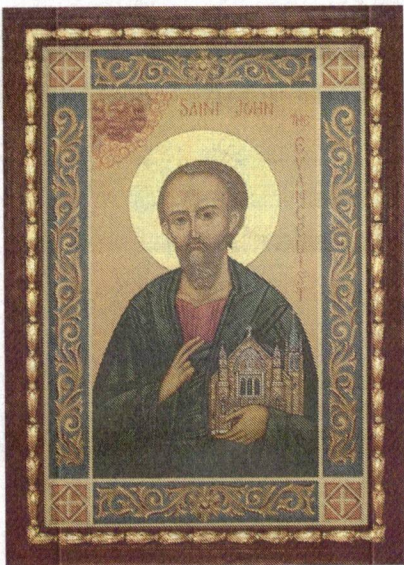




BEHOLD
our Risen Lord!

April 20, 2025



***ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

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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 FOR
SUNDAY OF GREAT AND ALL-HOLY PASCHA

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

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

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (***Refrain***)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

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

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (***Refrain***)

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (***Refrain***)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those that hate Him flee from before His face.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (***Refrain***)

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. (***Refrain***)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (***Refrain***)

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NO FAST DAYS FROM PASCHA THROUGH TO MAY 29TH.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*once*)

THE HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE FOUR

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (*thrice*) *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.* Have put on Christ. Alleluia. Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

THE EPISTLE

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**"CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH,
AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMB BESTOWING LIFE."**

APRIL/MAY SERVICES

April 19th/20th Sat/Sun — Midnight Vigil @10PM and the
Matins & Divine Liturgy service for PASCHA
A fellowship to follow the service—
Everyone is invited to join us for an Easter meal in our Hall.

April 20th Sunday — AGAPE Service @12Noon

April 26th Saturday — BRIGHT SATURDAY

Great Vespers 5PM

April 27th Sunday — THOMAS SUNDAY

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

ANNOUNCEMENT: FROM MAY 1ST THROUGH AUGUST 30TH
WE WILL NOT BE HAVING SATURDAY GREAT VESPERS
(Fr. Seraphim has too many Saturday's away)

May 4th Sunday — MYRRH BEARING WOMEN

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

May 11th Sunday — SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

May 18th Sunday — SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON

May 25th Sunday — SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

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. Claire, Pauline, Despina, Julius, John, and Bonnie.

Newly Chrismated 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.

GOD'S ULTIMATE PROMISE FULFILLED

Throughout the course of history, God promised His people many things. He promised the Israelites a land of their own, and after wandering in the wilderness for forty years, they received their promised homeland. God promised that He would send a Messiah to an anxious world, and He did so in the Person of Jesus Christ, His Only-begotten Son. God's greatest promise to mankind was given through Christ, when He said: **"THE SON OF MAN WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES, AND THEY WILL CONDEMN HIM TO DEATH AND DELIVER HIM TO THE GENTILES. THEY WILL MOCK HIM AND SPIT UPON HIM, AND SCOURGE HIM AND KILL HIM. AND AFTER THREE DAYS, HE WILL RISE AGAIN."** (Mark 10:33-34)

Pascha is, indeed, the fulfillment of this wonderful promise. Throughout Holy Week, we walked the way of the Cross with our Savior. We witnessed His arrest and trial. We were present when He was beaten and humiliated. We were there when He breathed His last breath as He hung on the Cross.

Today, we bask in the glory of Christ's Resurrection. Death could not defeat Him! The grave could not hold Him! The empty tomb will forever testify to the undisputable fact that our Lord kept His promise: He DID rise again!

On this Feasts of Feasts, may we all remember that Christ's victory is OUR victory as well. Death will not have a permanent hold on us either. Eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven awaits all of Christ's faithful followers. Let us all lift up our voices today and proclaim: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

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

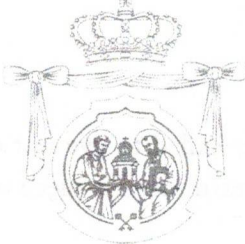
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Christ is Risen
Indeed He is Risen

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 155/2025

Great and Holy Pascha - 2025

Beloved in Christ:

The Most Reverend Hierarchs,

The Reverend Priests and Deacons,

And the devout People of God in this blessed Archdiocese,

Christ is risen! I greet you with the most beautiful proclamation on this radiant and divine Pascha. I offer my heartfelt prayers for each of you daily, asking for God's abundant mercy and the joy of victory over death—every kind of death—for all of you.

I will not address the glorious event of the Resurrection from a doctrinal perspective today, but instead, I wish to offer a brief reflection.

In our Church, each feast is a moment where we relive the event itself. At Pascha, as you know, we walk with our Lord Jesus through every step of His salvific journey, culminating in His resurrection from the dead. The Cross precedes the Resurrection; death precedes life. This is why we begin our Paschal celebration on Great and Holy Friday evening. In the middle of the service, immediately after the chanting of the lamentations for the death of the Lord, we begin chanting the Resurrectional verses: *"Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes."*

There is a beautiful tradition in some churches where this funeral service begins with clergy wearing dark purple vestments, the color of the Lenten season. Then, following the lamentations, they change into white vestments. It is worth noting that white, the color of the Resurrection, becomes predominant in the church coverings and clergy vestments following the service.

All of this is an outward expression affirming that the Cross (death) and the Resurrection are one inseparable event. If we walk with Christ in His Passion, it is to prepare for the joy of His Resurrection.

Thus, it is only the repentant—those who recognize their sins and feel the need to be freed from them—who know how to crucify their sins with Christ, bury them in His tomb, and rise with Him in His Resurrection, striving toward the face of the Risen Lord. Then their eyes become fixed on Christ the Risen One, and through His Resurrection and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

they come to understand that they are called to live not on earth, but in heaven—and thus realize that their Christian calling is to make earth itself a piece of heaven.

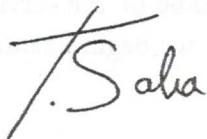
After our Christ defeated death, we now understand—by the grace of the Risen Lord—that we are responsible for transforming the world and restoring it to the Kingdom of God, beginning by purifying it from sin. But we have also begun to understand that this great work does not begin with others – it begins with us and within us.

What remains is for us to live a new life: a life free of sin, a life the world does not know, for it is according to God's will, not our own. I invite you to reflect with me on words written by Metropolitan Georges Khodr on Pascha 2014, when he had reached the age of ninety-one:

"I am a crossing, O Lord, until I meet You. Do not allow me to distract myself: 'Shine Your face upon Your servant,' that I may become of Your light. Take me to You, that I may know You. Do not leave me in the wilderness of this world. Do not leave me prey to the beasts. Come, for in Your coming I am formed. If You come to me, I will complete my journey toward Your face, O Lord. If I see You, Your face becomes my world. Nothing benefits me but Your face. That is Pascha. Let no other face distract me from You. Fix my eyes upon it. Each day, I desire Your face, O Master. Let it suffice for me as my life. Train me to see You as my all in this age and the one to come, so that I may understand You are existence itself. Discipline me to forsake all things to see You. If I attain You, You will take care of me. I will become Paschal in You. And if I reach You, my journey ends." (From "Who Am I at Pascha," Pascha 2014)

May the joy of our Risen Lord flood your hearts at all times.

Yours in the Risen Christ,



+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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