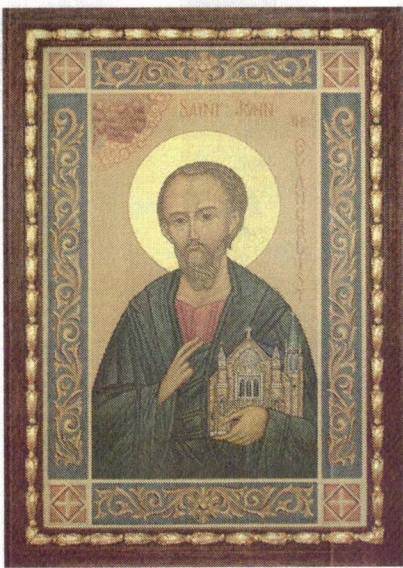




This appearance of our Risen Lord
and the miraculous catch of fish
by His disciples
symbolizes their great commission
to become
“FISHERS OF MEN”

May 25, 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 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, MAY 25, 2025

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN & THIRD DISCOVERY OF THE FORERUNNER'S HONORABLE HEAD

MARTYR CELESTINE OF ROME; HIEROMARTYR THERAPON, BISHOP OF CYPRUS

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.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FORERUNNER'S HEAD DISCOVERY IN TONE FOUR

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

Christ God hath revealed to us thy truly ven'erable head * as a divine treasure that had been concealed in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner. * Wherefore, as we gather on the feast of its finding, * with our hymns inspired of God, we praise Christ the Savior, * Who by thy mighty prayers saveth us from every kind of harm.

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.

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 (For St. John the Baptist)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my voice.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)

Brethren, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. While we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

PASTOR'S PAGE – JUNE, 2025

PENTECOST (50) IS COMING! June 8th

But what is it? In the Old Testament it is the first harvest of grain and in the New Testament it is the equipping of the disciples and the whole church (and it's Birthday!). It is the day when the great mysteries of the old and new dispensations reveal that the law is made perfect through grace. "For as the old on the fiftieth after the sacrifice of the lamb, the law was given on Mount Sinai to the Hebrew people, now delivered from the Egyptians, , so, after the Passion of Christ, in which the true Lamb of God was slain, on the fiftieth day after His Resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and upon the people who believed; so the earnest Christian might know beyond any uncertainty, that the sacred rites of the Old Testament had served as foundations for the Gospel, and the by this Spirit was the second covenant laid down, by Whom the first had been established." (St Leo).

Why did the Holy Spirit appear as tongues of fire (Acts 2)? "The Spirit, Who is coeternal with the Father and the Son, was revealed thus because God is an immaterial and indescribable and invisible fire (Hebrews 12:29). God is called fire because He consumes the rust of sin . . . The Holy Spirit had to be manifested over the disciples as fire so that spiritual passion might rouse against themselves, these men who were merely human beings and therefore sinners. They through repentance they would punish in themselves the sins which God was sparing through His gentleness. We must always consume our sins with the fire of repentance." (Saint Gregory the Great).

More about the Holy Spirit: In John 16 Jesus promised the disciples He would send the Helper (advocate, comforter, or counselor), the Holy Spirit to them. In his coming

He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin because they do not believe in me; of righteousness because I go to my Father and you see Me no more; of judgment because the ruler of this world is judged . . . when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth."

How do we recognize the Holy Spirit in ourselves? The disciples did when they were able to speak in the native tongues of the visitors to Jerusalem on the Feast of Pentecost. This was the result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:16-18) quoting the prophet Joel.

St Paul writes about the "fruit of the Spirit" being "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal 5:22, 23) where we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit. About these St Jerome writes: What deserves to hold first place among the fruits of the Spirit if not love? Without love other virtues are not reckoned to be virtues. From love is born all that is good. Now by joy people mean an elation of mind over things that are worthy of exultation, whereas gaiety is an undisciplined elation of mind which knows no moderation. . . We should not suppose that peace is limited to not quarreling with others. Rather the peace of Christ, that is, our inheritance, is with us when the mind is at peace and undisturbed by conflicting emotions.

Our task as Christian, Spirit-filled people is to develop these "fruits" in us as a witness in the Church and to the world that all may see Christ in us.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO
LIVE OUT HIS LOVE IN HIS
CHURCH!**

ADDING TO OUR CHURCH PEOPLE

Two of the mothers who came into our church on Lazarus Saturday will be bringing children to be baptized on Saturday, July 5 at 11:00 AM. These include Bre's son, Connor and Jessica's children: Mira, Asher, and Benjamin. This will be done outside of Liturgy although the children will receive their first communion in this service. We will have pizza and watermelon after the service. Let me know if you or others will attend so we have plenty of salad and pizza. Please begin praying for each of these to be baptized and Christmated as they become our next and newest church members.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Leonard Bennett
- 1 Jonathan Snyder
- 8 Perry Sassic
- 20 Brad Killbury
- 27 Dan Volitich

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We will not be having Liturgy at St John's on June 29 as Fr Seraphim will be on vacation (June 28-July 2). It is also the week-end of the Parish Life Conference at Antiochian Village making it difficult to find a priest to fill in. Bishop Thomas suggested our people attend the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City that Sunday.

SOME SAINTS REMEMBERED IN JUNE

St Theodotus of Ancyra helped the Church and buried bodies of the holy martyrs including the seven maidens who suffered for Christ in the fourth century. He lived during the time of Diocletian and maintained an inn to help Christians being

persecuted. One of the maidens appeared to him in a dream and told him to remove their bodies from a lake and bury them. A companion who helped him betrayed Theodotus to the judge who tortured him, knocked out his teeth, and beheaded him in 303 AD after he spoke to some saying: "Brethern, do not weep for me, but glorify our Lord Jesus Christ."

St Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444), Archbishop of Alexandria (commemorated June 9).

As Patriarch of Alexandria he was able to drive three heretical groups out of the city: The Novatians, named after Novatian the presbyter. They took pride in their virtues, dressed in white garments and believed prayers should not be said for those who had committed a mortal sin, nor should any who had fallen away from the Church be received back even after repenting. The Jews took pride in killing Christians by treachery, poisoning, and crucifixion. He also struggled against Nestorius who was condemned and banished at the Third Ecumenical Council for the blasphemy against the Most Holy Theotokos. After all this St Cyril lived in peace tending to Christ's flock.

Holy Apostle Bartholomew and Saint Barnades (commemorated on June 11).

Bartholomew preached the Gospel throughout Asia translating the Gospel of Matthew into the Indian language.

Barnabas was one of the seventy apostles ("son of consolation," because he was so capable of comforting people. He preached with Paul and Mark in Antioch and later in Rome and Milan by himself, and suffered at the hands of the Jews on Cyprus.

Saints Peter and Paul, June 29

Both, who became the leaders for the Church were martyred in Rome under Nero.

THE GOSPEL (For Blind Man Sunday)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," which means "Sent." So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he;" others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

MAY/JUNE SERVICES

**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 25th Sunday — SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN
NO MATINS / Divine Liturgy 10AM**

FR. CHRIS DAVIS WILL BE SERVING ON May 25.

May 28th Wednesday Evening 6PM for Holy Ascension 5/29

**June 1st Sunday — FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON**

**June 8th Sunday — PENTECOST (No Matins)
Divine Liturgy 10AM followed by Kneeling prayers**

**June 15th Sunday—SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM**

**June 16th Monday— Beginning of St. Peter & Paul Fast
Abstain from Meat, Dairy, Eggs and on Wed & Fri—
Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil, & wine.**

**June 22nd Sunday — ALL SAINTS OF ANTIOCH
ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA
Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM**

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

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

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...

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THE SYNAXARION

On this day, we commemorate the Third discovery of the honorable head of the Forerunner and Baptist John.

Verses

Though hidden deep in the earth, the voice of one crying
Sounded forth strangely to all when earth was rent open.
On the twenty-fifth, they found the Forerunner's head.

In the year 820, the honorable head was once again found in the city of Emesa during a time of unrest at Constantinople. It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids and hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of St. John was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana to recover the head. Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and on May 25, 850 it was placed in a church at the court.

On this day, the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

Verses

O Light of Light most perfect, and Light-provider,
On the blind from birth, O Word, eyes Thou bestowest.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyeballs. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were filled with clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. Jesus fashioned the eyes of the blind man from the dirt as God fashioned man from the dirt. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

"STABILITY" ON THE SHORE

The Gospels tell us that after His Resurrection, Christ was seen on numerous occasions by His followers. One of the most interesting of these appearances is described in the writings of the Evangelist John as the ". . . *third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.*" (John 21:14) Peter and several of the other Apostles had been fishing all night on the Sea of Galilee with nothing to show for it. In the morning, Jesus called out to the Apostles from the shore, instructing them to ". . . *cast the net on the right side of the boat.*" Their catch was overwhelming – 153 large fish were caught and dragged to shore by them! After joining them for breakfast, Christ has the famous exchange with Peter, where the Lord asks him three times if he loved Him, giving him the opportunity to make amends for denying Him three times. It was also during this Post-Resurrection visitation that Jesus prophesied concerning Peter's impending martyrdom (you will stretch out your hands and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish) as well as foretelling the lengthy life of His beloved disciple John.

There is also a subtle but powerful symbolism to this appearance that we should not overlook. The Apostles were in the midst of the waters, which could be quite turbulent. Christ was standing firmly on "solid ground" on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where there was "peace." When the Apostles eventually joined their Master on land, they, too, found themselves in a much more stable environment. So it is for us as well. Our journey on the "sea of life" is not always "smooth sailing." We are often faced with "waves" of confusion. Only when we cast aside the cares and temptations of this world can we ever hope to find Christ and the spiritual contentment He offers.

PITTSBURGH PA 150

