

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.: 071/2025

The Sunday of Orthodoxy
March 9, 2025

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

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

I pray that all of you have been granted a good start to the Lenten journey over the course of the past week. As you continue your journey to Pascha, please be reminded of the beautiful words of one of the new saints of our Church, St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia who said, “When people are empty of Christ, a thousand and one other things come and fill them up: jealousies, hatreds, boredom, melancholy, resentment, a worldly outlook, worldly pleasures. Try to fill your soul with Christ so that it’s not empty.” This holy season, more than any other, allows us to do just that if we immerse ourselves in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, maintaining the beautiful and time-proven traditions we have received over the centuries that edify our souls and bring us closer to God.

During our annual commemoration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we ask each parish to contribute towards the education and formation of our young men studying for the holy priesthood. As we celebrate today what is called the *Triumph of Orthodoxy*, we should be reminded that we have been given a precious inheritance – the “faith once and for all delivered to the saints” – through the struggles of our martyrs and ascetics, the devotion of our parents and grandparents, and the divinely enlightened writings of the Fathers. We, therefore, have a sacred responsibility to ensure the passing down of the “precious pearl” of Holy Orthodoxy to future generations as we have received it.

The young men who have answered the call to serve in the ranks of our clergy, as well as their wives and families, have sacrificially offered themselves to the Church to love and to serve Her people, and to work for the preservation of the very faith we celebrate today. I am blessed to meet and interact with them as often as my schedule allows. This is allowing me to come to know them intimately as a father knows his sons. As a result, this will help me to properly offer them to you when the time comes so that they might more fully offer themselves as shepherds of their future parishes.

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

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Also, I want to acknowledge the following parishes for their contribution toward the hand-on training and the financial support offered to our seminarians: St. Anthony, Bergenfield; St. George, Allentown; St. George, Little Falls; St. George, Worcester; St. Ignatius, Florida; St. Mary, Brooklyn; St. Mary, Wilkes-Barre; St. Mary, Yonkers; St. Nicholas, Bridgeport; St. Nicholas, Brooklyn; St. Paul, Emmaus; St. Philip, Souderton; and St. Stephen, South Plainfield.

With that in mind, I ask all our faithful to generously donate towards the support of the seminarians and their families. This is a sacred responsibility for all of us to share, as they and their families will be sharing their lives and their love with us.

Wishing all of you a grace-filled and salvific journey to the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Saba". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T" and a period following it.

+SABA

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