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace, Bishop ANTHONY - Diocese of LA & the West
V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Christopher Salamy, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Peter Samore
Rev. Dn. Raphael Abrahams • Rev. Dn. Serafim Grove • Rev. Dn. Basil Ritchie
Rev. Dn. Michael Haddad • Rev. Dn. Dr. Gregory Abdalah, Pastoral Assistant
Rev. Dn. Elias Mousa • Christian Farradj, Youth Pastor
Harpreet Kaur, Executive Assistant to the Pastor
Jane Romley, Parish Administrator • Matthew Peters, Ministry Lead
Valerie Haddad, Director of Ministry, Growth & Development
Erin Thobias, Director of Communications

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (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 FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (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.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE (TONE FOUR)

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great Martyr George intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (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 me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

(For the First Sunday of Great 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.

THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Great 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."

THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Living: Romy, Chase, Paul, Mary, Joshua, Peter, Richard, Anthony, Laila, Michael, Ray, Amal, Nejwa, Randa, Regan, Theresa, Kristine, Sherry, Samira, Robert, Daniel, Jane, Jillian, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Mary, Alexandros, Sister Theopisti, David, and Donald.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 080/2026

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 1, 2026

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, and Beloved Faithful in Christ,

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

I pray that your Lenten journey has begun with renewed strength and a spirit of repentance. As we enter more deeply into this holy season, I am reminded of the words of St. Isaac the Syrian, who taught: “Enter eagerly into the treasure-house that is within you, and so you will see the treasure of heaven.”

This difficult yet profoundly hopeful exhortation calls us to anchor our hearts in humility while never losing sight of the boundless mercy and love of God. Great Lent offers us a sacred opportunity to cultivate this spiritual vigilance through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, our hearts turn to the sacred legacy we have received— the faith preserved through the courage of the martyrs, the struggles of the ascetics, the devotion of our spiritual ancestors, and the teachings of the Holy Fathers. God has placed this precious inheritance in our care, that we may keep it alive and radiant for future generations. One of the main ways we do this is through the education and formation of our future clergymen who will be our priests, pastors and fathers.

Our seminarians, together with their wives and families, have embraced a life of sacrifice, faith, and service to Christ and His Holy Church. They are preparing their hearts and minds to shepherd Christ’s flock, to teach the Gospel, and to sustain the very faith we celebrate today. I am grateful for my regular opportunities to meet with them, learning their stories, their hopes, and the unique gifts God has entrusted to them. These encounters assure me that the future of our Church is in faithful and capable hands.

As we do every year on this day, I ask each parish to offer a generous gift in support of the seminarians and their families. This responsibility belongs to all of us. As they prepare to give their lives for us, let us lovingly support them in advance.

Wishing you a grace-filled and spiritually fruitful journey to the Passion and the glorious Resurrection of our Lord, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America