



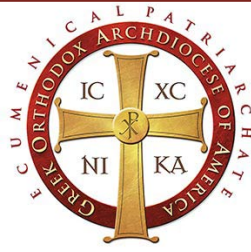
# ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH

Protopresbyter John K. Lardas, Proistamenos

| Protopresbyter Dennis Strouzas

100 Fairway Drive Port Washington, NY 11050

Ph. (516) 944-3180 | Email. info@archangelmichaelchurch.org



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 1, 2024** | Ἦχος πλ. β' Ἑωθινόν Α' | Mode Plagal 2 Eothinon 11

## SERMON ON TODAY'S READING

As in the days of the ministry of Christ on earth, Saint John the Baptist had been preaching the Gospel of repentance, the good news that repentance, turning to God, always brings us face to face with Him in reconciliation, so does also the Church now, before Lent, face us with weeks of preparation, weeks during which we look at ourselves as deeply as we can, as honestly as we can, before we are confronted with deeds of God, with His power and with the example of those who had truly turned away from evil, given themselves to God, and have found fulfillment and salvation.

And before these weeks begin to prepare us even to this, we remember, as we do today, Bartimaeus, the blind man of Jericho, a reminder that we all are blind, that we all have forgotten how to see the reality of things. He was blinded by illness; we are blinded by the visible; the invisible becomes invisible to us because all that catches our eye prevents us from looking deep, looking into the depth.

The message which is brought to us today is this: we are all blind, and we must learn to see. To see ourselves as we are, both what is evil, imperfect, distorted to us, and also the beauty of the image of God which nothing can erase, nothing can destroy, which may be covered up as an icon may be covered up by dust, but which remain glorious within us. And we must learn to look at ourselves, and discern both good and evil: not only evil, but also that good which can inspire us to struggle, to fight and to overcome all that is unworthy of God.

But we must also learn in these weeks to look at everyone around us and see God's image in him or in her, forget those imperfections which blind us to the beauty of every person, look deep into each one who is our neighbor, and worshipfully, reverently discover the divine presence, the divine likeness in him or in her.

Only then we will be able to move on to the weeks of preparation which will confront us one after the other with our most common and most destructive imperfections. If we try to look at ourselves, we often feel that we don't have eyes to see, we have no terms of reference: how can we see? There is a mirror in which we can see both good and evil. Let us, in the course of these days, read with an open mind and open heart, with veneration the Gospel. We will see in Christ what a true human being is; we will see in His teaching what we are called to be and to become; we will see in His apostles, in those who surrounded Him the struggle for perfection. Let us look into the Gospel as one looks into a mirror, compare ourselves with what we see, and we will then discover not only evil but glory. And let us, inspired by it, move on, as Paul says, from glory to glory, turning away from past and rushing towards the fulfillment of our vocation. Amen.

METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF SOROUZH

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ: ΙΔ΄** Τοῦ Ἁγίου Προφήτου Ναοῦμ, τοῦ Ὁσίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Φιλαρέτου τοῦ Ἐλεήμονος. Τοῦ Ἁγίου Μάρτυρος Ἀνανίου τοῦ Πέρσου καί τοῦ Ἁγίου Πατρός ἡμῶν Θεοκλήτου, Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Λακεδαιμονίας, τοῦ Θαυματουργοῦ. Τῶν Ἁγίων Πατέρων ἡμῶν Ἀνανίου καί Σολόχωνος Ἀρχιεπισκόπων

### Ἦχος πλ. β΄.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ· ὑπήνησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμῶν συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

### Ἦχος δ΄

Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσῃτε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερύγων, τῆς αὔλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βοῶντας· Ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξίαρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

### Ἦχος δ΄.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν προαίωνων Θεόν.

### Εφ 2:4 – 10

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἡγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασι συνεζωοποίησε τῷ Χριστῷ· χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι· καὶ συνήγειρε καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, ἵνα ἐνδείξηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσι τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸν ὑπερβάλλοντα πλοῦτον τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι διὰ τῆς πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, Θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον, οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων, ἵνα μὴ τις καυχῆσθαι. αὐτοῦ γὰρ ἐσμεν ποίημα, κτισθέντες ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἐπὶ ἔργοις ἀγαθοῖς, οἷς προητοίμασεν ὁ Θεὸς ἵνα ἐν αὐτοῖς περιπατήσωμεν.

**14th Sunday of Luke:** Nahum the Prophet, Philaret the Merciful of Amnia, Ananias the Persian, Holy Father Theocletus the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Lacedaemonia, Our Holy Fathers Ananias and Solochon, Archbishops of Ephesus

### Mode Plagal 2

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

### Mode Plagal 4

Remember, Lord, as the Good One, your servants, and forgive them in whatever they have sinned in life. No one is without sin, except for you the Mighty One, and show rest to the departed.

### Mode 4

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: As the Commanders of the hosts on high, rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

### Mode 4

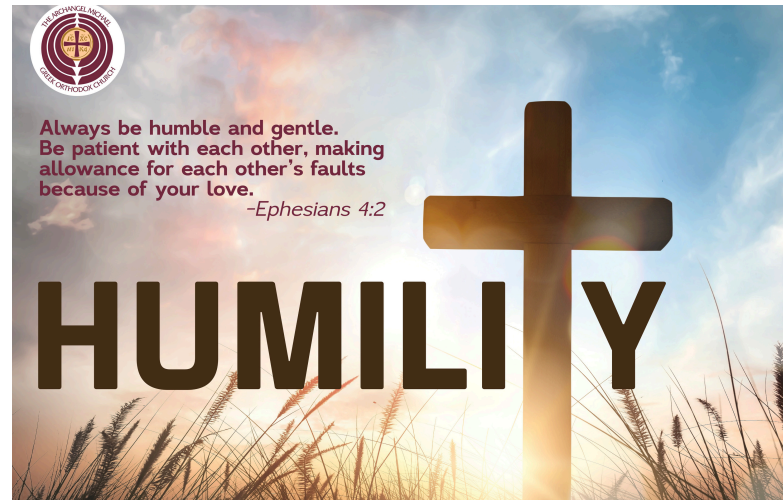
On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

### Eph. 2:4 – 10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ἐγγιζεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρα τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἶη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυῖδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτοῦ δὲ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυῖδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεῖς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπήρωτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιῆσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

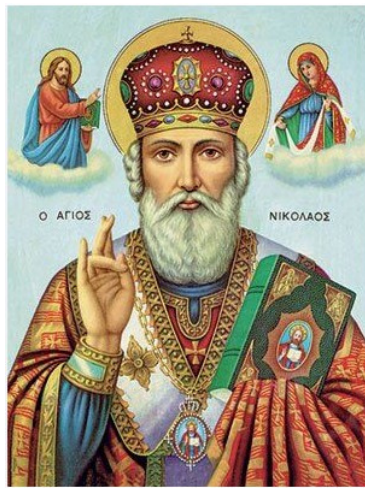
At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.



# SYNAXARION

- Dec 02** - Prophet Habakkuk, St. Porphyrios
- Dec 03** - Prophet Zephaniah, St. John the Hesychast
- Dec 04** - St. Barbara the Great Martyr\*  
St. John of Damascus
- Dec 05** - St. Savas the Sanctified, St. Diogenes
- Dec 06** - St. Nicholas the Wonderworker\*
- Dec 07** - St. Ambrose of Milan, St. Athenodoros

\*Orthros 8:30am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am



If you, or someone you know, would like a home, hospital, or nursing home visit for Christmas, please call the Church office to schedule an appointment with Fr. John.

**Attention All Bakers:**

**Any offerings of Prosfora would be much appreciated!**

The Archangel Michael Church  
*Christmas Spectacular*  
Tuesday Dec. 3, 2024  
5:30 - 7:00pm

TIS' THE SEASON TO JOIN US ON OUR CHURCH PLAZA FOR A FESTIVE EVENING FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER! SANTA ON THE FIRETRUCK, HOT COCOA, COOKIES, AND THE LIGHTING OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREE. ENJOY DELIGHTFUL CAROLING BY THE STUDENTS OF OUR GREEK LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AND THE AMC COMMUNITY. WE CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU!

# MEMORIALS

- 1 Year for Ioanna Drametemos**
- 4.5 Years for Ioanna Lampropoulos**
- 5 Years for Chrysostom Economos**
- 5 Years for Chrysostom Ioannou**
- 15 Years for Nicholas Ioannou**
- 32 Years for Dimitrios Dres**

**May their Memory be Eternal!**

# EVENTS

- Catechism Classes every Sunday after Services
- Cub Scout Toys-for-Tots Drive till Dec 5th
- December 3rd ~ AMC Tree Lighting Event
- December 8th ~ Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon
- December 15th ~ HOPE Christmas Event
- December 20th ~ Pre-School Christmas Sing-a-long
- December 22nd ~ Christmas Pageant  
Sunday School Loukoumades Fundraiser
- December 24th - Philoptochos Eggnog  
Christmas Reception
- January 5th ~ Blessing of the Waters  
and Diving for the Cross

This Christmas season join the AMC Community as we support families in Greece with Christmas dinner.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR HELLENIC RELIEF

It costs approximately 68 Euros per family for Christmas dinner (approx. \$75.00).

We thank you in advance for helping this Christmas season and supporting the work of the Hellenic Relief Foundation.  
<http://hellenicrelief.org>

For more info and to donate, scan here: