



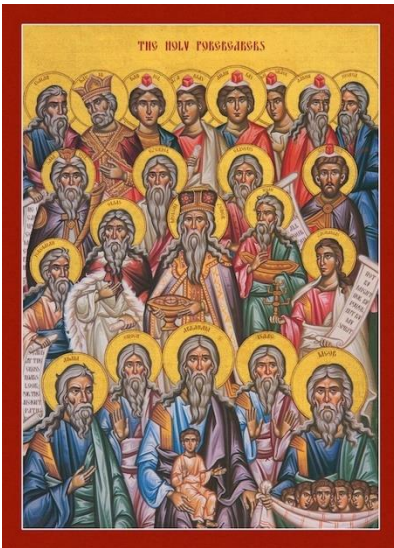
# +St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America  
Metropolitan Saba of New York and all North America  
V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor  
Dn. Nicholas Adranly

501 Moraga Way, Orinda, California 925-258-4255  
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## DECEMBER 14, 2025; TONE 2 / EOTHINON 5. SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST AND 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE

MARTYRS THYRSOS, LEUKIOS AND KALLINIKOS OF APOLLONIA;  
MARTYRS PHILEMON, APOLLONIOS, HYPATIOS AND ARRIANOS OF ALEXANDRIA



On December 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; and the Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria. On this day, we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus. We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary

between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

### THE EPISTLE

*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 Colossians. (3:4-11)**

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا.

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلْتَ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

### فَصْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى كُولُوسِّي. (11-4:3)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، مَتَى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تُظْهِرُونَ حَيْنَنْدِ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمَيْتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ: الزَّنى، وَالنَّجَاسَةَ، وَالْهَوَى، وَالشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ، وَالطَّمَعُ الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةُ وَثْنٍ. لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى أَبْنَاءِ الْعِصْيَانِ. وَفِي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكَتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ عَائِشِينَ فِيهَا. أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً أَطْرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الْعِصْبَ، وَالسَّخَطَ، وَالْخُبْثَ، وَالتَّجْدِيفَ، وَالْكَلامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ. وَلَا يُكَذِّبُ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ أَعْمَالِهِ. وَالْبَسُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ عَلَى صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ. حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا قَلْفٌ، لَا بَرَبْرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ وَفِي الْجَمِيعِ.

### THE GOSPEL

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

### فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (24-16:14)

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ. فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعَشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ: تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ. فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاحِدٌ فَوَاحِدٌ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوَّلُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلاً، وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَغْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرِبَهَا، فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَغْفِيَنِي. وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ: قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً، فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ. فَاتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ. فَحِينَنْدِ، غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ، وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ: أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعاً إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَزِقِّهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَعَ وَالْعُمَيَّانَ وَالْعُرْجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا. فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ: يَا سَيِّدُ، قَدْ قُضِيَ مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ، وَيَبْقَى أَيْضاً مَحَلٌّ. فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ: أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ وَاضْطَرِّرْهُمْ إِلَى الدُّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي. فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذُوقُ عَشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ. لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.

### Upcoming Events

December 14th	<b>Rose's Bake Sale:</b> The Christmas bake sale will be held on December 14 <sup>th</sup>
December 24th	<b>4 pm Orthros/Matins and 5 pm Nativity of Christ Divine Liturgy!</b> قداس عيد الميلاد
February 7th, 2026	<b>Crab Feed:</b> This year we are proud to have our 44th Annual Crab Feed at our NEW St. John Hall. Saturday February 7th, 2026. Please SAVE THE DATE, and let us celebrate together to make it as successful as possible!

### Coffee Hour

December 14th	<b>Bake Sale in lieu of coffee hour</b>
December 21st	<b>Luis and Joan</b>

### Thank You for Donating Towards the Bishops Chair and Chanter's Stand

The Bishop's chair has been donated by Raif and Sonia Rihani and family!

The chanter's stand is donated by George Theodosi and family!

### Day Trip/Pilgrimage to Holy Assumption Monastery: Saturday, January 17th

[Holy Assumption Monastery](#) in Calistoga, 1519 Washington St., Calistoga

#### Approximate schedule

**11am:** Arrive and explore the grounds (the monastery has birds, cats, ducks, a coy pond and a wonderful bookstore)

**12:15pm:** 6th hour

**12:45pm:** lunch

**1:30pm:** children's activities

**3:30:** Wrap-up & group photo

**4:00:** Depart

Additionally, there will be a vigil at 5pm and anyone is welcome to stay, but the nuns recognize that with smaller children, it's much easier for families to get home on the earlier side. The monastery will be providing lunch. Donations to the monastery are welcome. Dress is modest. Please [RSVP here](#) so the sisters can make plans for lunch and the craft. If you can include the names of family members attending, along with the children's ages and if there are any food allergies or dietary restrictions that would be helpful. **Please RSVP ASAP by December 17th.**

I hope to see you there! Please let Irene know if you have any questions: Irene Guajardo: 925-413-3242, [lyrini.nino@gmail.com](mailto:lyrini.nino@gmail.com)

### Dave & Buster's Campaign

Our Dave & Buster's campaign got extended so we can maximize on our return. We are currently at \$700.00  
How it works:

1. Place an order using St. John link.
2. 50% of each Dave & Buster's Power Card purchased is donated back to the organization.
3. Visit any Dave & Buster's location to pick up your Power Card and start playing!

### Talent Night

After the holidays I'd like to put together a talent night for anyone who would like to participate. Pianists, instrumentalists, Singers, Dancers etc. I'd like to get an idea if we have any interest in "Putting on a show" in our new hall! Please call me and let me know what your talent is. It's important to share your talents in life, especially with our beloved St John family. All ages welcome. ❤️ Lynn Farradj 925-323-5746

## Grand Opening

We are truly grateful to everyone who joined us for the grand opening of our community hall on St. Nicholas day. Your presence, prayers, and support turned this moment into a blessed celebration. May this hall always be a home for fellowship, community connection, your faith, generosity, and love are the foundation of everything we build. May God's grace fill this place and guide all who gather here.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

— Proverbs 19:17



### Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola, Sandy Dudum, George Messih, George Adranly, Fred Addas, Henriette Hilal, Souhad Halaka, George Cawog, Sam Nassab, Sue Gideon, Rocky Dudum and Norma Khalil.** Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Hala (Sandra) Mitry.** Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Bradley Youakim.** Many years!
- † Siham Mitry for the good health of her granddaughter **Madeline and Toby Solis** on the birth of their twin children **Ava and Noah.** Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of all **musicians in our church.** Many years!
- † Rania Shuhaiber and family for the good health of **Mikhail Shuhaiber.** Many years!

### Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



- † Altar Servers:  
Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum, John Dudum, David Evans, Evan Kawar, Mason Kawar, Jonathan Juha, Maron Juha and Zaiden Karanikola

† St. John Parish Family in memory of **Mikhail Boudnik**. May his memory be eternal!

† Dudum, Dietzmann, and Morgan Families for the beloved memory of **Jim and Rose Romley, Sig Dietzmann, Ray, Gloria and Brad Zachariah**. May their memory be eternal!

† Siham Mitry and family in memory **Donna Potter**. May her memory be eternal!



Poinsettia plants to adorn the Royal Doors in Loving Memory of: Nick Sr. And Helen Nicola offered by Nick Jr., Ron Nicola and Georgianna Rishwain and families

***St. John Orthodox Church***  
***501 Moraga Way***  
***Orinda, CA 94563***

You could use this QR code for your donation







# FAMILY GAME NIGHT

**Potluck**



Come ready to play, laugh, and  
enjoy some time together!





**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

**SATURDAY JAN. 10TH  
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**



Bring some games to play and  
your favorite dish  
**St. John Banquet Hall**



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DEANERY  
ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS

INVITES YOU AND YOUR SPOUSES  
TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 18, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

\$60 PER PERSON

CAFE VITALE  
987 FREMONT AVE. LOS ALTOS  
HILLS, CA 94024

RSVP BY DEC 6TH

KH. JULIANNA YOUSSEF (CO-CHAIR FOR THE  
ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF THE DIOCESE)  
408-375-5539, JULIANNA3DS@GMAIL.COM

OR

CHURCH OFFICE:  
OFFICE@ORTHODOXREDEEMER.ORG





# An Invitation

"Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself."

- Saint Ignatius of Antioch

## The Ribbon & The Cross Is An Invitation To Become Part Of A Ministry

### An Invitation Not Recognition

When you become part of the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you become part of a ministry. The Order is not a club that you join. It is not a secular status symbol for recognition. The Cross and the Ribbon that Order supporters wear is an invitation to become part of a ministry. It serves as an invitation to share with one another in the greatness of Christ by giving in a manner that is unconditional and quiet. Supporting the Order's projects, Archdiocese Departments and numerous programs as one group, with Christ in our minds and hearts, should be how we *invite* the world to become part the Order's ministry.

### Initiate the Questions of What? & How?

When those supporting the Order wear their ribbon and cross, it is meant to initiate others to inquire about the Order and how they can help strengthen its ministry. When people see the red ribbon and Cross that we wear, it helps begin the conversation to share what the Order does and provide the initial welcome to help expand its ministry. It provides an opportunity to ask, "What does the Order do and how can I help?"

### The Order Provides A Lesson In Giving

When you give to the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, you are giving in a way we are all called to give ... unconditionally. Your gift is not individually recognized. You are not able to designate your gift to a specific need you select. You are giving without recognition, without conditions, without direct gratitude of the Order's recipients. This is the manner in which a "true gift" is made. A gift made in the way Christ directs us.

## The Order Teaches Us How To Give

... the Order is teaching us how to share, the Order is teaching us how to give, the Order is teaching us how to sacrifice, and how to reach out for Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. This is the miracle of The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch."

- His Eminence Metropolitan Philip of thrice blessed memory, Founder of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch



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

The Order of St. Ignatius Of Antioch | 140 Church Camp Trail | Bolivar, PA 15923 | Email: [theorder@antiochian.org](mailto:theorder@antiochian.org) | Ph: (724) 238-3677, xt 410



# Selfless

... the Order is teaching us how to share, the Order is teaching us how to give, the Order is teaching us how to sacrifice, and how to reach out for Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. This is the miracle of The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch."

-His Eminence Metropolitan Philip of thrice blessed memory,  
Founder of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

Your gift is selfless. You help support the Order's ministry without recognition or conditions. There are no banquets, plaques or special awards given in your honor. Your gift is given unconditionally to support the Orthodox Faith in North America, the Spiritual strengthening of our youth and to care for our beloved clergy in their Golden years.

\$98.22	Administrative Expense
\$294.64	Youth Programs & Camp Scholarships
\$15.04	Project Mexico
\$15.04	IOCC
\$21.32	Projects & Grants
\$7.52	SOYO Special Olympics
\$6.40	Clergy Symposium & Convention Support
\$15.49	Seminarian Assistance
\$116.54	Archdiocese Departments
\$18.80	Parish Development & Missions
\$97.75	Missions & Evangelism
\$15.03	Archdiocese House of Studies
\$75.19	Internet Ministry
\$203.02	Retired Clergy Fund

## How Your Annual Gift Is Allocated

Based On A \$1,000 Knight &/or Dame  
Commander Level Annual Gift

**61.41%**

## Of Annual Order Gifts

**29.46%**

Youth Programs & Camp Scholarships

**20.30%**

Retired Clergy Fund

**11.65%**

Missions & Evangelism & Parish Development

\*Only 9.82% In Administrative Expense

\*\*Based On Fiscal Year 2024



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



## Help the Church Send More Missionaries!

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Evangelism Committee invites you to join the Bay Area Walk4Missions at 1:30pm on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2026.

We will be meeting at 999 Brotherhood Way in San Francisco.

Christ's disciples walked thousands of miles to bring the good news to people around the world. The Trek4Mission is being held to raise awareness and support for Orthodox missionaries and the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center. We plan to walk **"the measured mile trail"** around Lake Merced, and are asking other communities, and their youth groups to join with us. Mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us for the Divine Liturgy, Procession of the Holy Cross and a hosted lunch with a presentation on Missions before the Walk begins around 1:30. **Signing up is easy!**

1. **Go to** the Trek website using the info below
2. **Click** the START OR JOIN A TEAM BUTTON
3. **Find** the Bay Area Walk for Missions team
4. **Create** an account or **Login** and join!
5. **Enjoy** the fun, fellowship and prayer!



# LET'S GET WALKING

[www.ocmc.org/Trek4Missions](http://www.ocmc.org/Trek4Missions)







# **Dave & Buster's Power Cards to Support St. John Church**



**50% Donated Back**



**December 31**



<https://grouprai.se/davebusters59958s>



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA

Ms. Mareena  
Boosamra Ball



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America  
Chairwoman,  
Dept. of Sacred Music

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Musician Appreciation Sunday, December 14, 2025**

Dear friends, our church musicians across the Archdiocese: Christ is in our midst!

Let me begin with a huge THANK YOU! Your service and dedication to our God-protected churches and communities is truly a blessing.

As I reflect on this past year, it is just astonishing how quickly time has passed since the writing of my last letter!

At my church's recent choir rehearsal, I brought out all the beautiful hymns that we will be singing for the Nativity of our Lord's divine services in just a few short weeks. It was like greeting an old, special friend who you haven't seen in a long time.

The familiarity of the music with those who have been singing in the choir for decades, combined with the introduction of these beautiful melodies to new members, resonates with unending possibilities. This blend ensures that our musical traditions will not only continue to thrive within our own churches but will also spread across the Orthodox world.

There is an instant synergy in the choir that blends the voices of the individual singers to create a single, beautiful tapestry of sound. With the antiphonal song of prayer between our beloved clergy and singers, our combined goal is to aid the faithful of our churches in prayer and worship. As church musicians, we never lose sight of our true purpose of spreading the word of God through our beautiful melodies.

Your dedication to the sacred music of our blessed Archdiocese has enriched our liturgical life and deepened the spiritual experience for the faithful across North America. I encourage you to continue to expand your musical horizons and stay strong by attending classes being offered through our Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, becoming a student at our biannual Sacred Music Institutes to recharge your batteries, but most of all, approaching your ministry with love, humility and prayerfulness.

May our incarnate Lord bless you always and give you strength. Please remember that your Department of Sacred Music is always here to help you in any way we can.

With deepest appreciation and admiration, your servant in Christ,

Mareena Boosamra Ball  
Chairwoman, Department of Sacred Music  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

**Prot. no.:** 596/2025

*“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:18-19).*

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Throughout the year, we honor and highlight our various organizations across our sacred Archdiocese. This month is no exception.

Each year, on the second Sunday of December, we honor those who chant praises to God in the Divine Liturgy and the divine services of the Church on this “Musician Appreciation Sunday.” As we ponder the verses above taken from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, we cannot help but think of the importance of our sacred music in the life of the Church. The hymnography inspires us to contemplate the divine and ponder our own salvation as we are engrossed in the theology that is transmitted by the sacred hymns of the various feasts and resurrectional cycles of the ecclesiastical year.

St. Theophan the Recluse, when commenting on the purpose of church hymns, said, “All of our liturgical hymns are instructive, profound, and sublime. They contain the whole of our theology and moral teaching, give us Christian consolation, and instill in us a fear of the Judgment. He who listens to them attentively has no need of other books on the Faith.”

With that in mind, we are grateful for all those who train, practice, and sing praises to God in our parishes. We thank our thousands of choir members, chanters, readers, and their directors who sing from their hearts to praise God. It is our fervent prayer that not only are they transformed by what they are singing, but that through the beauty of their voices and the content of what they chant, they, in turn, also inspire those who listen.

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

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All this becomes possible through the dedicated efforts of those who train them, led by our Chairwoman of the Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra Ball, and her dedicated team. We are grateful for their many efforts in providing sound and correct settings for our sacred music, their biannual Sacred Music Institutes, the Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, as well as the many workshops offered throughout the Archdiocese.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to give them strength, not only on this day in which we honor them, but throughout the entire year!

Your Father in Christ,



**+SABA**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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