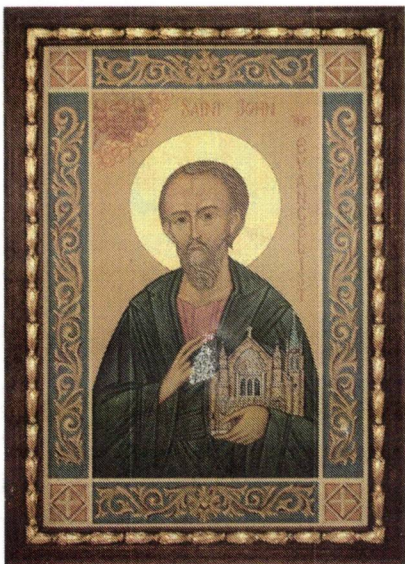




AUGUST 31, 2025



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

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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 .***

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.

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Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 31, 2025

Tone 3 / Eothinon 1; Placing of the Sash of the Theotokos in Halkoprateia & Twelfth Sunday of Matthew

Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople;
Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR PLACING OF THE VIRGIN'S SASH IN TONE EIGHT

O ever virgin Theotokos, shelter of mankind, thou hast bestowed upon thy people a mighty investure, even thine immaculate body's raiment and sash, which by thy seedless childbirth have remained incorrupt; for in thee nature and time are made new. Wherefore, we implore thee to grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls.

APOLYTIKION FOR 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.

KONTAKION FOR PLACING OF THE VIRGIN'S SASH IN TONE TWO

Thy precious sash, O Theotokos, which encompassed thy God-receiving womb, is an invincible force for thy flock, and an unfailing treasury of every good, O only Ever-virgin Mother.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Placing of the Sash of the Theotokos)

***My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the lowliness of His servant.***

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The Right Reverend

Bishop THOMAS

Headquarters in the

Mid-Atlantic States

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

2025 GREETING FOR A BLESSED CHURCH NEW YEAR

Beloved in Christ,

On behalf of myself and the clergy and faithful of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, I wish you a blessed new ecclesiastical year!

Church New Year

Commemorated on September 1

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applies to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61: 1-2, the Savior proclaimed, "The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..." This scene is depicted in a Vatican manuscript (Vatican, Biblioteca. Cod. Gr 1613, p.1)

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

Yours in Christ,

+Bp. THOMAS

Auxiliary Bishop

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE SYNAXARION

On August 31 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Placing of the Sash of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos in Constantinople's Halkoprateia district during the reign of the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

Verses

Like an all-golden garland, O august Virgin, I set thy sash on the year's end as adornment.

On the thirty-first, they enshrined the Sash of the All-pure.

At her Dormition, the Most Holy Mother of God left her Sash to the Apostle Thomas. This Sash was later taken to Constantinople and kept there in a sealed casket in the church of the Mother of God at Blachernae. This casket was never opened until the time of the Emperor Leo the Wise (886-912). Leo's wife, the Empress Zoë, was taken sick in soul and, as the result of a mysterious vision, desired that the Sash of the holy Theotokos be placed upon her. The Emperor asked the Patriarch, who opened the casket and found the Sash completely whole and undamaged by time. The Sash was taken out and placed upon the sick Empress, who immediately recovered. They sang hymns of thanksgiving to the Most Holy Theotokos, and then returned the venerable Sash back into the casket and resealed it.

On this day, we also commemorate our fathers among the saints Genadius, Patriarch of Constantinople; and Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage.

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THOUGHT OF THE DAY

“An old man, very experienced in these matters, once spiritually admonished a proud brother who said in his blindness, ‘Forgive me, father, but I am not proud.’ ‘My son, said the wise man, ‘what better proof of your pride could you have given than to claim you were not proud.’”

(St. John Climacus)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SERVICES

AUGUST 31ST SUNDAY — Placing of the Sash of the Theotokos
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
Ecclesiastical New Year/Simeon the Stylite

SEPT. 3RD WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed by
Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

SEPT. 6TH SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS— 5PM

SEPT. 7TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS
NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SEPT. 10TH WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed by
Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

SEPT. 13th SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS — 5PM

SEPT. 14TH SUNDAY — ELEVATION OF THE CROSS
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SEPT. 17TH WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed by
Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

SEPT. 20TH SATURDAY — Community Breakfast 8:30—10:30 AM
GREAT VESPERS— 5PM

SEPT. 21ST SUNDAY — SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS
MATINS 9 AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON

SEPT. 24TH WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed by
Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin,
Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene,
Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Margaret,
Carrie, Lori, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, John, and Bonnie.

Welcome to our newest members: Connor, Mira, Asher, Benjamin

**FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF THY
SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:**

Prayers are offered in memory of

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REVIEWING GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIPPING : PART 1

STANDING IN CHURCH DURING THE FOLLOWING:

- * During any censing
- * As priest lifts the Gospel saying: "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."
- * At the Entrance with the Gospel
- * At the Trisagion Hymn: "Holy God, Holy Mighty...."
- * At the reading of the Gospel
- * During the Cherubic Hymn and The Great Entrance
- * When the Priest says: "Peace be to all," The Creed, and the Anaphora ("Let us stand aright, let us stand with fear, that we offer the Holy Oblation in Peace")....
- * The blessing, "And the mercies of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all."
- * The "Lord's Prayer."
- * The Pre-Communion Prayer and during Communion
- * The Dismissal

**NOTE: KNEELING IS NOT DONE ON SUNDAY AS IT IS THE DAY OF
RESSURECTION**



HUMAN LIFE: DEFINED BY A SIMPLE DASH



I am sure that at one time or another, we have all walked through a cemetery and looked at the various tombstones and monuments there. They come in many shapes and sizes, and are of varying degree of cost. Yet they all have one thing in common: each stone will contain a name of someone who has departed this life and, in all likelihood, a date of birth and a date of death, often separated by a simple dash (1954-2025). Have you ever considered how important that small dash is? In essence, it represents the ENTIRETY OF A PERSON'S LIFE!

For many, life consists of living comfortably and enjoyably. It focuses solely on possessions and pleasures. We follow the terrible example of the rich fool in Christ's famous parable, who concerned himself with building

bigger and better barns to store his goods, so that he could continue to "eat, drink and be merry." Yet in the end, as the saying goes: "You can't take it with you." When the Lord demands our very soul - when He passes judgment on us - what will really matter is how we've spent our "dash time."

The true challenge of life is that we never know how close we are to inserting that dash between the two most significant dates of our existence. Every day should be lived as if it were to be our last. Every day should find us taking advantage of the many opportunities placed before us to live in the manner our Lord expects us to live. When your eulogy is being read, how will your "dash" be remembered?

In Memory of Fr. Michael Rosco
Longtime writer of "The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin"

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin

2 SEP 2025

PM 1:50

Yonah, Cliffwood, New Jersey

Litho in U.S.A.

1775 ★ 2025