



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

To be read from the pulpit on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

Beloved Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Esteemed members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees and Parish Councils, and all the faithful:

Blessings and greetings to you as we celebrate Theophany, the manifestation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as God.

As I have had the honor and privilege of meeting with many of you during my travels, some have asked about the upcoming special convention, the process of elections of the three nominees for the office of Metropolitan, and how the Archdiocese produced its list of candidates for the next Metropolitan.

The Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch maintains the overall list of eligible candidates for the sacred episcopacy. The patriarch and the metropolitans of the Holy Synod of Antioch update this list every year by submitting new names.

As Patriarchal Vicar, I worked in consultation with the Board of Trustees to draw from this list and approve the list of candidates for the office of Metropolitan. As a reminder, they are:

<u>Metropolitan Saba Isper</u>	<u>Bishop Thomas Joseph</u>	<u>Bishop Alexander Mufarrij</u>
<u>Bishop John Abdalah</u>	<u>Bishop Anthony Michaels</u>	<u>Bishop Nicholas Ozone</u>
<u>Archimandrite Maximos Jamal</u>	<u>Archimandrite Jeremy Davis</u>	<u>Archimandrite Michael Razzouk</u>

From this list of nine candidates, delegates at the Special Convention in Dallas on Jan. 13 will each vote for one candidate. Consistent with past practice, the three candidates who receive the most votes will be announced in alphabetical order by first name (not necessarily in order of the number of votes received). The actual vote totals for these three nominees will be reported to the Holy Synod, which will then hold a meeting to elect the next Metropolitan.

Working with the auxiliary bishops, we designated three individuals – one clergyman and two lay people – from each of the eight regions of the Archdiocese as ballot counters, resulting in 24 individuals responsible for counting ballots. Ballots will be randomly placed into twelve boxes. The 24 ballot counters will be divided into four teams, each of which will be responsible for counting two boxes of ballots.

I invite you to review all the materials posted for the Special Convention on Antiochian.org. I look forward to seeing the clergy and lay delegates in Dallas, praying for their safe travels.

Yours in Christ,
+Metropolitan ANTONIOS
Metropolitan of Zahle, Baalbek and Dependencies
Patriarchal Vicar of New York and All North America

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

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