His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA

Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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Great Lent, 2026

"To give to the poor is to lend to God; He will repay you abundantly." – St. Gregory of Nyssa

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 Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ!

As we approach the holy season of Great Lent, we are reminded of the words of our Lord: *"For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink…"* (Matthew 25:35). These words call us to a life of mercy and compassion, especially during this time of spiritual renewal.

For the 52nd year, our Archdiocese once again commences the Lenten **Food for Hungry People and Charitable Outreach Campaign**, a vital ministry that extends Christ's love to those in need. Through your generosity, countless families and individuals—both within our communities and throughout the world—receive nourishment, hope, and dignity.

I urge every parish and every faithful Orthodox Christian to participate wholeheartedly in this sacred effort. This year especially, your contributions will provide concentrated support to food programs and humanitarian initiatives in local parishes and communities that show the Gospel in action.

At the same time, let us not stop with simply giving a monetary donation, but let us reflect on the words of St. John Chrysostom: "Many can give money to those in need, but to personally serve the needy readily, out of love, and in a fraternal spirit, requires a truly great soul." Let us offer not only from our material abundance, but also from our hearts and our very beings to serve the poor, remembering that true fasting is inseparable from acts of charity.

Please make your donations through your local parish. As we prepare for and eagerly await the Paschal Feast on April 12, let us transform our fasting into a feast of love for our brothers and sisters who hunger and thirst each and every day of the year.

May the Lord bless your Lenten journey with strength and grace, and may your offerings become a source of light and life for those in need.

With paternal love in 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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