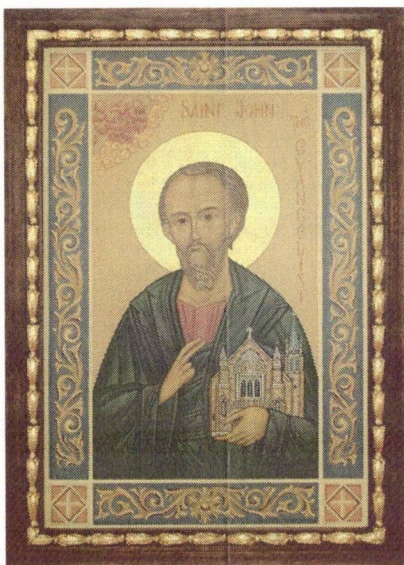




December 08, 2024



***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**

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 worshiping 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, DECEMBER 08, 2024

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 2; TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

FOREFEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS; VENERABLE PATAPIOS OF THEBES; SOPHRONIOS, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

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 omanous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

On December 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

Verses

Nicholas, who while on earth, was a great intercessor,
Though he hath left the earth, still fervently intercedeth.

On the sixth his life's end appeared to Nicholas.

His eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, returned their gift of an only child to God by dedicating Nicholas to Him. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." By God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast in and out of prison, he defended the true nature of Christ in the First Ecumenical Council, and he even saved men from unjust death sentences. Nicholas entered into eternal rest on December 6, 343.

On this day, we also commemorate our father among the saints Nicholas, bishop of Patara, the uncle of the Wonderworker; and New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Asia Minor.

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On December 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Patapios of Thebes in Egypt.

Verses

Having patently forsaken the earth's corruptible pathways,
Thou patterest, O Patapios, where the feet of the meek do patter.

On the eighth, O Patapios, thou trodest green pasture.

Patapios abhorred the vanity of this world and withdrew into the wilderness of Egypt. There he devoted himself to a life of asceticism, cleansing his heart of all earthly desires and thoughts for the sake of God's love. However, when his virtues became known among the people, they came to him for solace in their sufferings. Fearing the praise of men, which darkens the minds of men and separates them from God, Patapios fled this wilderness to Constantinople, thinking he could hide himself more easily in a big city; but a light cannot be hidden. A child, blind from birth, was led by God's providence to Patapios. He besought the saint to pray to God that he be given his sight to look upon God's creation and praise Him all the more. Patapios, having compassion on the suffering child, prayed to God, and the child's sight was restored. This miracle revealed God's chosen one, and people rushed to him for healing, comfort and instruction. Patapios performed many other miracles, all through prayer in the name of Christ and by the sign of the Cross. In great old age, he peacefully entered the Heavenly Kingdom in the seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate the forefeast of the conception of the Theotokos; and Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus.

DECEMBER SERVICES

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***

December 14th Saturday — 5PM Great Vespers

December 15th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

**BISHOP THOMAS WILL BE PRESIDING OVER DIVINE LITURGY
AN ADVENT MEAL TO FOLLOW IN HALL**

****December 18th Wednesday—6PM Compline Prayers and
A Light Meal & Time of Study & Fellowship***

**December 21st Saturday —Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30am
5PM Great Vespers**

December 22th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

**DECEMBER 24th Tuesday— Royal Hours 9AM / Matins 9PM /
Divine Liturgy 10:00 PM / Fellowship to follow in Hall /
All are invited for our Christmas meal.**

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, Ray, Lori
Catechumens Breana, Jessica, Nicholas

**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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Muscian Appreciation Sunday

The second Sunday of December is set aside to remember and pray
for our faithful church musicians. They are always praying for us by
chanting the sacred hymns of our church. On this day, we say Thank
You and pray for them.

CHOIR RECOGNITION LUNCH will be held Jan.26 when all can attend.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**“Being bountiful and full of love, God awaits with great pa-
tience the repentance of every sinner, and he celebrates
the return of the sinner with celestial rejoicing.**

(St. Makarios of Egypt)

THE MANNA OF ST. NICHOLAS

Saint Nicholas, the 4th century Archbishop of Myra, is widely revered by Christians throughout the world. He is acclaimed for being a teacher of moderation, a model of faith and an example of virtue. His acts of kindness and generosity are remembered to this day.

Even in death, St. Nicholas continues to have a great impact on the lives of faithful Christians. From the time of his burial in the basilica of his church in Myra, the body of St. Nicholas has exuded a mysterious, miraculous liquid referred to as "manna." Those who are anointed with it often find themselves unexplainably healed of their illnesses. Countless others have their prayers answered through this special intercession of this beloved saint.

In 1087, the body of St. Nicholas was stolen from its resting place by sailors and taken to the seaport town of Bari, Italy, where a magnificent cathedral was built to house the relics of the famed Archbishop. Down through the centuries, the mysterious manna has continued to flow. In 1954, the crypt of St. Nicholas needed extensive repair, so it was necessary to exhume the saint's body from its tomb. When it was time for the body to be re-interred, the linen sheet upon which it had rested was found to be soaking wet - saturated from the manna! For many years now, it has been customary for the cathedral clergy to collect the manna in an urn for later distribution to the general public.

So it is that Bari now is closely associated with the name of St. Nicholas. But no town owns him. He belongs to all, for he is but another glorious member in the Body of Christ.

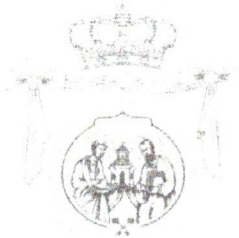
The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment Only



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 568/2024

“Nothing so arouses the soul, gives it wing, sets it free from the earth, releases it from the prison of the body, teaches it to love wisdom and to despise all the things of this life, as concordant melody and sacred song composed in rhythm.” +St. John Chrysostom (On Psalm 41)

Beloved Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-Loving Faithful,

Every year we set aside the second Sunday of December to remember and pray for our faithful church musicians. With God’s help and inspiration, they are always praying for us by chanting the sacred hymns of our Church. On this day we, in turn, say thank you and pray for them.

The hymnography of our Orthodox faith is an expression of theology. One could never pick up an academic or dogmatic book about the faith his entire life, but could still become a theologian by simply listening to and internalizing the words of these hymns.

At the same time, the richness of our hymns becomes even richer when they are chanted and sung correctly and with beauty. It is not by chance that countless numbers of people over the centuries were first attracted to the faith by the beauty of our services.

On the Sunday of Musician Appreciation Day, we extend heartfelt thanks to Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball and all the members of our archdiocesan Department of Sacred Music for their commitment in supporting this sacred ministry. They continue to expend the possibilities for people to learn how to chant and sing praises to our Lord through various means. We are especially grateful that, for the first time this year, we have started our Antiochian Orthodox Online Ecclesiastical Music School that trains people in both Western and Byzantine Music, according to their preferences and interests. This, in addition to the various Sacred Music Institutes, and youth and parish workshops sponsored by the Department, helps us to further develop and train our current and future musicians.

We also gratefully honor all of our choir directors, singers and chanters, the vast majority of whom dedicate themselves to this sacred ministry for little or no compensation. For them, it is indeed a labor of love. Wishing you God’s every blessing, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

✠/SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)