

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.: 462/2023

December 10, 2023

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Today we gratefully recognize all our dedicated and faithful church musicians, who lead us in singing God's praises, filling our hearts and minds with angelic melodies.

In last Sunday's Epistle, we heard this admonition from St. Paul: "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart" (Eph. 5:19). There is a hollow and disappointing camaraderie found in drinking parties, where people are filled with alcohol and belt out unprofitable songs. However, true joy and brotherhood come from being filled with the Holy Spirit and singing holy songs together with all our heart. Such spiritual fellowship brings us closer to God and creates edifying bonds with one another. Unlike intoxication and carousing, it truly lightens our spiritual burdens, bringing us joy and peace that will not disappoint. This is the blessing and ministry of sacred music within our archdiocese.

On this Musician Appreciation Sunday, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamrall and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music, for their tireless efforts in support of this holy ministry. We also gratefully honor the dedication of all the choir directors, chanters, and choir members in parishes throughout the archdiocese, who faithfully present their time and talents, week after week, as priceless gifts to Christ and His Church.

Wishing you and your families a blessed remainder of the fast and a joyous Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SABA". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

✠ SABA

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

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