

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.: 596/2025

“Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:18-19).

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Beloved in Christ,

Throughout the year, we honor and highlight our various organizations across our sacred Archdiocese. This month is no exception.

Each year, on the second Sunday of December, we honor those who chant praises to God in the Divine Liturgy and the divine services of the Church on this “Musician Appreciation Sunday.” As we ponder the verses above taken from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, we cannot help but think of the importance of our sacred music in the life of the Church. The hymnography inspires us to contemplate the divine and ponder our own salvation as we are engrossed in the theology that is transmitted by the sacred hymns of the various feasts and resurrectional cycles of the ecclesiastical year.

St. Theophan the Recluse, when commenting on the purpose of church hymns, said, “All of our liturgical hymns are instructive, profound, and sublime. They contain the whole of our theology and moral teaching, give us Christian consolation, and instill in us a fear of the Judgment. He who listens to them attentively has no need of other books on the Faith.”

With that in mind, we are grateful for all those who train, practice, and sing praises to God in our parishes. We thank our thousands of choir members, chanters, readers, and their directors who sing from their hearts to praise God. It is our fervent prayer that not only are they transformed by what they are singing, but that through the beauty of their voices and the content of what they chant, they, in turn, also inspire those who listen.

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

All this becomes possible through the dedicated efforts of those who train them, led by our Chairwoman of the Department of Sacred Music, Ms. Mareena Boosamra Ball, and her dedicated team. We are grateful for their many efforts in providing sound and correct settings for our sacred music, their biannual Sacred Music Institutes, the Antiochian Orthodox Ecclesiastical Online Music School, as well as the many workshops offered throughout the Archdiocese.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to give them strength, not only on this day in which we honor them, but throughout the entire year!

Your Father in Christ,



+**SABA**

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