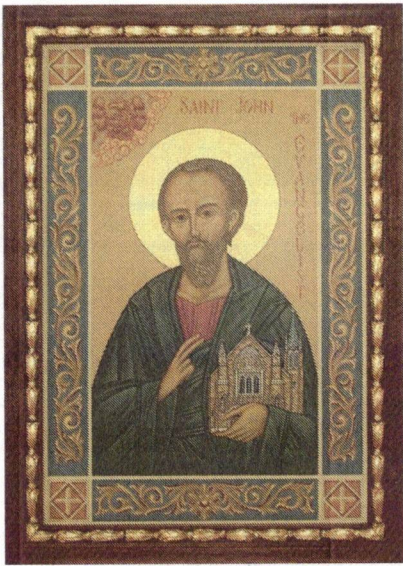




January 05, 2025



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 worshipping 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.

FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON JANUARY 06
THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

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

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? (***Refrain***)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. (***Refrain***)

Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (***Refrain***)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

Chant the Apolytikion of THEOPHANY. Then the following

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

****after the Entrance, sing these hymns in the following order.***

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (*Sung in place of "Holy God"*)

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. *(thrice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

*****The following variables in Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great*****

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.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THEOPHANY IN TONE EIGHT

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alleluia.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord .

***O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;
for His mercy endureth forever.***

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT CONTINUES NOW.....

JANUARY / FEBRUARY SERVICES

January 4th Saturday — No Great Vespers

January 5th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

THEOPHANY OF CHRIST — ST. BASIL LITURGY

“ Indoor Service of Great Blessing of the Water”

January 11th Saturday — NO Great Vespers

January 12th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

COUNCIL MEETING 12Noon

January 18th Saturday — Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30 AM

Great Vespers 5PM

January 19th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

January 22nd Wednesday —Daily Vespers at 6PM, light meal to follow with study session—GREAT LENT.

January 25th Saturday — Great Vespers 5AM

January 26th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

January 29th Wednesday — Daily Vespers at 6PM, light meal to follow with study session —GREAT LENT.

February 1st Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

February 2nd Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

February 5th Wednesday—Daily Vespers at 6PM, light meal to follow with study session—GREAT LENT.

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

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Ann, Carol, Debbie, Shannon, Aiden, Justin, Sassic Family, Harriet, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Trish, Cindy, Joann, Marlene, George, Julianna, Ray, Lori, Patrick, Dionisia and Labrini.

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, Eleanor.

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*****HOUSE BLESSING SCHEDULE*****

FR. Seraphim to bless houses in January by appointment. Last Sunday to sign up for house-blessings on Table in narthex and you will be called as to day and time that works for you. (Leave a phone number with your name.)

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

***“Everyone that preaches true faith and good works, what does he do but prepared the way of the Lord so that He may come into the hearts of his hearers, and make straight the path for God, forming right dispositions within them by words of his exhortations?
(St. Gregory the Great).***

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New Classes—GREAT LENT

Wednesday, January 22nd: DAILY VESPERS 6PM followed by fasting meal and Study of the Great Lent. Brochures will be on table in narthex. Print pages off website one time and use for 6 weeks prior to Lent.

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

On the great Feast Day of THEOPHANY, we commemorate, our Lord's baptism in the Jordan River by John. Have you ever wondered why Jesus was baptized? Why did the Sinless One need to submit to a ritual that symbolized the washing away of sins? St. John himself must have had the same question in his mind. The Gospels tell us that when Christ approached him in the Jordan, he was reluctant to baptize Him, saying: *"I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"* (Matthew 3:14) In the following verse of Matthew's Gospel, Christ answers: *"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."*

Therein lies our answer. Jesus certainly did not **NEED** purification. But by making the purification of humanity His own, He would wash away the sin of humanity, grant regeneration and reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Thus, Christ's baptism was necessary for the fulfillment of all of God's righteousness. St. Gregory of Nyssa puts it beautifully: *"JESUS ENTERS THE SINFUL WATERS OF THE WORLD, AND WHEN HE COMES OUT, HE PURIFIES THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH HIM."*

The Church refers to baptism as a *"new birth."* In this *"new birth,"* a true mystery takes place, for in the Sacrament of Baptism, we die, going down into the water to be mystically united to Christ in His death. Then we live again, rising up out of the water in His Resurrected humanity.

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

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
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OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only