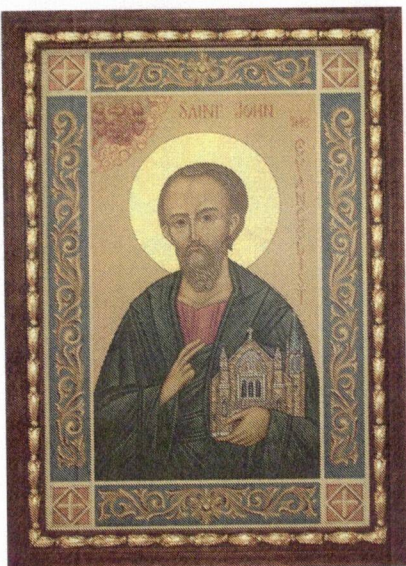




February 23, 2025



**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 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 23, 2025

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 2

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP, BISHOP OF SMYRNA;

VENERABLE GORAGONIA, SISTER OF GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

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. Be-seech 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 SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT IN TONE ONE

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Christ helps those who are fighting the good fight, that all Saints embrace in order to subdue the flesh to the spirit. Even when wounded, we must never lose our composure but should instead ask for God’s help. In continuing with the struggle courageously. The Good Shepherd will hear us and rush to our aid, just as a shepherd responds to the bleating lamb that is lost or wounded or threatened by a wolf.”

(St. Paisios the Anthonite)

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Lord is my strength and my song.

With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the
Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)**

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in pris and you came to me.'" Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a

When Does Lent Begin?

It begins following "Forgiveness Vespers" on March 2 (usually at the end of the day). Our Forgiveness Vespers will be held following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 2. Monday, March 3 is the first full day of Lent. Why Forgiveness Vespers to begin Lent? Think of this world, of your life, of the Church without forgiveness. Forgiveness, God's forgiveness, our forgiveness keeps us connected to God (close to God) and to one another. Without it there would be no church. It is the foundation of all things and begins with God and is extended to His people. We end Forgiveness Vespers with the words, "Forgive me my brother, my sister. God forgive us." Next to receiving Communion, it may be the most powerful moment we have approaching Lent! "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8).

Weekly Prayer for the Catechumens

During Lent we will have a prayer for the catechumens on Sundays after the homily and before the priest says, "Help us, save us, have mercy on us." The following is the prayer: *"O Lord our God, who dwells on high and regards things below, who has sent forth as the salvation of the race of men thine only begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ: Look down upon your servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before you; make them worthy in due season of the laver of regeneration, the remission of sins and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to your Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and number them with thine elect flock, that with us they may glorify thine all-honorable and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever*

and unto ages of ages." On Wednesdays during the Pre-sanctified Liturgies at 6:00 PM, we will also have a litany for the catechumens. On Saturday, April 12 (St Lazarus Saturday) in a 2:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy, those ready to be received into the Church will be Chrismated.

March Birthday

8 Jaxen Covalt

Anniversary

21 Jim and Tina Tutwiler

Council Update

The Parish Council met on Feb 9. Reports were received and a financial summary for January is below:

Total Income: \$7,528.00

Total Expense: \$3,556.91

Net Ordinary Income: \$3,965.29

Lent is . . ."A journey, a pilgrimage! Yet as we begin it, as we make the first step into the "bright sadness" of Lent we see far, far away—the destination. It is the joy of Easter. It is the entrance into the glory of the Kingdom. And it is this vision, the foretaste of Easter that makes Lent's sadness bright and our Lenten effort "spiritual spring." The night may be dark and long, but all along the way a mysterious and radiant dawn seems to shine on the horizon. 'Do not deprive us of our expectation O Lover of man!'"

(from Fr Alexander Schmemmann, *The Great Lent.*)

Lenten Schedule on other side. Please keep.

FEB 22 All Souls Saturday @ 10AM (Only one I plan to have.)

FIRST WEEK:

- Mar 2 FORGIVENESS VESPERS after Divine Liturgy
- Mar 3 6:00 PM - Great Compline with one quarter of Great Canon of St. Andrew
- Mar 4 6:00 PM - Great Compline with second quarter of Great Canon of St. Andrew
- Mar 5 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Mar 6 6:00 PM - Great Compline with the third quarter of Great Canon of St. Andrew.
- Mar 7 6:00 PM - Little Compline with Akathist

SECOND WEEK

- Mar 12 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Mar 14 6:00 PM - Little Compline with Akathist

THIRD WEEK

- Mar 19 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Mar 21 6:00 PM - Little Compline with Akathist

FOURTH WEEK

- Mar 25 6:00 PM Vespersal Divine Liturgy for Annunciation followed by light meal.
- Mar 26 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Mar 28 6:00 PM - Little Compline with Akathist

FIFTH WEEK

- Apr 2 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Apr 3 6:00 PM - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/ story of St. Mary of Egypt
- Apr 4 6:00 PM - Little Compline with Akathist

SIXTH WEEK

- Apr 9 6:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
- Apr 11 6:00 PM Little Compline with the Canon of Raising of Lazarus
- Apr 12 2:00 PM Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom for Lazarus Saturday/ followed by receiving of Catechumens into the Church followed by a light meal.
5:00 PM - Great Vespers for Palm Sunday.

HOLY WEEK

- Apr 13 9:00 AM Matins / 10 AM Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Palm Sunday
6:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday
- Apr 14 4:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
6:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins for Holy Tuesday.
- Apr 15 6:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday
- Apr 16 4:00 PM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.
6:00 PM Holy Unction
- Apr 17 10 AM - St. Basil Liturgy for the Mystical Supper Christ
6:00 PM - Matins service with the 12 Passion Gospels (placing Christ on the Cross.)
- Apr 18 9:00 AM - Royal Hours
6:00 PM - Matins with the Lamentations for Holy Saturday
- Apr 19 9:00 AM - St Basil Evening Divine Liturgy
- Apr 19/20 10:00 PM - Vigil of Pascha followed by Matins & Divine Liturgy followed by a meal in the hall.
- Apr 20 12 Noon - Agape Vespers

THE GOSPEL (cont.)

stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

THE SYNAXARION

On February 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; and Venerable Gorgonia, sister of Gregory the Theologian.

Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses

**When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!**

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today's Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God's ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

FEBRUARY/MARCH SERVICES

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.**

**March 6th Thursday — Great Compline with Great Canon of
St. Andrew @ 6PM**

March 7th Friday — Little Compline w/ Akathist @ 6PM

March 8th Saturday— Great Vespers 5PM

March 9th Sunday — SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
PROCESSION OF THE ICONS at end of Divine Liturg

**March 12th 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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SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE EAST

2025 NAB PROJECT

**CELEBRATE AND INCREASE
THE ENDOWMENT FUND FOR OUR
BELOVED WIDOWED CLERGY WIVES.**

Donations will be collected at the end of

Divine Liturgy

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

The Orthodox Church has had a long-established practice of praying for the departed. This reflects the view that the "communion of the saints" encompasses the church Militant (those on earth) and the Church Triumphant (those who have already passed on to their eternal reward). Our prayers for the departed, therefore, are a continuation of the bond of love that we form in our human relationships with family and friends: a bond that even death cannot sever.

In her infinite wisdom, the Church designates several days in the liturgical year when we are called upon to offer prayers for the departed. Every Saturday is dedicated to those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. It was on the Sabbath day that Christ lay dead in the tomb "resting from all His works and trampling down death by death." Special Memorial Saturdays, referred to as "All Soul's Saturdays," are also commemorated. While differences in these commemorations may arise in various Orthodox jurisdictions, let us all focus on the importance of remembering the dead. Jesus referred to heaven as "My Father's House." Knowing that our loved ones are in our Father's House should motivate us to pray for them. The Church also encourages prayers for the departed on the third, ninth and fortieth day after their death.

Orthodox prayers for our deceased loved ones are not only for them but also for Christ in Whom they died. "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said, "he who believes in Me though he were dead yet shall he live, and he who lives and believes in Me shall have life everlasting."

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**St. John the Evangelist
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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG**

**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only**