

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew**  
**February 11, 2024**

Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebastia, and companions; Theodora the empress; New-martyr George of Serbia

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3)**

Byzantine Tone 3

Basil Kazan  
(1915 - 2001)

Ison  
Let the heav - ens re - joice and the earth be glad,  
for the Lord hath done a might - y act with his own arm.  
He hath tram - pled down death by death and be - come the First -  
born from the dead. He hath de - liv - ered us from the  
depths of ha - des, grant - ing the world the great mer - cy.

**Troparion of St. Blaise (Tone 4)**

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Holy Martyr among bishops Blaise. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

**Troparion for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)**

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

**Kontakion of the Presentation (Tone 2)**

O Undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

**The Prokeimenon**

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises.*

*Clap your hands, all ye peoples.*

**The Epistle**

**2 Corinthians 6:1-10**

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.

Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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**Holy Bread:** Carol Ofiesh/Kh Meleah Palke

**Commemorations(Living):** Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Carol, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, Janni, Dominick, Yina, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Alex, Lauren, Aaron, Adam, Atticus, Gabriela, Antonina, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

**Departed:** James, Laura, Gary, Stelian, Tinca, Mugurel

**The Synaxarion.** On February 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebastia, and his companions. Born in Cappadocia, Blaise (Vlassios) was meek and God-fearing from early childhood. During a period of violent persecution of Christians, Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs in prison, among them the famous Eustratius. Later in life, Blaise retired to the mountain of Argeos and lived there in a cave. Ferocious wild beasts, recognizing a holy man, came to him and he gently tamed them. Persecutors sent by the emperor Licinius found the saint in that hidden spot and took him for trial. On the way there, Blaise healed a boy who had a bone stuck in his throat and, at the petition of a poor widow, made the wolf that had taken her pig return it to her. The dark judges tortured him, flogging him terribly. By his steadfastness, Blaise brought many unbelievers to the Christian Faith. Seven women and two children were thrown into prison with him. Together, they suffered and were glorified on this day in 316. Blaise's prayers are sought for the health and wellbeing of domestic animals and for protection from wild beasts. He is also invoked against ailing and sore throats. On this day, we also commemorate Theodora the empress; and New-martyr George of Serbia. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

**Looking ahead:** Meatfare (Judgment) Sunday: March 10. Cheesefare (Forgiveness) Sunday: March 17. Lent begins March 18. Pascha: May 5 (celebrated May 4).



## **St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese**

**Metropolitan Saba, Primate  
Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic**

**Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM**

**Meeting at Compton Village  
14401 Compton Village Dr.  
Centreville, Virginia 20121**

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