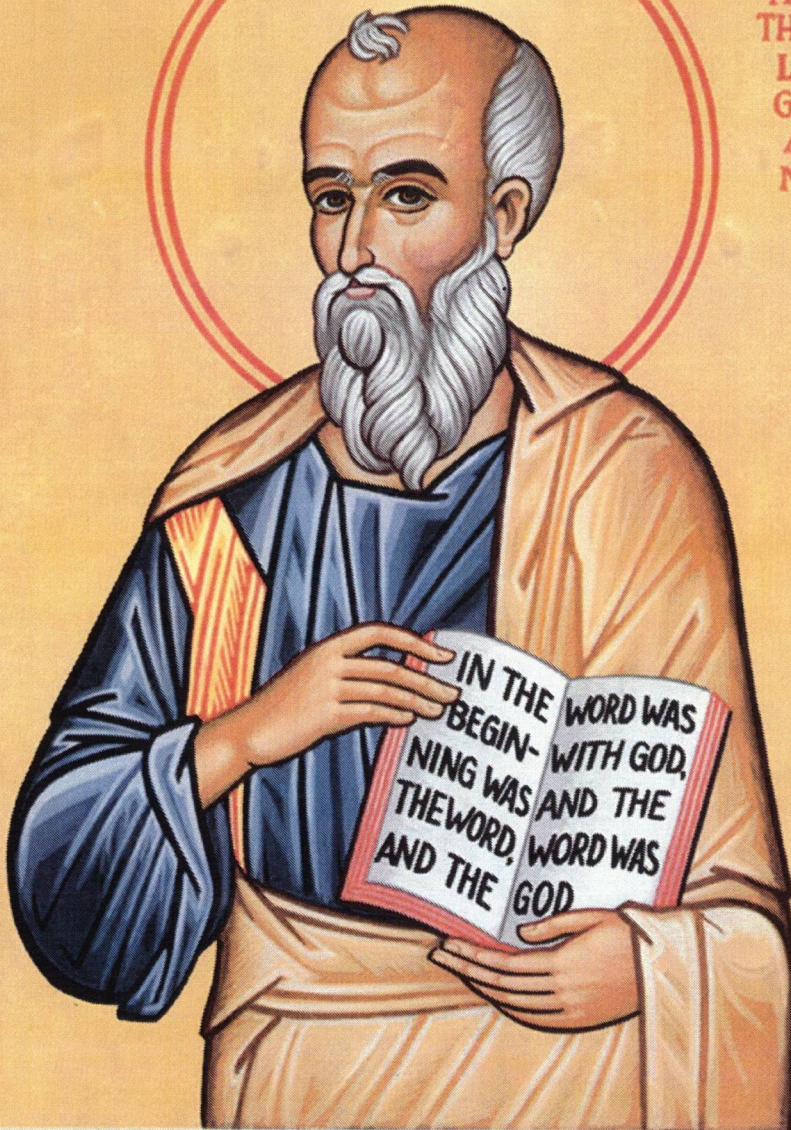


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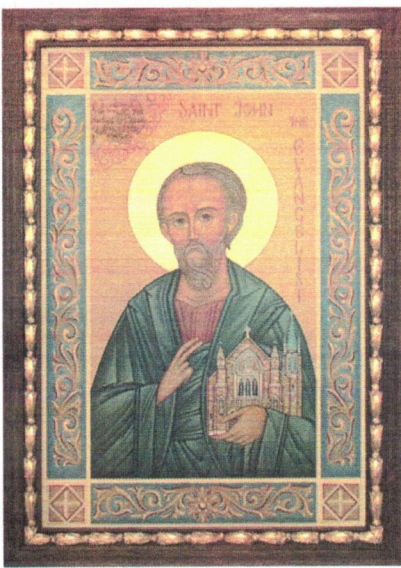
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DECEMBER 07, 2025





**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, DECEMBER 07, 2025**

### **TONE 1 / EOTHINON 4; TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE**

AMBROSE, BISHOP OF MILAN; MARTYR ATHENODOROS OF MESOPOTAMIA;  
VENERABLE GREGORY, FOUNDER OF GREGORIOU MONASTERY ON ATHOS

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

### **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 all of his peace and great mercy.

### **KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE**

*(\*\*The original melody\*\*)*

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO JONATHAN KOCHER ON HIS BAPTISM AND  
CHRISMATION INTO THE ORTHODOX FAITH ON DECEMBER 6, 2025.**

**“ GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS ”**



## THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

***Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.***

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)**

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

**Do You Have An Angel?**

The word “angel” means messenger that offers the will of God to us. Their work is to sing praises to God in heaven, to pray, and to offer spiritual strength when God directs them. There are nine different kinds of angels commemorated on November 8: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Arch-Angels, and Angels. Guardian Angels are angels assigned to each one of us (yes, you have one!). At baptism in the Orthodox Church, the priest asks for an angel to be assigned to each person to guard and protect our souls. The angel prays constantly for each of our souls, especially asking forgiveness as we need. They become partners in service with us. (See Hebrew 1:14 ). ( Notes taken from “My Angel Book” by Diane Davliakos).

**A Prayer to Your Guardian Angel**

O Angel of Christ, holy protector of my soul and body, forgive me everything wherein I have offended thee every day of my life, and protect me from all influence and temptations of the evil one. May I never more anger God by any sin. Pray for me to the Lord that He may make me worthy of the grace of the All-holy Trinity, and of the Most Blessed theotokos, and of all the Saints. Amen

**Welcome to our newest members:**

Kryiel Ilyana Dejesus (St Kyriaki) baptized November 30 and Jonathan Kocher (St Gabriel of Georgia) baptized December 6.

About their saints: St Kyriaki was born in Nicomedia to parents after constant prayers as they were childless. She was born on Sunday which contributes to her name: meaning “Lord.” During the persecution of Diocletian her parents were martyred and she was sent to a ruler who said she was too beautiful to be martyred and offered her wealth and marriage if she worshipped pagan gods. In her response she was ordered decapitated and rendered her soul to God with courage and dignity.

St Gabriel was born August 26, 1929 and following Russian military service entered monastic life. He was known for miracles and great piety and died November 2, 1995.

**Nativity Services**

Wednesday, December 24:

9:00 A.M. Royal Hours

6:00 P.M. Matins

7:00 P.M. Festal Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Lord.

***“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son.” (Galatians 4:4)***



**NO VESPERS ON SATURDAY, DEC 27**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**6:00 P.M.**

**ST Basil Liturgy to commemorate the  
Circumcision of Christ**

Circumcision was a sign of Israel's covenant and the means by which a male child became a member of the community. In Christ circumcision is fulfilled in baptism. Our first dying with Christ was our death with him on the cross. Our second death is continual – dying to sin daily as we walk in the newness of life. (from the Orthodox Study Bible).

**HOUSE BLESSINGS COMING IN JANUARY**

Please sign up beginning in mid-December on the table in the narthex and Fr Seraphim will call you as to day and time.

**COUNCIL UPDATE**

The parish council met on Sunday, November 16. Minutes from October were reviewed and accepted. Financial reports included the following:

**October**

Income: \$5,650

Expenses: \$2,023

Building Needs were reviewed.

Bills were approved to pay.

**December Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1 Patty Paulin
- 5 Phillip Wigglesworth
- 14 Bruce Linville
- 17 Amber Linville
- 17 Brian and Amber Linville
- 23 Rick Hudson

**MANY YEARS!!!**

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**The following was emailed on Monday,  
December 1 to our church members and  
friends of St John's Parish:**

I will be retiring from the priesthood on May 31, 2026. I am glad to be in good health and grateful to Metropolitan Saba appointing me as priest at St John's in May of 2024. I have been blessed to serve you over these past months and look forward to serving during Lent and Pascha in the coming year. Please pray for me, Kh Pat, and one another in these coming months.

Love in Christ,

Fr Seraphim,

**CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!**

## THE SYNAXARION

On December 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Ambrose, bishop of Milan.

### **Verses**

***Ambrose, having shed his corruptible body,  
hath fitly partaken of divine ambrosia.***

***On the seventh Ambrose came upon immortal terrain.***

His father was the imperial governor of Gaul and Spain, and a pagan, while his mother was a Christian. On the death of his father, the Emperor made him governor of Liguria, of which province Milan was the chief city. When the bishop of Milan died, there was great dissention about the choice of a new bishop. Ambrose went into the church to keep order. Thereupon, a child at its mother's breast cried out: "Ambrose for bishop!" All the people took this to be the voice of God, and unanimously elected Ambrose as their bishop, although it was against his will. Ambrose was baptized, and passed through all the necessary ranks in one week. As bishop, he strengthened the faith of the Orthodox, restrained heretics, adorned churches, spread the Faith among the pagans, wrote many instructive books and was an example of a true Christian and a true shepherd. Ambrose died peacefully at daybreak on Pascha in 397.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia; and Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos.

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### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

"It is not poverty that is the thing to be feared, but not being willing to be poor. Account poverty to be nothing to fear, and it will not be a matter of fear to you. This fear is not in the nature of the thing, but in the judgment of feeble-minded men."

**(St. John Chrysostom)**



## DECEMBER SERVICES

DEC. 6TH SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS AT 5PM

AT 3PM BAPTISM FOR JONATHAN KOCHER

DEC. 7TH SUNDAY — MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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

DEC. 13TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

DEC. 14TH SUNDAY— SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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

DEC. 20TH SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS 5PM

DEC. 21ST SUNDAY — SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10 AM

DEC. 24TH WEDNESDAY — EVE OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST

ROYAL HOURS @ 9AM

MATINS @ 6PM

DIVINE LITURGY @ 7PM

FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW IN HALL

ALL ARE INVITED

DEC. 27TH SATURDAY — NO GREAT VESPERS

DEC. 28TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

DEC. 31ST WEDNESDAY — CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

ST. BASIL LITURGY 6PM



## **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, Pephile, Kyriel, Holden, and Kayla.

Welcome to our newest members: Jonathan K and Kyiel .

**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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### **THE SYNAXARION (from December 6th)**

On December 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorated our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia.

#### **Verses**

*Nicholas, who while on earth, was a great intercessor,*

*Though he hath left the earth, still fervently intercedeth.*

*On the sixth his life's end appeared to Nicholas.*

His eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, returned their gift of an only child to God by dedicating Nicholas to Him. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." By God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. He was cast in and out of prison, he defended the true nature of Christ in the First Ecumenical Council, and he even saved men from unjust death sentences. Nicholas entered into eternal rest on December 6, 343.

## 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.

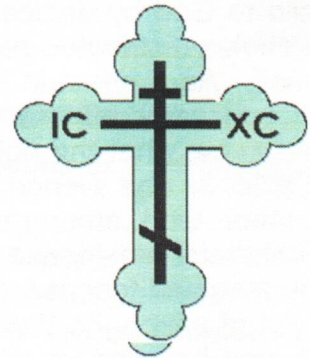
During the course of his earthly life, Jesus taught us about both forms. He Himself went up to a mount and prayed alone with His Heavenly Father, as He did also in Gethsemane. He taught people to pray “in secret,” to close the door and commune with God. But He also urged people to pray publicly, especially 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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CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES  
[WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG)



OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment