

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

The Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 13, 2022

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Beloved Faithful in Christ:

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we reach the end of the first week of Great Lent, I pray that God will give all of you good strength to complete the course of the Fast with firm devotion and spiritually enriching temperance.

Today we celebrate the triumph of the true Faith over the heresy of iconoclasm and over all other false teachings that have threatened to undermine the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ—“the Faith once and for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The Church’s perennial struggle against heresy is one reason why theological education is so crucial. Without well-educated clergy capable of teaching the Faith, such rabbit trails of human foolishness would have led us far astray from the path of salvation. The Church cannot survive without knowledgeable and wise priests, who bring God’s saving words to us—the divine law that brings life. This is a particular ministry of priests, and God’s people hunger for it, as the Holy Prophet Malachi says: “The lips of a priest will maintain knowledge, and [the people] will seek the law from his mouth because he is a messenger of the Lord Almighty” (2:7).

Every year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we ask you to contribute in support of our seminarians who are preparing for ministry in the holy priesthood. These young men have turned their backs on lucrative worldly careers and accepted God’s calling to serve His people. Many come with wives and children to support. As an archdiocese, we have always joined together to help shoulder this burden and support our seminarians, providing them with scholarships and housing aid.

Once again, I ask you to donate generously in support of our seminarians and their families. Through your gifts you will help prepare these men to be the spiritual leaders of the next generation, proclaiming God’s saving word and leading us on the path of salvation. Let us stand by them now, just as they will stand with us for many years to come.

Wishing you all a soul-profitting remainder of the Fast, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Metropolitan Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is preceded by a large, stylized cross symbol.

**+JOSEPH**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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

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