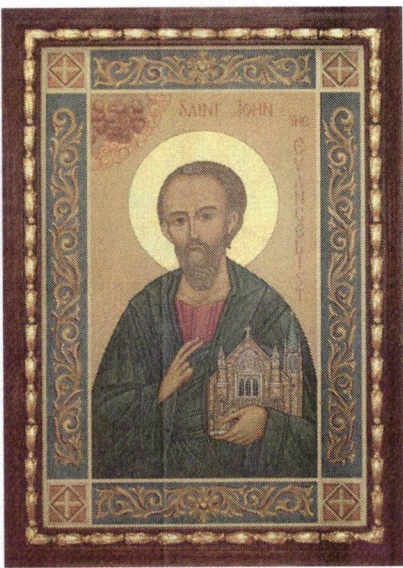


March 16, 2025



***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 16, 2025

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Commemoration of Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica

Martyr Sabinos of Egypt; Venerable Christodoulos the wonderworker of Patmos

****Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great****

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonderworker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

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 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.

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ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

**THOSE DESIRING CONFESSION DURING LENT OR
HOLY WEEK SHOULD SCHEDULE TIME AHEAD WITH
FR. SERAPHIM.**

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt 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. (1:10-2:3)

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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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THE SYNAXARION

On this day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica..

Verses

The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning
The Light's own truly great and resplendent herald.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a hierarch, a theologian who defeated the heretics of his era, and a miracle-worker who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

MARCH/APRIL SERVICES

March 15th Saturday — 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 21th 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.**

March 28th Friday — Little Compline w/Akathist @ 6PM

March 29th Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

March 30th Sunday — ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

**April 2nd Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.**

April 4th Friday — Little Compline w/Akathist @ 6PM

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, Julius, John, and Bonnie.

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 **ND Bernard Wilson.**

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Repentance leads us also to the Sacrament of Confession. Why is confession a sacrament? Because it reconciles us to the Church and if we have committed grievous sins that prohibit us from participation in the Eucharist, it brings us back into eucharistic communion with our fellow Christians. Sin separates from God and from one another. The priest in confession represents not only Christ, but also the church. St. James writes, ‘Confess your sins to one another’ (James 5:16) But we cannot always trust people in the Church to respond to our sins in a pastoral manner or to keep sensitive matters to themselves. Therefore it is the priest’s role to represent the whole Church, to receive penitents, and assure them of Christ’s forgiveness.

(Vassilios Pappavassilious, *Thirty Steps to Heaven.*)

"HEAVENWARD! HEAVENWARD!"

Teach year on the 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast, the Holy Orthodox Church honors the memory of ST. GREGORY PALAMAS. Gregory lived in the 14th century and would rise to the prominent position of Archbishop of Thessalonica one day. He is best remembered, however, for his exemplary life as a monastic: a life he embraced at the young age of 20.

Much of Gregory's life was lived on Mt. Athos. Much of his time was spent in contemplative silence and prayer. He fully embraced the spirit and philosophy of "hesychasm" -- a method of inward prayer of the heart that was taught by the severe ascetics of the Holy Mountain.

As St. Gregory gained popularity and notoriety with the Church, his teaching of hesychasm caused him to be at odds with other theologians and hierarchs. His position that God, unapproachable in His Essence, was nevertheless revealed through His Energies. This brought Gregory ridicule and condemnation. He was even imprisoned and labelled a "heretic" for maintaining that the Kingdom of God is within us -- in our **WHOLE NATURE**, body and soul. Ultimately, the Council of Blachernae upheld the truth of his teachings. This is why he is praised in his troparion on this day as being the "light of Orthodoxy" and the "champion of theologians."

St. Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, 1359 A.D. He was canonized a saint just 9 years later. His dying words were: "Heavenward! Heavenward!" Indeed, the life lived by this blessed saint was constantly pointed in the direction of the Kingdom of God.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

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

**St. John the Evangelist
Orthodox Church
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Beaver Falls, PA 15010**

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG**

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only