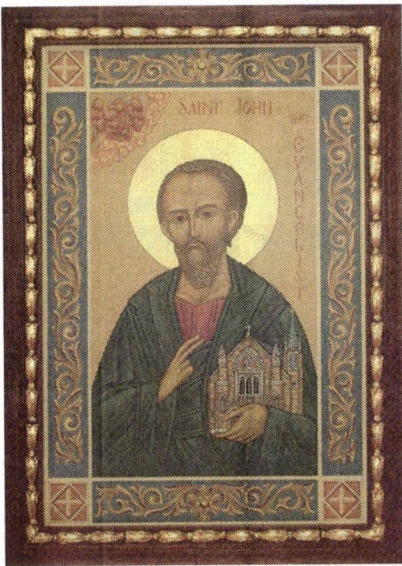


*Icons are to be Venerated;
God alone is to be served in Faith*



March 9, 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.

DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 09, 2025

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY) & THE HOLY AND GREAT FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA

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

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

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

Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can cause all his praises to be heard? Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (***Refrain***)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Let them praise the Lord for His mercies, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.

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

Let them exalt Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the seat of the elders. (***Refrain***)

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; to hear the groaning of the prisoners, to loosen the sons of the slain. (***Refrain***)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto Thee forever.

****after verse of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the First Sunday of Great Lent.***

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA IN TONE ONE

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O 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 SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual.

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.

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TRISAGION TODAY FOR PARENTS OF YVONNE & LEONARD BENNETT.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia)

Thou, O Lord, will 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 Hebrews. (12:1-10)

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely; and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus: the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son: do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him; for the Lord disciplines him whom He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

THE GOSPEL

(For the First Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

MARCH SERVICES

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

COUNCIL MEETING @ 12 NOON

**March 12th Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.**

March 14th Friday — Little Compline w/Akathist @ 6PM

**March 15th Saturday — Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30 AM
Great Vespers 5PM**

March 16th Sunday — SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

**March 19th Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.**

March 21st Friday — Little Compline w/Akathist @ 6PM

March 22nd Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

March 23rd Sunday — VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

March 25th Tuesday — ANNUNCIATION

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 6PM

**March 26th Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.**

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

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Harriet, Sassic Family, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, George, Julianna, Lori, Oliver. Kevin, Pauline, Despina 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 of

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If God called you to live in the world, then you are the light of the world. Whatever the outward circumstances of your life, however chaotic things may be at times, you have a little monastery in your heart where you may retreat to find solace and strength in the midst of troubles and temptations of life. Remember, "The Kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

Vassilios Pavaassilious

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ICON PROCESSION for SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

after "BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD...."

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A COLLECTION FOR THE EDUCATION AND FORMATION OF OUR YOUNG MEN STUDYING FOR THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD WILL BE TAKEN AT THE END OF LITURGY. YOUR DONATION TOWARDS SUPPORT OF SEMINARIANS & THEIR FAMILIES. IS GREATLY APPRECIATED . METROPOLITAN SABA

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: A DAY OF TRIUMPH

The importance of the use and veneration of icons by the Orthodox Church is well-documented today. There was a time, however, when their use was forbidden. Those who opposed the use of icons were referred to as **"iconoclasts,"** which literally means **"image breakers."** This controversy raged for over 100 years, and was seemingly settled at the 7th Ecumenical Council, which convened in Nicea in 787 A.D. The Church Fathers decreed that the veneration of icons was a long standing tradition of the Church, and that this practice was not, in any way, in conflict with the Second Commandment, which directs us **"not to make unto ourselves any graven image."**

The 7th Ecumenical Council, however, did not completely settle

this issue. The conflict over icons continued until 843 A.D. when a local council, led by Patriarch Methodios of Constantinople, established the 1st Sunday of Lent as a day of celebration of the **"Triumph of Orthodoxy"** and the return of holy icons to their rightful place in churches everywhere.

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a celebration of all of the faithful men and women who struggled for the Faith in times of persecution. On this great day, all Orthodox Christians are called upon to remember the example of these holy ones and to renew our own commitment to Christ and His Church. We proudly proclaim today that the rich Orthodox Faith that we possess is truly **"THE FAITH OF THE APOSTLES . . . THE FAITH OF THE FATHERS . . . THE FAITH WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED THE UNIVERSE."**

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By Appointment Only