

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archpriest Thomas Zain
Chairman
Department of Liturgics

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

[DEPARTMENT OF LITURGICS](#) • FrTHOMASZ@ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

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Your Eminence Metropolitan Saba, Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed Trustees, Fellow Department Leaders, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In the past year, the Department of Liturgics has produced the fourth edition of *The Liturgikon*, the first edition of *The Archdiocesan Service Book*, and the long-awaited second edition of *A Pocket Prayer Book for Orthodox Christians*. These publications have corrected longstanding errors, guided our clergy to offer the divine services according to Antiochian tradition, standardized the Archdiocese's English translation of the Divine Liturgy, and given our faithful more prayers to beseech God's help.

Final preparations are being made for a new divine liturgy book for the pew in English-only and English-Arabic formats. The department has also begun typesetting the fourth edition of *The Services of Great and Holy Week and Pascha*. This book will correct errors and inconsistencies, and use the stronger translation of hymnography from The Holy Transfiguration Monastery of Brookline, Mass. This will form the basis of new music. Work has also begun on a new edition of *The Divine and Holy Gospel Book*. Liturgics hopes to publish these new editions within the next two years; typesetting and review are laborious, and printing could take up to eight months for hardcover books.

By the end of the decade, the department hopes to publish new editions of coil-bound service books for the Antiochian Village and the congregation and revisit the classic "red/burgundy" service book that includes the marriage and funeral services.

For several years, the Department of Sacred Music has worked hand-in-hand with Liturgics to set music for all of the divine services that we produce, especially for the *prosomoia* (model, standardized hymns). Our departments are currently collaborating on a new Sacred Music Library to showcase all of its music (roughly 2,500 pieces) so that our choirs and chanters can more easily find it.

Of course, Liturgics constantly produces the Online Liturgical Guide that contains the divine services for weekends, great feasts, patron saints of our parishes, Great Lent, Holy Week, daily vespers every Wednesday night, and more. The offerings continue to grow, especially in Arabic as the Monastery of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Hamatoura, Lebanon freely shares with us its refined translations.

The Department of Liturgics looks forward to working with His Eminence Metropolitan Saba to ensure the Archdiocese's liturgical practices are consistent with those of the Patriarchate of Antioch. We are grateful to Fr. Jeremy Davis, Fr. Patrick O'Grady and Dr. Sam Cohlma for their review of our productions; to Fr. Raphael Daly for his typesetting efforts; to Fr. Elie and Kh. Rouba Estephan, Kh. Ramia Issa and Mr. Chadi Karam for their hard work with Arabic texts; to Fr. Samer Youssef and Dn. John Dibs for their work on the forthcoming bilingual liturgy book; to Mrs. Mareena Boosamra Ball and Mr. Chris Holwey for their partnership from the Department of Sacred Music; and, most especially to Subdn. Peter Samore for directing the OLG and coordinating most of the work for the department.

Yours in Christ,
Archpriest Thomas Zain, Chairman

"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