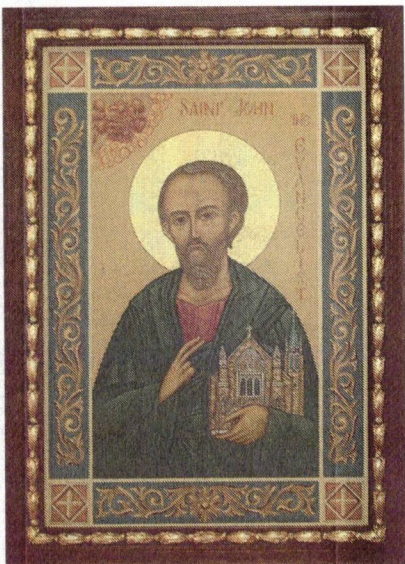


April 27, 2025



**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, APRIL 27, 2025

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

Sunday of Thomas the Apostle, Called "The Twin"

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 30TH.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

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 EPISTLE

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength.

Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (5:12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people magnified them. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the cities around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the chief priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the sect of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said: "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be to you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, you have believed because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

MEGALYNARION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE ONE

O most radiant lamp, the Theotokos, the immeasurable honor, which is more exalted than all creatures, with praises do we magnify thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THOMAS SUNDAY (Psalm 147:1)

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. Alleluia.

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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 26th Saturday — BRIGHT SATURDAY

Great Vespers 5PM

April 27th Sunday — THOMAS SUNDAY

Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

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

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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

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**FR. SERAPHIM WILL BE AWAY MAY 19-26.
FR. CHRIS DAVIS WILL BE SERVING ON May 25.**

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, Julianna, Lori, Oliver. Claire, Pauline, Despina, Julius, John, and Bonnie.

For Thou are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants who have fallen asleep especially:

Prayers are offered in memory of George

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us for a BENEFIT CONCERT for Ukraine on Sunday, May 4th at 4PM at the Park Presbyterian Church at 275 Commerce Street in Beaver. The classical music concert features musicians from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Carnegie Mellon University. All free will donations will support Moon Township based DTCare's programs in Ukraine that provide humanitarian aid, mental health services through art therapy and adventure-based counseling and veteran support programs. Your support is appreciated. Thank You!

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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.*

THE LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN

In Orthodox tradition, Bright Friday is referred to as the “*Feast of the Life-giving Fountain.*” On this day, we recognize the Theotokos as the source of life for all mankind. The new life that flows from the death and Resurrection of our Lord is symbolized as water flowing from a fountain which holds His Blessed Mother.

The history of this Feast can be traced back to a vision of the Virgin Mary by a young prince, who sought help for a blind man near Constantinople. In his attempt to find water for his thirsty friend, the young man heard the voice of the Theotokos directing him to a spring-fed well. The man was given the water to drink and was cured immediately of his blindness. The prince, who would later become the Emperor Leo, realized that it was the Mother of God who was responsible for this miracle. A great shrine was established on this site, with many miracles and healings attributed to the waters there.

The spiritual message of this Feast is beautifully captured in the words of the canon from Matins on this day: “*WE KNOW YOU TO BE A LUMINOUS AND HOLY TEMPLE OF THE MASTER OF ALL, O THEOTOKOS, AND A SPRING THAT CAUSES CHRIST, THE WATER OF INCORRUPTION, TO FLOW FORTH, SO THAT WE MAY COME AND DRINK OF THIS LIFE-GIVING FOUNTAIN.*”

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

Christ is Risen
Indeed He is Risen

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

PASTOR'S PAGE –MAY, 2025

We began our journey to Holy Week with Divine Liturgy, Baptism, and Chrismations on St Lazarus Saturday during our afternoon Liturgy. Received into our parish on April 12 were: Jessica Hill (Mary, Mother of God) from Patterson Heights; Nicholas Komo, Jr. (St Nicholas) from New Brighton; and Breanna Wenzig (St Mary Magdalene) from College Hill. Welcome Home!

During our services in Holy Week we had visitors from out of state and from nearby parishes. We were blessed with good weather on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday for Pascha. We are so grateful to our choir and those who provided food for meals during all these weeks and days as well as flowers and eggs for Pascha.

Reminder: No fasting from April 19 thru May 30.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Among various nice surprises during Holy Week was that the outside painting of our building was completed. New railings were installed inside and outside just before that. We will be moving inside to continue on indoor projects. Contact Jonathan or Dan to help.

MEMORY ETERNAL!

George Volitich, father of Dan Volitich, reposed on Pascha in the early evening. Please keep George's wife Marlene and all of this family in your prayers.

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May Anniversaries and Birthdays

5 Benjamin Linville
5 Fr Seraphim and Khouria Pat (A)
15 Joni Volitich
22 Jonathan Bodin
24 Brian Linville
24 Jim Tutwiler

COUNCIL UPDATE

Parish Council met April 6.

Finances for March:

Income: \$7602.25

Expenses: 8559.98

Total Checking & Savings: \$83,413.79 (3/31)

Building Work Update (see above)

Also, next projects are lighting in the stairway and replacement of the ceiling in the fellowship hall.

Fr Seraphim reported he would be away May 19-26 and June 28-July 2. Fr Chris Davis will serve on May 25. Services for June 29 have been cancelled as no priest is available to serve. (Week-end of the Parish Life Conference at Antiochian Village.) Bishop Thomas suggested that members attend that Sunday at the Monastery in Ellwood City.

Also, Fr Seraphim recommended that Saturday vespers between May 1 and August 30 be cancelled due to his missing too many Saturdays. This will be noted in the bulletin as well.

Volunteers will be needed to help with our ministry with food and meals this summer. Fr Seraphim will be assessing the need in this ministry and how others can help. Contact him if you have interest to take part in this assessment and hands on ministry.

A Prayer from Holy Friday (and every Friday)

"O My Crucified Christ, how You suffered for us! How many wounds, spitting, mockery and insults You endured because of our sins, giving us an example of true patience in times of suffering and troubles which we must endure in this life. Since God sends these to us because of our sins, that we may correct ourselves and draw near to Him, He thus chastises us for our own good during this life. Therefore, I pray to You, O Master: during times of troubles, temptations and pain that come upon me, grant that I may increase in patience, strength and gratitude. For I confess that I am helpless if you do not illumine me, bound, if You do not set me free; fearful, if You do not make me brave; lost, if You do not seek me; a slave, if You do not redeem me with Your abundant and divine power and with the grace of Your holy cross, which I venerate and glorify, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."

(from *Orthodox Prayer Book*, Holy Protection Monastery, Lake George, Colorado)

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE POOR

Saint Cyril of Alexandria notes that the Lord "teaches us . . . love for the poor . . . a thing precious in the sight of God."

"When we have pity on the poor we are lending to God at interest; and when we give to the lowly, we are giving to God." (St Cyprian of Carthage).

"If there were no poor, the greater part of your sins would not be removed. They are healers for your wounds." (St John Chrysostom)

COMING IN THE FALL

We are planning to gather in the Fall on Wednesdays, beginning September 3 for a 15 week study of virtues. Virtues are the positive side of passions. St Peter of Damacus (8th Century) recounted 228 virtues and 298 passions from scripture. We will not have time to study all these although we will have a copy of both lists. We will study two a week, considering the opposite of the virtues that night and discuss how to develop the virtues for that week. Below is a summary of what our focus will be:

- Renunciation/Detachment
- Exile/Obedience
- Remembrance of Death/Mourning
- Meekness/Remembrance of Wrongs
- Slander/Silence
- Falsehood/Despondency
- Gluttony/Lust & Chastity
- Avarice/Poverty
- Insensitivity/Sleep-Prayer-Church
- Alertness/Fear
- Vainglory/Pride
- Meekness/Humility
- Discernment/Stillness
- Prayer/Dispassion
- Faith/Hope/Love

Study sheets will be available and time for discussion. Brochures will be available in August. Anyone is welcome!

"Time and experience make it clear when a particular passion has been transformed into virtue. When, on the other hand, a virtue veers toward passion, time and experience permit us to set them apart through patient endurance. For if such endurance is not born in the soul out of faith, the soul cannot possess any virtue at all." (St Peter of Damascus).