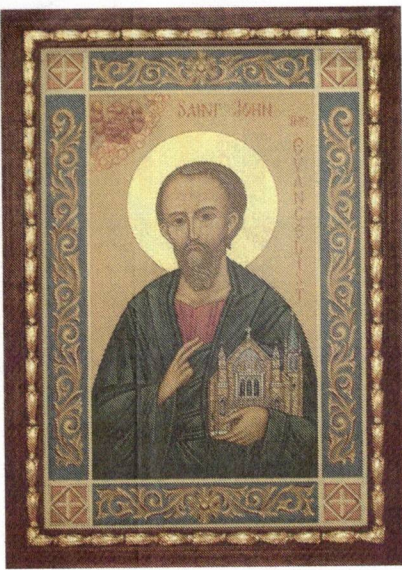


March 23, 2025



***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, MARCH 23, 2025

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 6

THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

VENERABLE-MARTYR NIKON OF SICILY AND WITH HIM 199 DISCIPLES

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

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, has been signed upon us. Thou hast given to those that fear thee a sign, to flee from the bow.

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

Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast given an inheritance to those that fear Thy Name, O Lord. (***Refrain***)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Let us worship at the place where His feet have stood.

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

God is our King before the ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. (***Refrain***)

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. (***Refrain***)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool. O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Feed them, and lift them up forever.

After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Holy Cross.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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 ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify. **(thrice)** *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.* And we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

Dynamis!

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one Who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are

THE EPISTLE (CONT.)

erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron. So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

(For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been signed upon us. Alleluia.

***Post-Communion Hymn: Instead of "We have seen the true light,"
sing the Apolytikion of the Holy Cross.***

MARCH/APRIL SERVICES

March 22nd Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

March 23rd Sunday — VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

March 25th Tuesday — ANNUNCIATION

Vespereal 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 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.**

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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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Christ was crucified by ‘this world,’ by its sin, its evil, its struggle against God, in earthly history, in our earthly time, the *initiative* of the cross belongs to sin, just as it belongs to it even today, in each of us, when through our sins we ‘crucify the Son of God on (our) own account and hold him up to contempt’ (Hebrews 6:6).”

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

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TODAY.....

**PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS
AS DONE ON THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

PROCESSION FOLLOWS:

“BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD” IN DIVINE LITURGY

SUFFERING BRINGS GLORY



At this midpoint of Lent, which the Orthodox Church designates as CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY, the symbol of the Cross is put before us. Let these words by Matthew the Poor serve to strengthen and refresh us:

"For Christ, the mystery of the Cross is the mystery of His glory. The overwhelming suffering the Lord underwent, His psychological torment at the injustice and crookedness of His trial, the desertion of His disciples, the treachery of Judas, and the knowledge that the high priests had agreed with one of His disciples to put a value of just thirty pieces of silver on His life — all this was a path for Him to leave the world of passing trivialities and enter into the glory of the Father. We in every time and place must tread the same path. The Cross with its enormous suffering cannot be compared with the glory it brought forth. The Cross did not come by chance into the life of the Lord; He was born for it. "For this purpose I have come to this hour" (Jn. 12:27). Man is born for suffering, and suffering was born for man. But at the same time the Cross was not an irrevocable imposition on the Lord. We feel this from His words and are sure of it in view of His holiness and divinity. He made it irrevocable for Himself — "Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?" (Jn. 18:11) — in order to share with us the inevitability of the suffering."

Icon by Nataliya Zharsky



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

St. John the Evangelist
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WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only