



PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**Twenty-Eight Sunday
after Pentecost; Sunday
of the Holy Forefathers**

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 4.

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples spake to the Apostles triumphantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy unto the world.

Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 3.

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed to appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter 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.



The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must 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 there is still 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.'"



Word of the week – Reflection St. John of Kronstadt (Dec. 20th)

The Nativity of Christ.—He has come upon earth, He Who in the beginning created us from earth and breathed His Divine breath into us; He has come Who "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts xvii. 25.); He has come, He Who by a single word called all things visible and invisible from non-existence into existence, Who by a word called into being birds, fishes, quadrupeds, insects, and all creatures, existing under His almighty providence and care; He has come, He Whom the innumerable hosts of Angels continually and joy. And in what humility has He come! He is born of a poor Virgin, in a cave, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Riches, honours, glory of this world! fall down, fall

down in humility, tearful devotion, and deep gratitude before the Saviour of men, and share your riches with the poor and needy. Do not pride yourselves on your visionary, fleeting distinctions, for true distinction can only be found in virtue. Glory of this world! learn here, before the manger, your vanity. Thus, let us all humble ourselves; let us all fall down in the dust before the boundless humility and exhaustion of the Sovereign of all, of God, Who has come to heal our infirmities, to save us from pride, vanity, corruption, and every sinful impurity.

When you are about to pray to our Lady the Holy Virgin, be firmly assured, before praying, that you will not depart from her without having received mercy. To think thus and to have confidence in her is meet and right. She is, the All-Merciful Mother of the All-Merciful God, the Word, and her mercies, incalculably great and innumerable, have been declared from all ages by all Christian Churches; she is, indeed, an abyss of mercies and bounties, as is said of Her in the canon of Odigitry.

Do not let pass any opportunity to pray for anyone, either at his request or at the request of his relatives, friends, of those who esteem him, or of his acquaintances. The Lord looks favorably upon the prayer of our love,

and upon our boldness before him. Besides this, prayer for others is very beneficial to the one himself who prays for others; it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and enkindles our love for God and our neighbor. When praying, say thus: 'Lord, it is possible for Thee to do this or that to this servant of Thine; do this for him, for Thy name is the Merciful Love of Men and the Almighty.

Firmly purpose in your soul to hate every sin of thought, word, and deed, and when you are tempted to sin resist it valiantly and with a feeling of hatred for it; only beware lest your hatred should turn against the person of your brother who gave occasion for the sin. Hate the sin with all your heart, but pity your brother; instruct him, and pray for him to the Almighty, Who sees all of us and tries our hearts and innermost parts. 'Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.' (Hebrews 12:4) It is impossible not to often fall into sin unless you have a hatred of it implanted in your heart.

Self-love must be eradicated. Every sin comes from the love of self. Sin always appears, or feigns to be, to wish us well, promising us plenteousness and ease. 'The tree was good for food, and it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise.' (Genesis 3:6) This is how sin always appears to us.



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Wednesday <i>December 19</i>	6:00 pm	Vespers, Litia, & Communion Prayers – St. Ignatius & St. John of Kronstadt
Thursday <i>December 20</i>	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy – St. Ignatius & St. John of Kronstadt
Saturday <i>December 22</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy & Memorial Vespers & Litia
Sunday <i>December 23</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy
Monday <i>December 24</i>	2:00 pm 3:30 pm	Royal Hours – Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Tuesday <i>December 25</i>	8:30 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm	Matins Divine Liturgy – Nativity of Our Lord Vespers & Litia – Synaxis of Theotokos



Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Spiro Thomo (St. Spyridon – Dec. 12th).
- **Happy birthday** to Maria Mironidis (Dec. 8th), Carol Porra (Dec. 14th), Michael Pitsillides (Dec. 16th), Thomas Richard Burren (Dec. 18th), Scott Burren (Dec. 20th), Luke Yanka (Dec. 23rd), and Eva Pitsillides (Dec. 23rd).
- **Christmas Party** – Today, following the Liturgy.
- **New Year's Eve pot luck** – December 31st at 7pm at Fr. John's home, followed by vespers and litia at 10:30pm for St. Basil and a thanksgiving service for the New Year at 12am.



16 Romanian Avenue, Southbridge, Massachusetts, 01550, P.O. Box 823 (508) 765-5276

www.stmichaelorthodox.com