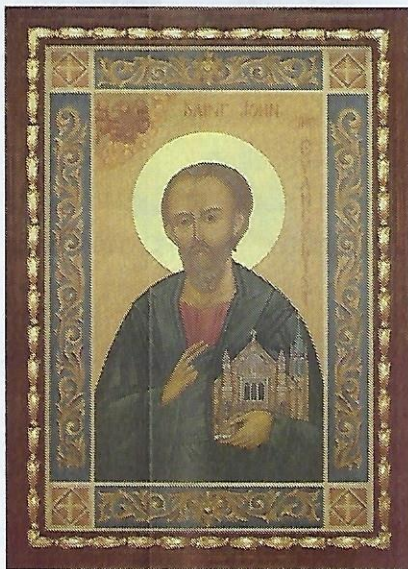


April 13, 2025



**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 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 FOR FEAST OF PALM SUNDAY:
ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I am filled with joy, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. The anguish of death encompassed me; the perils of hades beset me.

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

I found tribulation and anguish, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. I will walk acceptably before the Lord in the land of the living. (***Refrain***)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I believed, and therefore have I spoken: but I was deeply humiliated. What shall I render unto the Lord, for all His benefits unto me?

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (***Refrain***)

I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people. (***Refrain***)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

After verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of Lazarus Saturday.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

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A SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY IN TONE ONE

By raising Lazarus from the dead before they passion, Thou didst confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God, Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death; Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

When we were buried with Thee in Baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection! Now we praise Thee and sing: "Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing: 'Blessed is He that comes to recall Adam."

THE EPISTLE

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

MEGALYNARION FOR PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us; ordain a feast, and rejoicing, come let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, crying out with hymns: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!" His Disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

St. Nicholas Cavasilas asks why we do not recall Christ's miracles in the Divine Liturgy as we do the Cross, the Grace, the Tomb, the Resurrection, the Ascension into heaven, the sitting at the right hand of the Father, and the Second coming. "He answers saying that the sufferings endured by Him, were the 'cause of our salvation,'"whereas His miracles served merely as demonstrations of our salvation.

(From the Heavenly Banquet, Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis.)

APRIL SERVICES

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

**April 17th Thursday — St. Basil Liturgy @ 10AM
for the Mystical Supper of Christ
Matins service with the 12 Passion Gospels`
(placing Christ on the Cross)**

**April 18th Friday— Royal Hours @ 9AM
Matins with the Lamentations for Holy Saturday @6PM**

April 19th Saturday — St. Basil Evening Divine Liturgy @10AM

**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

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.*

* * *

WHO IS THIS MAN?

* * *

While all four Evangelists offer an account of Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on the first PALM SUNDAY, St. Matthew provides a thought-provoking verse in his Gospel: "And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying: WHO IS THIS MAN?" (Matthew 21:10) Indeed, this question sets the tone for Holy Week, for everything we re-live in the coming days will hinge on Who people perceived Christ to be.

Some thought that He was a great Teacher; others a mighty Warrior, Who would lead them to victory over the Romans and establish again the ancient kingdom of Israel. The religious leaders viewed Him as a dangerous Revolutionary, Who would bring the wrath of Rome down upon them if He were not stopped. Although the masses greeted Christ with palms and cheered His coming to the Holy City, we can rightly conclude that they did not really know Who He was.

For us to fully benefit from the sacred days ahead, we must be able to properly answer that question: WHO IS THIS MAN? Jesus Christ is much more than a Teacher, Healer, Prophet or Social Activist. He is our GOD. He is our SAVIOR. He is our REDEEMER. He is our Heavenly KING.

If we truly know Who Christ is, we can never be lukewarm in our feelings for Him. Christ said it Himself: "He who is not with Me is against Me." (Matthew 12:30) Yes, if we love and serve Him with our entire being, then when the sadness of Holy Week is transformed into the joy of the Resurrection, we will be able to abundantly share in Christ's triumph over death.

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

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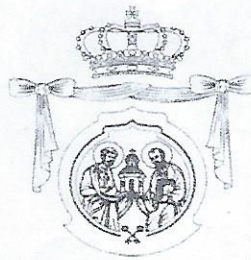
CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES

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OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment Only

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 145/2025

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025

To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

Greetings to you and your families on this Great Feast of the Church. As we complete the forty-day fast and prepare to enter into the most solemn week of the Church year, we pause this weekend to celebrate the raising of Lazarus and our Lord's triumphant and radiant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem.

Today, as we celebrate this feast, we also take time to remember our beloved Mother Church, headed by our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X. For more than a decade, the lands of the Patriarchate have endured immense hardship, marked by war, displacement, economic collapse, and social instability. In recent months, these trials have deepened, and the remaining Christian communities throughout the region continue to experience heightened vulnerability, uncertainty, and fear. Let us fervently pray for His Beatitude, the hierarchs, clergy, and all the faithful of the entire region as they endure ongoing suffering with steadfastness and faith.

Each year on this special day, we appeal to you—the faithful of our God-protected Archdiocese—for an offering of love to be sent to His Beatitude from his spiritual children across North America. Amid the ongoing difficulties, His Beatitude is burdened with the sacred responsibility of sustaining the life and witness of the Church in conditions of great instability. Our spiritual brothers and sisters are in need—many are hungry, without heat, and lacking opportunities for work. While we lift them up in prayer, let us also offer material support as an expression of solidarity and love.

Wishing you a prayerful Holy Week and a most joyous and radiant Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SABA' with a stylized flourish above it.

+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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