



March 17, 2024



*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

1501 8TH AVENUE
BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

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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 17, 2024

TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

Venerable Alexios the 'Man of God';
Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, 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 FORGIVENESS SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

THE EPISTLE
(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)
Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

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TRISAGION ON MARCH 24TH for
NICK and CATHERINE (Yvonne Bennett's parents)

THE GOSPEL
(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

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FORGIVENESS VESPERS

**Forgive me my Brothers and Sisters,
All my transgressions, both voluntary or involuntary,
In Word or Deed, in Knowledge or in Ignorance.**

+ Fr. Steven Shaheen

MARCH Services & Events

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**

March 30th— Saturday of Souls—Divine Liturgy 9AM

Great Vespers 5PM

March 31st Sunday—Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

(Sunday for Gregory Palamas)

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

Fr. Steven, Evie, Kh. Paraskeva, Michael, John, Debbie, Jim (Health), Jeffery, Ann, Carol, Aiden, Shannon, Justin, William (Cancer), Donald, Harriett (Health), Jan (Health) Fr. Andrew (Health), Perry, Adalena, Rhonda, Karen, Cindy, Immanuel, Gloria, Jospheine, Carlos, and Alfie.

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, Patricia and Mary(S).

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Remember Adam before the fall. "He was clothed in the true robe of glory and was not naked, nor was he ugly in his nakedness, but was truly unspeakably better adorned than those who wear diadems embellished with much gold and precious stones."

St. Gregory Palamas

“LET US BEGIN THE FAST WITH JOY!”

Although some may associate Great Lent with suffering and sacrifice, our Church gently reminds us that the 40-day Fast which precedes our Lord’s Resurrection is actually a time for us to experience a great spiritual joy. The Church’s service book for Lent – the Triodion – calls this period the “spiritual spring which blossoms with the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” For us to “harvest” these fruits, however, it is necessary for us to master two vital disciplines: PRAYER and FASTING.

St. John Chrysostom writes that prayer and fasting are like “two wings that carry a person to the heights of God.” They are the means for us to become mentally, physically and spiritually prepared to encounter the Lord in an intimate way. Prayer and fasting help us to become closer to God. The more time we spend in prayer, the less time we have to become consumed with the sins and temptations that are constantly placed before us. Fasting shows our willingness to cast aside the pleasures of the world, abstaining from wrong-doing as well as food.

While urging us to embrace these admirable virtues during the Lenten season, the Church reminds us of the emphasis that Christ Himself placed on prayer and fasting. There were countless times during His earthly ministry that Jesus became deeply immersed in practicing these disciplines. Indeed, when His disciples questioned why they were unable to cast out demons from a possessed young man, Christ pointed out to them that only through prayer and fasting could they ever receive the ability to do this!

Icon by Fr. Paul Drozdowski — www.pd-icons.com

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

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OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only