



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
**OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** 023/2025

Great Lent, 2025

*“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.”*  
(2 Corinthians 8:2-3)

**TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN**

Beloved Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of our Archdiocese,

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

During this holy season of Great Lent we are encouraged by the prompt of our Holy Church to be transformed into a “New Man” through repentance, which is the reformation and the changing of our way of life, attitude, and reaction to our daily surroundings and struggles.

The Holy Orthodox Church invites and encourages us to increase our daily prayers at our church community and at home. We are shown through the example of many luminary figures from the life of the Church how to break the bondage of our attachment to the hollow enticement of this world.

The “Journey” of Great Lent is a holy adventure of gaining more acute sensitivity in regard of reaching better detection of our sins, raising our sense of gratitude, and being more mindful of others’ needs, pain, and sufferings.

Every year new calamities strike in our midst, and we find more people that are in need to be comforted emotionally and physically. The Food for Hungry People Program is one of the ways that can bring hope to people by revealing to them that there are people who care about them even though they do not know who they are.

This program that has been inspired and effected for more than 50 years by the name and the power of Jesus Christ will continue to happen and transform lives through your generosity that stems from your Christian faith and love.

We encourage you to do as you have done in the past, to open your hearts and to extend a generous hand to those that are deprived and need your love. Comfort and encourage them by contributing to this program during this year’s Great Lent.

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

May the blessing of the Almighty God come upon you, all those who support this worthy effort, and all the recipients of its benefit who will see the face of Jesus Christ through your offering of love, care, and thoughtfulness.

With prayers for an edifying and enriching Great Lent and a glorious celebration of Pascha, I remain,

Yours in the Service of Christ,



**+SABA**

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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