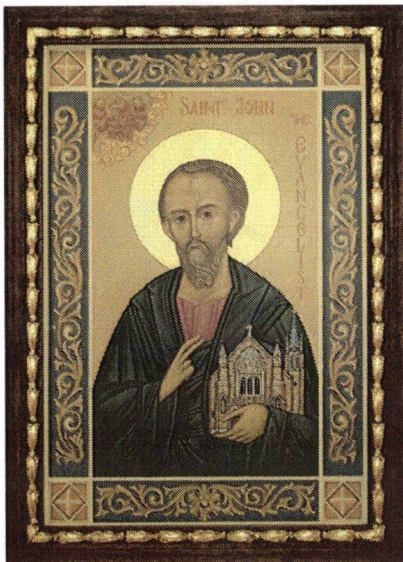




*The Blessed Virgin Mary
with her parents Joachim and Anna*

November 24, 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**

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23)
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

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

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

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.

DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 11; TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS

CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR PETER, BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... (***Refrain***)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter in thereat. (***Refrain***)

Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... ***O, only begotten Son and Word of God...***

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

After the verses above, chant the Apolytikion of the Entrance of the Theotokos.

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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

O beloved Apostle of Christ God, Come quick and save a people with no recourse. He who let you rest your head on his breast, will not reject your pleas on our behalf. Beseech him then, O wise and holy theologian. Dispel from us the dark and ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

*(**Thou Who wast raised up**)*

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

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TRISAGIONS TODAY NOVEMBER 24TH FOR

Paul Engle d. Nov 20, husband of Joan Engle

Catherine Renee Wiglesworth, d. Nov 28, mother of Phillip Wiglesworth

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**BISHOP THOMAS WILL BE WITH US ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
FOR MATINS AND DIVINE LITURGY AND AN ADVENT MEAL TO
FOLLOW IN OUR HALL.**

PASTOR'S MONTHLY PAGE – DECEMBER, 2024

DO YOU HAVE AN ANGEL?

The word "angel" means messenger that offers the will of God to us. Their work is to sing praises to God in heaven, to pray, and to offer spiritual strength when God directs them. There are nine different kinds of angels commemorated on November 8: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Arch Angels, and Angels. Guardian Angels are angels assigned to each one of us (yes, you have an angel!). At baptism in the Orthodox Church, the priest asks for an angel to be assigned to each person to guard and protect our souls. The angel prays constantly for each of our souls, especially asking forgiveness as we need. They become partners in service with us. See Hebrews 1:14.

(Notes taken from "My Angel Book" by Diane Davliakos).

A Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

O Angel of Christ, holy protector of my soul and body, forgive me everything wherein I have offended thee every day of my life, and protect me from all influence and temptations of the evil one. May I nevermore anger God by any sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Theotokos, and of all the Saints. Amen.
(from the *Orthodox Pocket Prayer Book*).

REPOSE OF JIM JONES

Jim Jones reposed on Sunday, December 3 during our morning Liturgy. Fr Steven was able to do prayers before his departing. A service was held November 6 at the Church where Fr Steven was asked to offer the homily. Burial took place at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CATECHUMENS

Breanna Wenzig and Jessica Hill received the prayer to become catechumens on November 3 and Nicholas Komo on November 10. Pray for their journeys toward becoming Orthodox.

BISHOP THOMAS TO VISIT

His Grace, Bishop Thomas will be with us on **Sunday, December 15** for Matins and Divine Liturgy. Please come to worship with him and greet him during a meal following the service.

TRISAGION DECEMBER 22

Following Liturgy on December 22 we will have a Trisagion for Stanley Sassic (d. December 22, 2018), father of Perry Sassic.

DECEMBER 24TH SERVICES

9:00 A.M. ROYAL HOURS

9:00 P.M. MATINS

10:00 P.M. FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD followed by a covered dish meal.

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 ST BASIL LITURGY TO COMMEMORATE THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

Circumcision was a sign of Israel's covenant and the means by which a male became a member of God's community. In Christ circumcision is fulfilled in baptism. Our first dying with Christ was our death with Him on the cross. Our second death is continual—dying with sin daily as we walk in the newness of life. (from the Orthodox Study Bible).

Time: 6:00 P.M.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1 Patty Paulin
5 Phillip Wigglesworth
14 Bruce Linville
17 Amber Linville
17 Brian & Amber Linville (A)
21 Perry & Kathy Sassic (#50)
23 Rick Hudson

ICON DONATED TO ST JOHN'S PARISH

An icon of the Theotokos, "Christ and the Healing Saints" was donated to the church by members of AA. It is hanging on the left rear wall as we leave the church. We are grateful to them for this gift and the care they take of our church-hall. AA meets Monday and Tuesday evenings with two types of meetings and averages a total of over 50 persons at both.

COMING IN JANUARY

HOUSE BLESSINGS will be offered on January 15, 16, and 25. Please sign up on the tablet in the narthex and you will be called for a day and time that is good. If not able to sign up Contact Fr Seraphim @ 724-494-7215.

WEDNESDAY VESPERS, LIGHT MEAL, AND STUDY SERIES

We will continue our Wednesday Study Group time at 6:00 PM on January 22 thru February 26. Our study will prepare us for Lent as it will cover the chapters in Fr Alexander Schmemmann's book, "Great Lent." Study sheets will be available each week and books for those families who desire one. Lent begins on Monday March 3rd with Pre-sanctified Liturgies each Wednesday during Lent. Any and all are welcome!

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TOPICS INCLUDED ARE:

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION AND JOURNEY TO LENT

- The Desire
- Humility
- Return from Exile
- The Last Judgment
- Forgiveness

WEEK TWO:

- "Bright Sadness"
- The Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem the Syrian
- The Holy Scriptures
- The Triodion

WEEK THREE:

- The Two Meanings of Communion
- The Two Meanings of Fasting
- The Evening Communion
- The Order of Service

WEEK FOUR:

- The Beginning: The Great Canon
- Saturdays of Lent
- Sundays of Lent
- Mid-Lent-The Holy Cross
- On the Way to Bethany and Jerusalem

WEEK FIVE:

- "Taking it Seriously . . ."
- Participation in Lenten Services
- "But by prayer and Fasting"
- A Lenten "Style of Life."

WEEK SIX: HOLY THINGS ARE FOR THE HOLY

- An Urgent and Essential Question
- "Religionless Religion"
- Why Sacraments?
- The Norm
- The Decay: Its Causes and Its Excuses
- The Meaning of Communion
- The Meaning of Preparation for Communion
- Confession and Communion
- A Total Rediscovery

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

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 Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

NOVEMBER SERVICES

November 23rd Saturday— NO GREAT VESPER

November 24th SUNDAY — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

****November 27th Wednesday — NO FELLOWSHIP STUDY***

***NOVEMBER 28TH THURSDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 9AM
THANKSGIVING DAY / Fellowship after service**

November 30th Saturday — GREAT VESPERS 5PM

December 1st Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

****December 4th Wednesday — 6PM Compline Prayers, and
A Light Meal & Time of Study/Fellowship***

December 7th Saturday — 5PM Great Vespers

December 8th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

Council Meeting 12 Noon

****December 11th Wednesday—6PM Compline Prayers and
A Light Meal & Time of Study & Fellowship***

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

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Ann, Carol, Debbie, Shannon, Aiden, Elise, Justin, Sassic Family, Harriet, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Yvonne, Mary Jo, Charlene, Cindy, Joann, Marlene, Julianna, Bonnie, Breana, Jessica , Nicholas and Ray.

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

Prayers are offered in memory of Infant Micah, and Eleanor

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A PRAYER TO YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

O Angel of Christ, holy protector of my soul and body, forgive me everything wherein I have offended thee every day of my life, and protect me from all influence and temptations of the evil one. May I nevermore anger God by any sin. Pray for me to the Lord, that He may make me worthy of the Grace of the All holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed Throtokos, and of all the Saints. Amen.

(from the Orthodox Pocket Prayer Book)

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“The miracle of the Church Assembly lies not in that it is not the ‘sum’ of the sinful and unworthy people who comprise it, but that it is the Body of Chriist.”

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *The Eucharist*)

OLD ADVICE FOR A NEW GENERATION

"I'm glad my children have grown up. I'd hate to be raising them in today's world." How often we hear that sentiment expressed in our material, immoral society! Trying to instill spiritual values in a new generation of young people is seemingly an insurmountable challenge. Where do we turn for guidance as we attempt to keep our children on a proper path -- a path that will enable them to establish a foundation in their lives which is firmly planted on knowing right from wrong?

There are no new answers to that question; no new approaches to take. Indeed, to deal with the problems of the present, we must look back at the solutions the Church offered in the past. Moral truth can never change, no matter what may be going on in the world around us. The enduring teachings of the Church Fathers still must be our *"resource manual"* for correctly raising our children. Here are a few wise thoughts that have been passed down to us:

- *"If from the beginning we fix good rules for our children, good habits will be formed. Let us not allow them to do what may be agreeable, but hurtful to them. We may need to admonish them and warn them. Remember: we are charged to keep our children free from evil."* — St. John Chrysostom
- *"Rear your children in the Lord. Teach them from their infancy the Word of God. Discipline them when needed, and render them respectful to authority."* — The Apostolic Constitutions
- *"Teach your children this lesson: the rewards of evil are temporary. The rewards of Godliness are eternal."* — St. Cyprian

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CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only