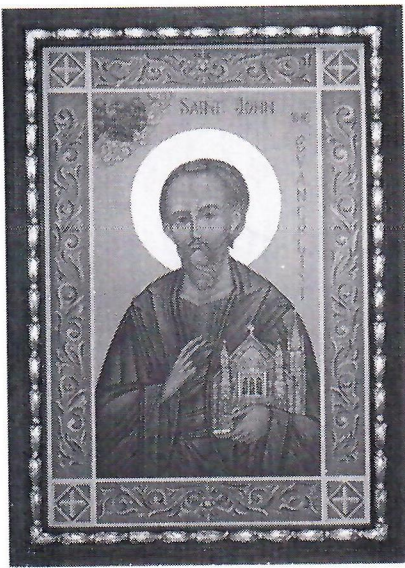


March 31 2024



*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 31, 2024

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 10

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Commemoration of Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica

Hypatios the wonderworker, bishop of Gangra; Prophet Joel

****Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great****

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

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 SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song.

The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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AWE (Antiochian Women of the East) invites you to help with LENTEN RECIPES 101. I have included in this bulletin the Flyer explaining how to acquire the recipes for perfect meals for the Lenten season. You can also submit your favorite dish to share with others over the media.

MARCH/APRIL Services

**March 31st Sunday—Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
(Sunday of Gregory Palamas)**

**April 3rd Wed.—Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts @ 6pm
April 5th Friday —Little Compline with Akathist Canon
@ 6PM**

**April 6th Saturday—Great Vespers 5PM
April 7th Sunday—Matins 9Am / Divine Liturgy 10AM
(Veneration of the Cross)**

**April 13th Saturday—Great Vespers 5PM
April 14th Sunday—Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
(John of the Ladder)**

**April 17th Wed—Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts @ 6PM
April 19th Friday -Little Compline with Akathist Canon
@ 6PM**

**April 20th Saturday—Community Breakfast 8:30AM
Great Vespers 5PM**

**April 21st Sunday—Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
(Mary of Egypt)**

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

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

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Fasting is a yearning and desire for a life beyond the mortal, physical life. It is an experience of death before it happens, and therefore an exercise to defeat fear of it .”

Metropolitan Saba

“ENLIGHTEN MY DARKNESS, O LORD”

The Second Sunday of Lent is dedicated to the memory of a saint that may be described as a “*mysterious mystic*”: **St. Gregory Palamas**. Gregory was born in 1296 A.D. and received his secular education in Constantinople. His father was a prominent official in the Emperor’s court, but Gregory chose to devote his life to serving a Heavenly King rather than a temporal one. At the age of 20, he entered a monastery on Mt. Athos, and was ordained to the priesthood 10 years later.

Gregory Palamas became part of a controversial monastic movement called “*hesychasm*.” Hesychasm called for its followers to embrace a life of silence and contemplative prayer. It taught that through fasting, rigorous bodily discipline and repetition of the Jesus Prayer, man can know God in an intimate way. For years, the only words uttered by St. Gregory were: “*Enlighten my darkness, O Lord*,” as he sought to know His Creator with all of his being.

Although he would have been content to remain on Mt. Athos for the rest of his life, Gregory was appointed Archbishop of Thessalonica in 1347 A.D. His views on theological matters came under fierce attack by his enemies, even causing him to be imprisoned for heresy on several occasions. Gregory’s positions eventually became universally accepted by the entire Holy Orthodox Church, and today, Gregory Palamas is extolled as a “*Light of Orthodoxy, a teacher of the Church and an invincible champion of theologians*.”

Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord in 1359 A.D. He was canonized a saint only 9 years after his death.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

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

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OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only