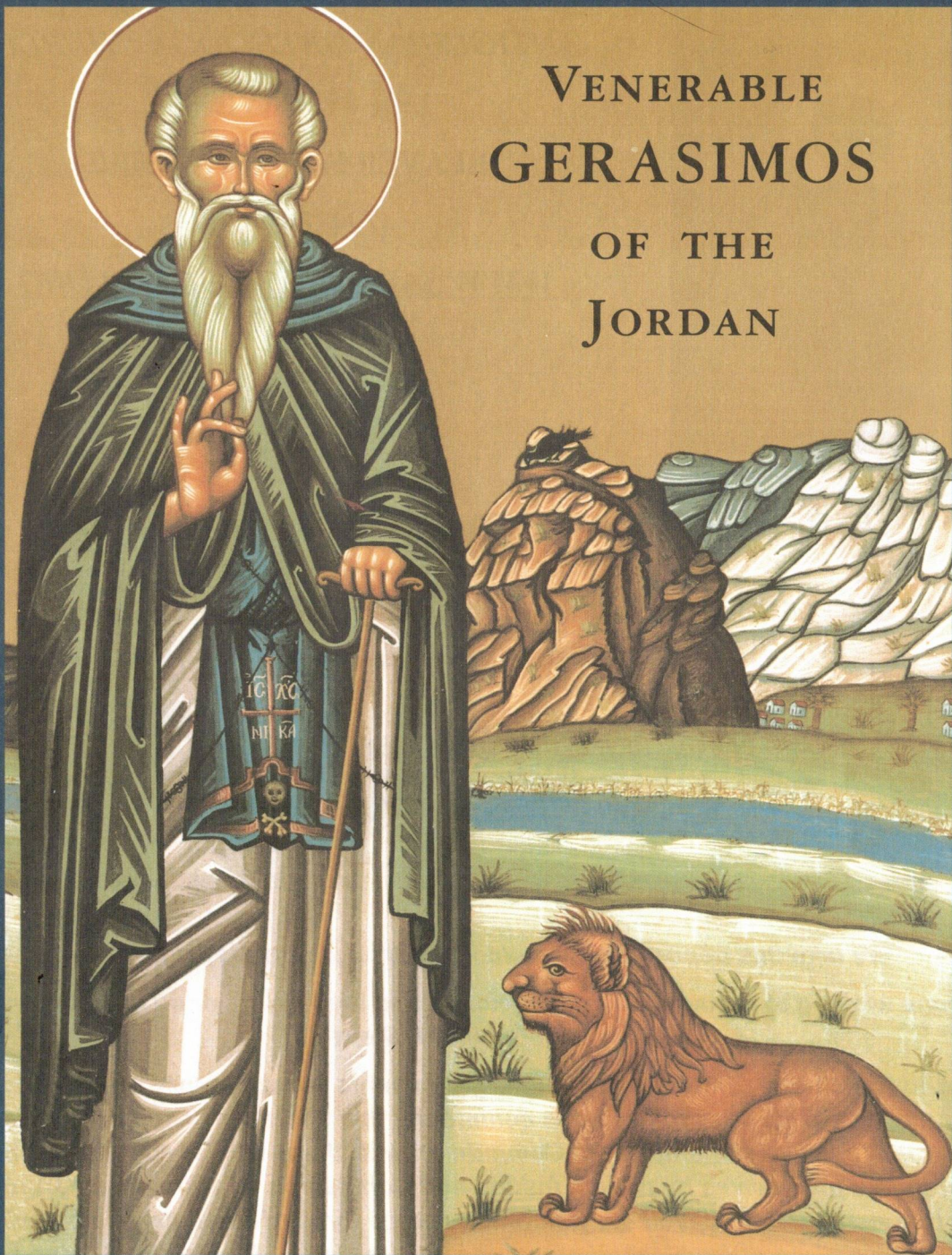
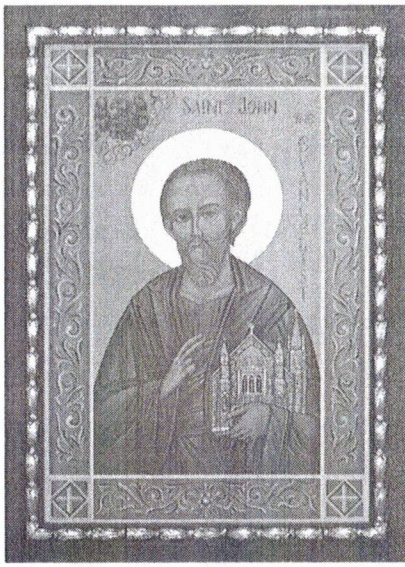


VENERABLE
GERASIMOS
OF THE
JORDAN



March 3, 2024



*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

(724) 847-1111

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

*HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA*

*HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON,
OAKLAND, AND MID-ATLANTIC*

PASTOR: REVEREND FATHER STEVEN SHAHEEN

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests praying with us.

*Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer,
please contact Fr. Steven*

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread. Please see Father Steven after Divine Liturgy.

DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 03, 2024

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 6

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea;

Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SAINT JOHN

Apostle John, speaker of deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people, powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him therefore to disperse the darkness of ignorance, and pray for peace and great mercy to be shown upon us.

KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE THREE

*(**On this day the Virgin**)*

Foolishly I sprang away * from Thy great fatherly glory, * and dispersed in wicked deeds * the riches that Thou didst give me. * With the Prodigal I therefore * cry unto Thee now: * I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. * But receive me in repentance; * make me as one of * Thy hired servants, O Lord.

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's

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TRISAGION ON MARCH 24TH for

NICK and CATHERINE (Yvonne Bennett's parents)

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

MARCH Services & Events

March 9th Saturday - Great Vespers 5PM

**March 10th Sunday - Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
Parish Council Meeting at 12 Noon
(Judgment Sunday) (Meatfare)**

March 16th—Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30AM

March 16th Saturday - Great Vespers 5PM

**March 17th Sunday - Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
Great Vespers to follow Divine Liturgy.
(Forgiveness Sunday) (Cheesefare)**

MONDAY MARCH 18TH—GREAT LENT BEGINS TODAY

**Great Compline on Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th and
Thursday 21st at 6 PM— with readings from the
Great Canon of Repentance by St. Andrew of Crete**

**Wed. March 20th—Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts @ 6pm
Friday , March 22nd—Little Compline with Akathist Canon
@ 6pm**

March 23rd Saturday - Great Vespers 5PM

**March 24th Sunday - Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
(Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

**Monday, March 25th—Annunciation of the Theotokos
Vesperal Liturgy @ 6pm**

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of:

Fr. Steven, Evie, Kh. Paraskeva, Debbie, Jim (Health), Jeffery, Ann, Carol, Aiden, Shannon, Justin, William (Cancer), Donald, Harriett (Health), Jan (Health) Fr. Andrew (Health), Perry, Adalena, Rhonda, Karen, Cindy, Gus, Minas, Mary, Mike & family, Georgia & family, Jim & family, Immanuel, Gloria, Jospheine, Carlos, Alfie, John.

For Thou are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants who have fallen asleep especially:

Prayers are offered in memory of Patriarch Ignatius IV, Metropolitan Philip, Bishop Antoun, Archbishop Peter, Archbishop Michael, Igumen George, Archpriest Peter, Archpriest Theodore, Dn. Larry, Sh. Peggy, Priest Basil, Priest Solobadon, and Archpriest John, Mary, Infant Clyde Eddy, Child Mica, Mother Nektaria, Janis, AP Moses, Raymond, Eleanor, Dn Innocent, Apostolis Mandalakas and Patricia.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is detestable and dangerous for a wrestler to be slack at the start of a contest, thereby giving proof of his impending defeat to everyone. Let us have a firm beginning to our religious life, for this will help us if a certain slackness comes later. A bold and eager soul will be spurred on by the memory of its first zeal and new wings can then be obtained.

St. John Climacus

✠ ✠ ✠ **A TEACHER OF SPIRITUALITY** ✠ ✠ ✠

Have you ever heard the story of the man who walked along the banks of the Jordan River when a lion came along, limping, and in great pain? The man approached the animal, found a sharp splinter in the paw, extracted it and nursed the limb. It is said that the lion thereafter never left the side of his benefactor.

St. Gerasimos of the Jordan is that man. He was a great ascetic of the Church, and is said to have gone through the Great Fast taking no food except the Eucharist at the Liturgy.

The saint died in the year 475. When the lion found his friend gone, he searched everywhere for him. A faithful disciple, Abbot Sabbatios, tried to comfort the beast, but it seems nothing could be done. The abbot said, "Our old friend has gone away and left us orphans, and has migrated to the Lord; but here is food, take and eat." The lion would have no part of it. He kept roaming the cell, roaring with his head raised.

Finally, the lion was led to the grave of Gerasimos. The abbot, standing at the tomb, said: "Behold, here is where the old man is buried." The abbot knelt and wept at the grave of the one he loved as father. Then the lion, too, stretched himself over the grave, with his head on the sand, and moaned in sadness. There the beast stayed, refusing to be moved, until death came and released him from the bonds of this earth.

St. Gerasimos, called "the righteous," is a great teacher of spiritual life. He is an example for all to follow in this Lenten Season.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

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WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only