

SAINT

PETER

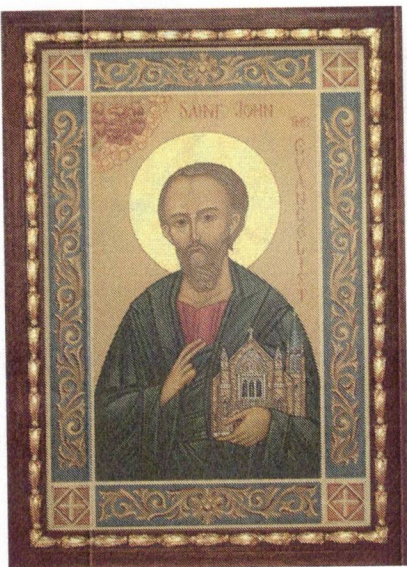
THE  
APOSTLE



BLESSED BE  
THE GOD  
AND  
FATHER  
OF OUR  
LORD  
JESUS  
CHRIST

**Trust in God's forgiveness when you fall short**

**April 6, 2025**



*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

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[WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG](http://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

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*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 .*

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*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.*

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## **DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 06, 2025**

### **TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8; FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

Eutychios, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Platonida of Nisibis in Syria

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

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT**

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT IN TONE EIGHT**

Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

### **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.

### **ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

## THE EPISTLE

***Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.***

***God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.***

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)**

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

”

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (10:32-45)**

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise.” And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, “Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire” And Jesus said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And they said to Him, “Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, “You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

***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 same day, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

*Verses*

‘ Spirit rose up, flesh melted away erewhile; hide, O earth, the worn bones of Mary’s body.

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: “If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!” Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary’s lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

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**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

*When Christ says, “If any man will come after me,” St. John Chrysostom writes (He makes each one of us) “Lord of his own choice. For to good things do I call you, not to things evil or burdensome, not to punishment, and vengeance, that I should have to compel... Although it be in My power, as Son of God, to hinder you from having any trial at all of those hardships, yet such is not My will for your sake, that you may yourself contribute something and be more approved.”*

## **APRIL SERVICES**

**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**

**Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday 6PM**

**April 14th Monday — Pre-sanctified Liturgy @ 4PM  
followed by a light meal**

**Bridegroom Matins for Holy Tuesday @ 6PM**

**April 15th Tuesday — Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday**

**April 16th Wednesday — Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ 4PM  
followed by a light meal.**

**Holy Unction @ 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 .....

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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.*

## "I DO NOT KNOW THE MAN"

**O**f all of the Apostles, Peter was undoubtedly the most impulsive and boisterous. When our Lord walked across the Sea of Galilee, it was Peter who wanted to join Him. When Jesus questioned the Twelve, inquiring Who they thought He was, it was Peter who boldly proclaimed his belief that He was ". . . *the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*" It is no surprise, therefore to read in the Gospels that when our Lord addressed His followers at the Mystical Supper and predicted that they would all soon abandon Him, Peter loudly protested that even if threatened with death, he would remain loyal to His Master.

As we progress through Lent, we will find that Christ's words were true. After Jesus was arrested, Peter had several opportunities to prove his faithfulness. With the unfolding of Christ's trial before Pilate, we witness his cowardly denial -- not once, but three times -- of even knowing Him! As a cock crowed in the distance, Peter remembered Christ's words, and he wept bitterly. It is no wonder that after our Lord's Resurrection, He poses the question "*Do you love Me?*" to Peter three times as a reminder of how he fell short of what was expected of him.

There is a great lesson here for all of us to learn. It is relatively easy to be a loyal follower of Christ when everything is going well in our lives. The difficulty in living a Christian life comes when our faith is tested, and when our belief in Christ and His teachings force us to take a stand on matters that may not be popular or in accordance with the prevailing attitudes of the times. We must remain firm in our faith. Our Lord is not looking for "*fair weather followers.*" Indeed, only those who willingly would give their lives for Him will ever see the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

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**OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment Only**