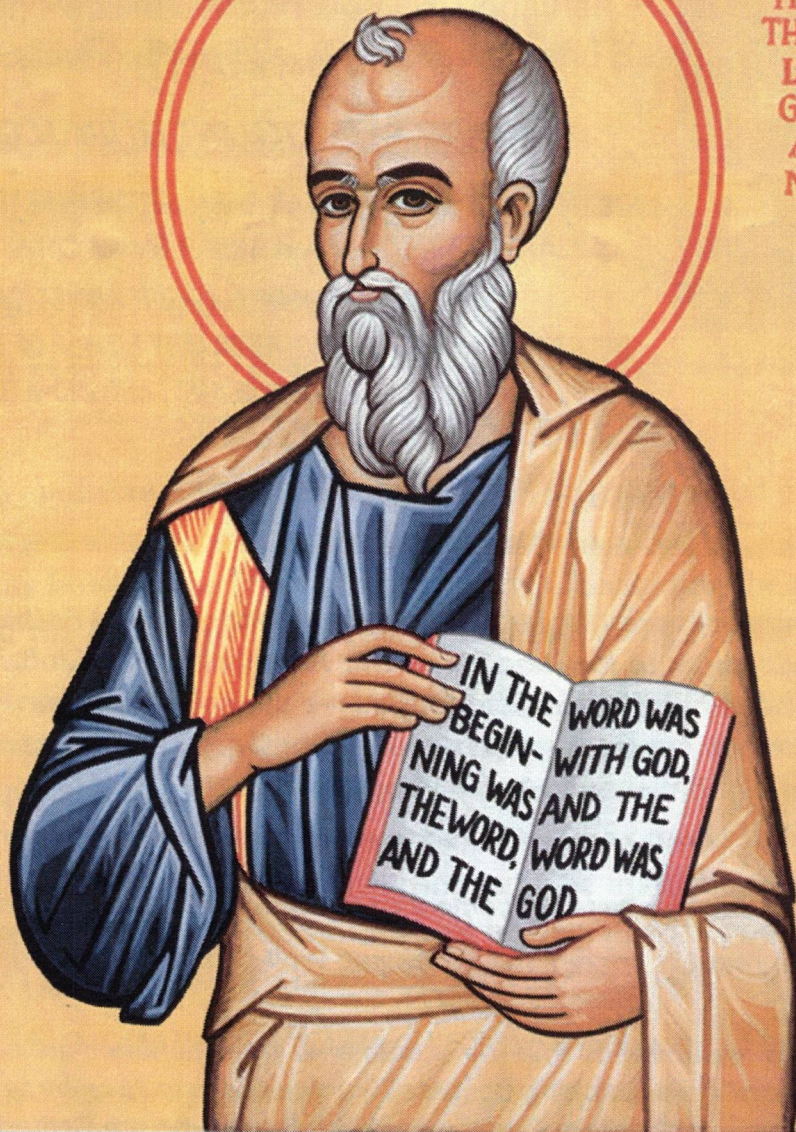


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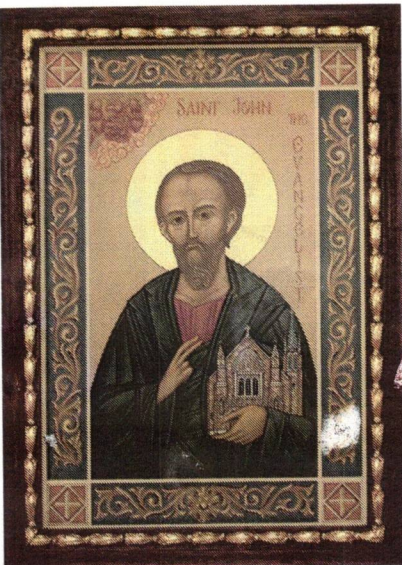
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OCTOBER 26, 2025





***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**

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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 .***

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***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.***

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## **DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025**

### **TONE 3 / EOTHINON 9; GREAT-MARTYR DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMING & SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE IN CONSTANTINOPLE IN 740;

VENERABLE-MARTYR JOASAPH OF DIONYSIOU MONASTERY ON ATHOS

#### **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 THE EARTHQUAKE IN TONE EIGHT**

O Thou Who lookest upon the earth and makest it tremble, deliver us from the fearful menace of earthquake, O Christ our God, and by the intercessions of the Theotokos, send down upon us Thy mercies in abundance, O only Friend of man.

#### **APOLYTIKION FOR ST. DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMING TONE THREE**

***(\*\*Thy confession\*\*)***

A great champion hath the whole world found thee to be when in grave perils; for thou dost put to flight the heathen, O victorious one. As thou didst humble Lyaeus' arrogance and gavest boldness to Nestor in the stadium, thus, O holy Great Martyr Demetrios, do thou entreat Christ God that we be granted Great Mercy.

#### **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 omanous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

#### **ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.



## THE EPISTLE

(For St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streaming)

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

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)**

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Sixth Sunday of Luke)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:26-39)**

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. .



### THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

We will have a Thanksgiving Day Liturgy on Thursday, November at 9:00 AM. No study fellowship on the evening before. But why a Thanksgiving Liturgy? Truth be known, every Liturgy is about "Thanksgiving." It is the definition of the word Eucharist. Fr. Schmemmann calls it a "Sacrament of Thanksgiving." But I have my own personal reason to pay attention to Thanksgiving as a National Holiday and as a Sacrament. I was eight years old when I noticed there was not much food in the house. My father had been out of work for weeks. In the 1950's during the Steel Strike in Pittsburgh people were not ordering false teeth which my father helped to make in a dental lab. It was Tuesday the week of Thanksgiving and all I could find in the cupboard was peanut butter and jelly. I quickly concluded it would be a "peanut butter and jelly" Thanksgiving menu. About 6:00 there was a loud knock at the door as if one of us kids was in trouble with the neighbors. In the dark of night my father answered the door and found three men on our porch. I heard them say something about the church and within minutes they made 2 trips each carrying a heavy bag in each arm into our house. Of course at age 8 there is no believing without seeing. So I climbed over each chair around the table until I found it – a turkey!

It was my first great understanding as to what the Church is and does. It was not difficult 10 years later when I felt called into the ministry to accept the invitation. All of the above is why I want to be in Liturgy on Thanksgiving.

### NATIVITY FAST

The Nativity Fast (St Phillip's Fast) begins on November 15 and concludes on December 24 following the evening Divine Liturgy. It is a time to reduce busyness, increase prayer, almsgiving, and service to God. It is also one of the times in the year to attend confession. Fr Seraphim will be available before and after vespers on Saturday and at other if needed.

**IMPORTANT NOTES: No Saturday vespers will be held until December 6. Turn clocks back 1 hour, Sat, Nov 1!**

### Our People

**Congratulations** to Esteben and Pephile DeJesus on the birth of their daughter Kyriel Ileana on October 10. They will be moving to Ellwood City before the end of October. Their address will be 823 Crescent Ave, Ellwood City, PA 16117.

**Welcome back** to Joann Rossman following knee surgery.

**Jonathan Kocher** will be baptized and Chrismated on Saturday, December 6 at 3:00 PM. A light meal will follow and vespers will be held at 5:00 PM. Come!



## COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council met Sunday, October 19. August minutes were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report Summary:

### August

Total Income: \$6519.12

Net Ordinary Income: \$3325.17

### September

Total Income: \$7019.92

Net Ordinary Income: \$5400.48

Each month updates are reported on funds beyond the operating budget.

These include:

Un-restricted Fund  
Future Building Fund  
Future Clergy Fund  
Building Maintenance Fund  
Bookstore Fund  
Candle Fund  
Christmas Card/Flower Fund  
Community Outreach  
Orphanage Fund  
Priest Conference Fund  
Scholarship Fund  
Food for Hungry (Diocese)  
Tray Seminary-Oct Fund

In May of 2024 the Future Building Fund and Future Clergy Fund were set up. Currently this building fund is \$13,500 and the clergy fund is \$18,503.14. Feel free to contribute to either of these and any of the funds listed above. Contact Joni for questions.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Katina Sawyer
- 11 Kh Pat Moslener
- 25 Joan Engle
- 25 Joann Rossman
- 27 Fr Chris and Kh Kathy Davis
- 30 Benjamin Hill

Pray for the carefulness and healing for the following:

Fr Steven  
Perry Sassic  
Trisha Faltenovich  
Joann Rossman  
Joan Engle  
Kh Pat Moslener

+ + +

"We give thanks unto Thee, O Lord who loves mankind, Benefactor of our souls, for thou hast vouchsafed this day to feed us with thy heavenly and immortal mysteries. Make straight our path, establish us all in thy fear, guard our life; make firm our steps; through the prayers and intercessions of the glorious Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and of all thy saints. For thou are our Sanctification, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father, the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages."

(The "Thanksgiving Prayer" before the placing of the Gospel on the antimins following Communion).

## On Spiritual Fatherhood

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

The Orthodox tradition does not recognize the phrase “spiritual father.” This is a modern term that appeared in Western languages, possibly influenced by Catholic spirituality. The Orthodox tradition uses the term “elder,” which corresponds to *geronda* in Greek and *starets* in Russian.

This term embodies the Orthodox understanding of what is now commonly called a “spiritual father.” One who has grown old in his life with God and has come to know it through personal, living experience is called an elder (*geronda*). This means that he has spent time as a disciple in the spiritual life and has advanced in it to the point of becoming a great expert, capable—through the testimony of recognized and holy fathers—and guiding others in it.

Likewise, the Orthodox tradition does not recognize an academic method that one follows to obtain the role of a spiritual father. The only path is discipleship under an experienced elder for growth in what we call “the life in Christ.” The gift of serving as an elder comes from God, not from studying theology academically or only holding the priestly office.

For this reason, liturgical tradition includes the service of “appointing a priest as a spiritual father.” In this service, the bishop grants a priest the blessing to administer the sacrament of confession. A newly ordained priest performs all priestly functions except hearing confessions until receiving this blessing.

This tradition arises from the Church’s long experience, which affirms that not every priest is fit to minister this sacrament of healing. Some priests may never receive permission to hear confessions due to lack of experience or sufficient maturity. Others may be prohibited from continuing in this ministry if they commit serious errors that are destructive to those who come to confess.

To understand the difference between a confessor and an elder, we must return to the Orthodox concept of an elder. In his book *The Inner Kingdom*, Metropolitan Kallistos Ware explains the Orthodox rule is that an elder is discovered—he is revealed by the Holy Spirit, not appointed nor self-appointed. The faithful recognize his gift and spiritual authority through their experience of him, accepting his advice and witnessing its good fruit. They begin to flock to him, opening their hearts to



him. Many times, the elder refuses those who seek his counsel and sends them to others. But under their persistence and out of love, he accepts them and thus discovers his role as a spiritual father (see p. 155).

A confessor, on the other hand, holds a significant position in the Church as institution. He is a canonically ordained priest whom his bishop deems qualified to hear confessions, offering guidance from the Holy Gospel and the teachings of the Church Fathers to help believers walk their Christian path in a way that pleases the Lord.

If the elder is a priest, he may fulfill both roles, serving as a confessor while providing spiritual fatherhood. The faithful, as guardians of true faith, discern who possesses the gift of spiritual fatherhood based on the fruits of his guidance over time.

An elder does not only offer guidance and encouragement with words but also strengthens and comforts the faithful through his living example—and sometimes through his silence. In Orthodox monastic life, there is a well-known saying: “It is enough for me to look at your face, Father.” An elder carries his spiritual children in prayer, interceding for them before God. Many a time, the spiritual children will leave confession without an immediate solution, and later, the answer to their struggles comes from God by the intercessions of the elder’s prayers that provide healing and guidance. The elder does not offer advice from his own intelligence, reasoning, or study, but speaks through the Holy Spirit, which dwells in him. Therefore, an elder’s response may sometimes shock those who seek his guidance, as it may be completely different from what they expect.

St. Basil the Great describes the spiritual father as “the physician of souls who heals with great tenderness according to the teachings of Christ.” He also calls him the “healer of the passions” (Letter 45:5-6). A true elder is a spiritual doctor who heals the soul from its diseases and struggles, liberating the person from the bondage of sinful passions. He focuses on the inner transformation of a person rather than external behaviors. The elder, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, creates a new person in Christ, not the other way around.

One of the greatest qualities of an elder is the gift of discernment. Spiritual guidance requires deep understanding of the human soul, its struggles, and the ways in which the devil tempts people. A confessor who lacks this discernment may



offer wrong spiritual advice which can harm rather than heal. Metropolitan Athanasios of Limassol, a disciple of St. Paisios the Athonite, states: "Bad spiritual advice is like giving the wrong medicine to a sick person." He warns that if an elder lacks discernment, he can misguide his spiritual children away from salvation. In one of his talks to nuns, he advised: "You must learn how God works in the hearts of people so that you do not give advice that could harm them" (*Gifts of the Desert*, Chapter 8).

A true elder is not appointed by certificates or titles but is recognized by his fruits. St. John Climacus advises great caution when choosing a spiritual guide:

"When we, out of humility and a desire for salvation, decide to submit and entrust ourselves to another person in the Lord, let us first examine and scrutinize, and even test our guide, so to speak, especially if we are somewhat malicious or arrogant, so that we do not encounter a sailor instead of a pilot, a sick person instead of a physician, a person enslaved to passions instead of a person freed from them, a sea instead of a port, and thus we encounter the imminent drowning of our souls" (*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, Step 4:6).

Similarly, St. Paisios the Athonite offers this guidance in his letters:

"Strive as much as you can for your spiritual father to be a spiritual person, adorned with virtues in practice, rather than just a teacher. He must be a true captain of souls, not just someone who applies rules to others that he learned through study without having lived them himself. He should be by nature of great love, seasoned with the salt of discernment, so that he shares the sufferings of his children and does not send them directly to paradise in the manner of Diocletian, that is, to die as martyrs. The spiritual father should be very strict only with himself and have great love for others, a love that is not false, but with much discernment, because, if he loses this discernment he will harm his children with his love, similar to the love of Eli the priest (1 Kings 1:2), and thus the wrath of God will descend upon him and his children."



## THE GOSPEL (cont.)

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

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## THE SYNAXARION

On October 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious, and right-victorious Great-Martyr Demetrios, the Wonderworker and Myrrh-Streaming.

### *Verses*

Spears have pierced Demetrios, O Christ my Savior,  
Who emulated Thy pierced side in Thy Passion.  
On the twenty-sixth spears did away Demetrios.

His father was the military commander of Salonica, and, when he died, the Emperor Maximian made Demetrios commander in his place. In doing this, the Emperor, an opponent of Christ, particularly recommended him to persecute and exterminate the Christians in Salonica. Demetrios not only disobeyed the Emperor, but he openly confessed and preached Christ the Lord in the city. The enraged Emperor cast him into prison. Knowing what awaited him, Demetrios gave his goods to his faithful servant, Lupus, to give to the poor, and went off to prison, glad that suffering for Christ was to be his lot. After several days, the Emperor sent soldiers to the prison to kill Demetrios. They came upon the saint at prayer, and ran him through with their spears. Christians secretly took his body and gave it burial, and there flowed from it myrrh by which many of the sick were healed. Demetrios entered the heavenly mansions in 306.

On this day, we remember the great and terrible earthquake in Constantinople in 740. This was a terrifying and long-lasting disaster in the time of Leo the Isaurian, the first of the iconoclast emperors. The people realized that this was God's punishment for their sins, and entreated the most holy Mother of God and St. Demetrios with great penitence, until God had mercy and ended the earthquake.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**"Through the face of a person, especially through his eyes, all the good and the light within him are clearly visible. The face of a good person illuminates like a mirror that reflects the inner world of God's truth."**

**- ELDER SAVVAS OSTAPENKO of Pskov-Pechersky**



## OCTOBER NOVEMBER SERVICES

OCT. 25TH SATURDAY — NO GREAT VESPERS

OCT. 26TH SUNDAY — MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

OCT. 29TH WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed  
by Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

NOV. 1ST SATURDAY — NO GREAT VEAPERS

NOV. 2ND SUNDAY — MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

NOV. 5TH WEDNESDAY — SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed  
by Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

NOV. 8TH SATURDAY — NO GREAT VESPERS

NOV, 9TH SUNDAY — MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

NOV. 12TH WEDNESDAY— SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed  
by Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

NOV.15TH SATURDAY—COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:30-10:30 AM  
ADVENT FAST BEGINS TODAY  
NO GREAT VESPERS

NOV.16TH SUNDAY— MATINS 9AM /DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

NOV. 19TH WEDNESDAY —SMALL COMPLINE @ 6PM followed  
by Light meal and Study Session 7-8 PM

NOV. 22ND SATURDAY — NO GREAT VESPERS

NOV. 23RD SUNDAY — MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

NOV. 27TH THURSDAY—THANKSGIVING DIVINE LITURGY 9AM  
BREAKFAST TO FOLLOW



## **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, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kryiel Ileana, and Kayla

Welcome to our new catechumen Jonathan K.

**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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### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) As Metropolitan Saba requested, we will receive special offering for seminary students each Sunday in October (12,19,26). Donations may be left in the bowl in the front of the church. Checks may be made out to St. John the Evangelist Church and marked for SEMINARY FUND.**
- 2) Between now and November 16th the BCOCM will be glad to receive donations for Thanksgiving boxes to those to whom we minister through the year. Each box will have food for each size family requesting one as well as a Turkey. Donations may be marked or made to BCOCN and left in the offering plate. Distributions will be made one week before Thanksgiving. Nearly 30 families will be helped with your donations. BCOCM really want to Thank you for your support.**
- 3) SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARENESS DAY—Sunday October 19th, Teen Soyo raises awareness and collects funds for special OLYMPIANS! We are still taking a collection for Special Olympics.!**
- 4) Reading by Metropolitan SABA —“ON SPIRITUAL FATHERHOOD”**



## **A LESSON ON PRAYER**

**Prayer is important to our religious life. In general, there are two forms of prayer — Private and Public, that is alone or together in community.**

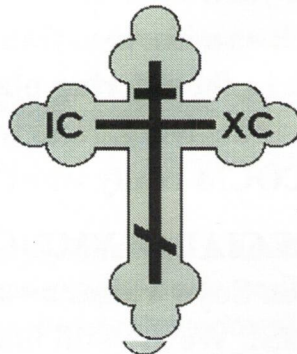
**During the course of his earthly life, Jesus taught us about both forms. He Himself went up to a mount and prayed alone with His Heavenly Father, as He did also in Gethsemane. He taught people to pray “in secret,” to close the door and commune with God. But He also urged people to pray publicly, especially at worship. “Where two or three are together in My Name, there am I amongst them.” Christ went regularly to the temple in sanctification of the Sabbath. And so we, too, gather each Lord’s Day, to pray together as the Family of God.**

**But there are ingredients to TRUE prayer, whether public or private. The parable of the Publican and the Pharisee to a factor that, on the one hand, kills effective prayer; on the other hand, that facilitates true communion with the Lord.**

**We see the pride, the hypocrisy, failure of love in the example of the pharisee and bragged about his righteousness. We see true humility and need for God and forgiveness by the Publican praying “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”**

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ORTHODOX CHURCH  
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BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010**

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES  
[WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG)**



**OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment**