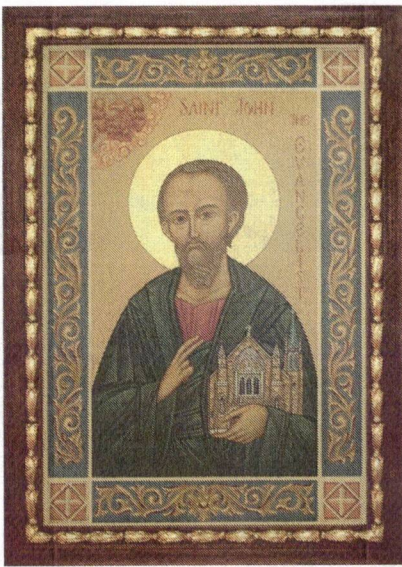


LENT IS A TIME FOR
PRAYER

March 30, 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 30, 2025

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 7

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

NEW HIEROMARTYR ZACHARIAH, METROPOLITAN OF CORINTH; SOPHRONIOS,
BISHOP OF IRKUTSK

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

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save 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.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

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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On this day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

Verses

John, dead in the flesh and also living,
liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.

Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,
he showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.

On the thirtieth John departed rejoicing.

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Repentance is the renewal of baptism, and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life.”

(St. John Climacus)

MARCH/APRIL SERVICES

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 3rd Thursday — Canon of St. Andrew of Crete w/story of
St. Mary of Egypt @ 6PM**

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

April 5th Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

April 6th Sunday — ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

COUNCIL MEETING TODAY 12 NOON

**April 9th Wednesday — Presanctified Liturgy @ 6PM
followed by a light meal.**

**April 11th Friday — Little Compline with the Canon of
Raising of Lazarus @ 6PM.**

**April 12th Saturday — 1:30PM Baptism and Reception of Catechu
mans into the Church which takes place before and during the
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostem for St. Lazarus Saturday
/followed by a light meal.**

April 12th Saturday — Great Vespers for Palm Sunday 5PM

April 13th Sunday — PALM SUNDAY—Palms to be blessed

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

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

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NEW IN APRIL

Based upon our Metropolitan's request we will be making two adjustments pertaining to our Divine Liturgy. First, for those coming forward for Communion or a blessing, please venerate the icon in the front center of the Church first and proceed to the priest. As Metropolitan Saba said, "It is not necessary to venerate an icon after receiving Communion." It is fine to receive blessed bread and to share with visitors and others who are not Orthodox.

Secondly, at the dismissal, come forward to receive blessed bread from the priest, who will cross you with his right hand, holding blessed bread that you will receive in your palm (so as to not to drop any) after kissing his hand. We plan to begin this practice on the first Sunday in April. At the conclusion of other services the hand cross will be used to bless people.

NOTE: Upon entering the building, it is appropriate to venerate the icon near the narthex doors on the left and, if there is time, to go to the icon in the front center of the church to venerate before venerating the icon of Christ and the Theotokos to the right and front of the center. Upon leaving the church, face the front, cross yourself, and exit.

A "RECIPE" FOR A SUCCESSFUL PRAYER LIFE

While Great Lent is often looked upon as being a time of increased prayer, it must be pointed out that prayer is ALWAYS an essential element in our spiritual lives. What is prayer? By definition, it is "communion with God." Prayer can take several forms. There are prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of worship & prayers of petition.

The power of prayer cannot be matched by any other force. When the Apostles questioned Christ concerning why they could not cast out a demon that was possessing a young boy, the Lord responded that such things could only be accomplished through PRAYER & FASTING. On another occasion, Jesus had this to say about prayer: "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you will receive them, & you will have them."

There are several key ingredients to a successful prayer life. First, we must pray with FAITH. We must certainly believe that God CAN help us & answer our prayers.

Next, we must pray PERSISTENTLY. How impatient we are with our prayers! We must learn not to give up if our prayers are not answered immediately. Remember the Canaanite woman, who relentlessly pursued the Lord until He granted her request? She would not take "no" for an answer!

Finally, we must pray with HUMILITY. We must never forget that God is our FATHER & we are His CHILDREN. He is the MASTER & we are the SERVANT. Surely, Christ's own example while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane should indelibly mark this in our mind. What were His words? NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE! Rest assured that the Lord hears all of our prayers. May this intimate conversation with God be an important part of every day for us.

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

**St. John the Evangelist
Orthodox Church
1501 8th Avenue
Beaver Falls, PA 15010**

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

**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only**

A VERY SPECIAL MONTH:

April will be a very special month as we begin it with St Mary of Egypt, continuing our Wednesday Pre-sanctified Liturgies, celebrating St Lazarus Saturday by receiving our catechumens into the Church during the St Lazarus Liturgy, celebrating with Palms on Palm Sunday, walking together in Holy Week with the Lord through our daily services, and culminating with the Great Feast of Pascha on Saturday at the end of Holy Week.

St Mary of Egypt's life reminds us of the importance of repentance. At a young age she desired to ruin her life and the lives of others. When she traveled to Palestine and tried to enter the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem she felt an invisible force deny her. Upon seeing the icon of the Theotokos, she repented and found her life changed. She would spend many years in the wilderness repenting and repose there. Her life story is told with the Little Compline and Canon of St Andrew of Crete on Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 PM.

Pre-sanctified services continue in April. **See bulletin for details.**

We are glad to receive into the Church catechumens Breanna Wenzig, Jessica Hill, and Nicholas Komo, Jr. on Lazarus Saturday, April 12. The service of Baptism and Chrismation will begin at 1:30 and various parts of these services will be included in the Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy. Come, witness, and partake of the Lord's Supper on this special day. Welcome Home to those coming into the Church. A fasting meal will follow the service prior to Palm Sunday Vespers at 5:00.

April 13 marks Palm Sunday when we remember the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. **Holy Week services and details can be found in the bulletin.**

Holy Saturday is a reminder that on this day our Lord rested from his work of the new creation on the Sabbath as God rested on the 7th day at the original creation.

Holy Week is important for all to attend. I am especially grateful to the chanters and choir who help lead us through it and for the Lord who gives us the strength to do so.

Yes, join us for the Great and Glorious Pasha beginning at 10 PM on Saturday, April 19 when all will sing and say, "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

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+++MEMORY ETERNAL+++

Ann Hilton, age 96, reposed on February 28 in Jameson Hospital, New Castle not far from the Avalon Care Facility where she lived for the past two years. Her family and church friends, who were able, attended her service at St John's Church on March 4. She was buried following the service at Sylvania Hills Cemetery in Rochester Township.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8 Nora Covalt
10 Daniel Wigglesworth
14 Nicholas Komo

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The council met on March 9. Brief reports were made. The February Financial Report showed:

Total Gross Income: \$8861.60

Total Gross Expenses: \$7730.63

Officers elected for the coming year are:

Dan Volitich, President

Eric Bendekovic, Vice President

Joann Rossman, Secretary

Joni Volitich, Treasurer

NOTES FROM: THE MEANING OF GREAT LENT by Archbishop Kallistos Ware

+The primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

+True fasting is to be converted in heart and will, it is to return to God.

+Fasting must be combined with prayer and almsgiving (love, works of compassion. Forgiveness).

+Almsgiving can be giving money, time, and especially giving part of ourselves.

+The purpose of fasting is to cleanse OUR WILL.

+While preparing for Lent it is good to have a sense of eager expectation, intense desire to see our Lord, a desire for a clearer vision of God.

+If there is not eager expectation, no sincere desire, we shall see and receive NOTHING!

+The Great Fast is a preparation for the Second Coming of Christ, for the eternal Passover in the Age to Come.

+There can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God UNLESS we are at the same time reconciled with one another. (FORGIVENESS))

+We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family. Our asceticism and fasting should not separate us from our fellow men but LINK US to them with ever stronger bonds.

+May we come un-condemned to worship at the Holy Resurrection.

+ + +

"After the resurrection, our bodies will be spiritual, and not earthly ones, everything earthly will remain upon earth. Remembering what our future abode may be, Christians, let us, then, gradually detach ourselves from anything earthly." (St John of Kronstadt)