



*My House shall be called a House of Prayer,  
but you have made it a Den of Thieves.*

April 21, 2024



*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST*  
*ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

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**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**

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***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.***

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## **DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024**

### **TONE 5 EOTHINON 2; FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

**Hieromartyr Januaros, bishop of Benevento & companions; Martyr Alexandra  
the Queen & companions**

**\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT\*\***

#### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

**Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father  
and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure  
in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead  
by His glorious Resurrection.**

#### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT IN TONE EIGHT**

**Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother  
Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and  
precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable,  
and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy  
soul rejoice with the angels.**

#### **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**

#### **ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

**O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto  
the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those  
who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid,  
who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to  
make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that  
honor thee.**

**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**

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.*

*Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the  
Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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Next Sunday: A special collection will be taken toward the patriarchate and its humanitarian work. Through your donations, you will provide some confort to our brothers and sisters in need.

## THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according  
to St. Mark. (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

## APRIL/MAY SERVICES

**April 20th Saturday—Great Vespers 5PM**

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

**April 26th Friday— Compline w/Canon of Raising of  
Lazarus @ 6PM**

**April 27th Saturday — Divine Liturgy of Lazarus 9AM  
Great Vespers of Palm Sunday @ 5PM**

**April 28th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM  
(Palm Sunday)  
Bridegroom Service 6PM**

**April 29th Monday — Bridegroom Service 6PM**

**April 30th Tuesday — Bridegroom Service 6PM**

**May 1st Wed. — Holy Unction 6PM**

**May 2nd Thurs. — Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil @ 9AM  
Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @6PM**

**May 3rd Friday — Great Royal Hours & Typika 9AM  
Matins w/Lamentations @ 6PM**

**May 4th Saturday — Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 9AM  
Resurrection (Rush) Service, Paschal  
Orthos & Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 10PM  
Fellowship in Hall after service-all invited!**

**May 5th Sunday — Agape Vespers @ 12 Noon**

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

**Fr. Steven, Evie, Kh. Paraskeva, Ann, Carol, Michael, Sam, Luca, 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, Jospheine, Alfie and Julianna.**

**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 Tim.**

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**“THOUGHT FOR THE DAY”**

**Jesus called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.”**

**MARK 8:34-35**

~ : ~    **WHAT MAKES GOD ANGRY?**    ~ : ~

**W**hat was Jesus like? The Gospels portray Him as someone with incredible patience and control. Even in the face of senseless questioning, ridicule and verbal abuse, Christ projected a calm and level demeanor.

There was one incident, however, where Jesus reacted with anger and righteous indignation. While visiting the Temple in Jerusalem during a Passover celebration, our Lord was scandalized to see merchants and vendors doing business on sacred ground. Quickly fashioning a whip of some cords, Jesus overturned their tables and angrily drove them out of the Temple, proclaiming: ***“Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s House a house of merchandise!”*** (John 2:16)

This event gives us some insight into what God DOES NOT want to see in our behavior. Greed and avarice are definitely not Christian qualities and characteristics! Christ’s confrontation with the money changers is one of many times that He expressed His disapproval of those who were driven by material profit and monetary gain. On the contrary, Jesus constantly reminded His followers that it would be meaningless to ***“gain the whole world and still suffer the loss of their own soul.”***

From this Temple incident, we also may draw the conclusion that we incur the wrath of our Heavenly Father when we lose sight of the true purpose and direction the Church should be taking. The Church as a BUILDING must be a place of PRAYER. The Church as an INSTITUTION must always reflect an attitude of prayerful holiness and sanctity as she leads her membership on a spiritual journey. Our ultimate destination is of course, the Kingdom of Heaven.

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[WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG)

**OFFICE HOURS**  
By Appointment Only