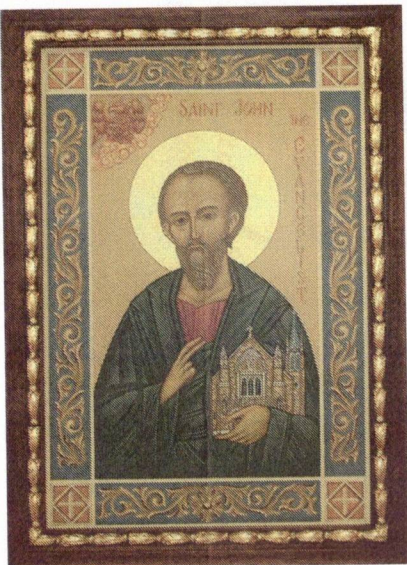


CONFESSION



THE SINS OF THOSE WHO
ASK FOR PARDON ARE FORGIVEN

February 16, 2025



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

**1501 8TH AVENUE
BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010**

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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 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, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 1

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

MARTYR PAMPHILOS, PRIEST OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE AND HIS COMPANIONS;

VENERABLE FLAVIAN THE HERMIT

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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 his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE THREE

*(**Special Melody: Today the Virgin**)*

Foolishly I sprang away * from Thy great fatherly glory, * and dispersed in wicked deeds * the riches that Thou didst give me. * With the Prodigal I therefore * cry unto Thee now: * I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. * But receive me in repentance; * make me as one of * Thy hired servants, O Lord.

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PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

**OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY
AFTER DIVINE LITURGY IN THE SANCTUARY.**

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am

THE GOSPEL (cont.)

no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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THE SYNAXARION

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstituted in the Triodion

Verses

‘ O thou who art like me, a prodigal, come forward with confidence and tranquility;

For unto all has been opened the door of Divine Mercy.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God’s compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

FEBRUARY/MARCH SERVICES

February 15th Saturday — Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30am
Great Vespers 5PM

February 16th Sunday — SUNDAY OF PRODIGAL SON
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

“OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BEGIN AFTER LITURGY “

***February 19th Wednesday—Daily Vespers at 6PM, light meal
to follow with study session—GREAT LENT.*

February 22nd Saturday — Saturday of Souls 10AM
Great Vespers 5PM

February 23rd Sunday — MEATFARE/ JUDGEMENT SUNDAY
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

***February 26th Wednesday—Daily Vespers at 6PM, light meal
to follow with study session—GREAT LENT.*

March 1st Saturday— Great Vespers 5PM

March 2nd Sunday — CHEESE FARE/FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
Forgiveness Vespers to follow D.L.

MARCH 3rd MONDAY — Great Compline with Great Canon of
St. Andrew @ 6PM

March 4th Tuesday — Great Compline with Great Canon of
St. Andrew @ 6PM

March 5th Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.

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

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENT

FR. SERAPHIM WILL BE AWAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY THIS WEEK. HE WILL BE SERVING THE "SATURDAY OF ALL SOULS LITURGY" AT 10 AM THIS COMING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND. NAMES THAT WERE SUBMITTED AND USED LAST YEAR WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICE.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A CHRISTIAN LIFE WITHOUT PAIN IS BOGUS. PAIN OF THE HEART IS ESSENTIAL FOR SALVATION."

(Metropolitan Vlachos)

OUR MEANS OF RECONCILING WITH GOD

From the time Adam and Eve exercised their free will to choose to disobey God, man has had the need for forgiveness. We all have fallen short of the high expectations that the Lord has for all of His children, allowing sin to overcome us again and again. Sin separates us from our Heavenly Father, but fortunately, He has provided us with a means of reconciling with Him through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Since Confession is such an important part of the Lenten season, let us take a closer look at this Mystery of the Church.

Confession entails much more than merely listing and expressing some degree of sorrow for our sins. Before coming to Confession, it is necessary for us to examine our conscience – we must sincerely search our souls and determine where we have strayed from the path God has

charted for us. Our confession must be an honest attempt to admit the many ways we have transgressed God's Laws. Certainly, our All-Knowing God cannot be fooled! For the Grace of God to truly enter us through the Sacrament of Confession, however, we must experience a real feeling of REPENTANCE. Repentance literally means "to change." Confession must bring about a change in our lifestyle. Confessing our sinful ways is one thing . . . casting aside and walking away from our sinful deeds is another matter entirely!

During the Great Fast, may we all avail ourselves to the wonderful opportunity the Church gives us to "make things right" with the Lord, through the Sacrament of Holy Confession. Seek out the spiritual help this Sacrament provides.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ