

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.: 252/2025

May 29, 2025

Beloved Clergy and Parish Councils of our God-protected Archdiocese:

Blessed feast of the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ! I pray that it will mark a time of peace and joy for you and your families.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Music Institute (SMI), a cornerstone of the Department of Sacred Music of our Archdiocese. The SMI has brought together choir directors, singers, chanters and teachers of both Western and Byzantine music to teach, learn and exchange ideas to help our churches and their choirs in worship.

This year, the summer SMI will take place from July 9-13 at the Antiochian Village with the theme: "Respecting the Past - Embracing our Future with Joy." [Registration is now open](#). Additionally, the SMI is holding auditions for the [National Orthodox Choir of North America](#). Deadlines are approaching for these programs, so help your attendees to register right away.

As in previous years, I encourage and hope that at least one person, preferably the choir director, will attend from every parish. I also ask that each parish council ensure that financial constraints do not prevent your director or at least one representative from attending. Please make this investment for your church's well-being.

As many people are finding the Orthodox faith through our Archdiocese, it is incumbent that we have strong and competent choirs, singers and chanters that continue to grow and expand in a musically sound and orderly way to properly and beautifully edify the faithful both new and old. This is why the SMI is so important. Please do your part to encourage participation and eliminate barriers so that your people attend.

Wishing you and your families a blessed festal season, I remain,

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Saba", is written below the text "Yours in the service of Christ,".

+SABA

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

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