

SAINT

JOHN

THE
THEO
LO
GI
AN



DECEMBER 14, 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

***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 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 5

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (ANCESTORS) OF CHRIST

MMARTYRS THYRSOS, LEUKIOS AND KALLINIKOS OF APOLLONIA;
MARTYRS PHILEMON, APOLLONIOS, HYPATIOS AND
ARRIANOS OF ALEXANDRIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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.

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.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

THE SYNAXARION

On December 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; and the Martyrs Philemon, Apolonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

Verses

***Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.***

Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

+++++

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you want Christ to bless you and what you have, when you meet some poor individual who is hungry, and asks you for food, give him. Also, when you know that some poor man, widow, or an orphan is hungry, do not want for them to ask you for food, but give them. Have faith that Christ invisible blesses your few possessions."

(St. Arsenios of Paros.)

DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES

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 /COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:30—10:30am

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

JAN. 3RD SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS 5PM

JAN. 4TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Forefathers)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Forefathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

THE HOLY FOREFATHERS OF CHRIST

The Sunday before our Lord's Nativity is a unique day in the liturgical life of our Orthodox Church. We look **AHEAD** to the great Mystery that is about to occur. **GOD BECOMING MAN**. At the same time, we look **BACK** over the centuries, remembering the patriarchs, prophets and other devout people who eagerly awaited the coming of the Messiah. This day is commonly referred to as the **SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS**.

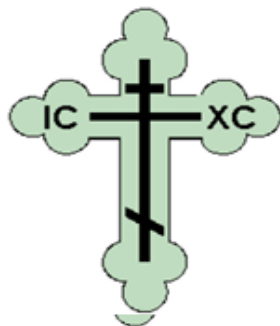
As we contemplate the hymns and readings prescribed by the Church for this day, one word is placed before us again and again: **FAITH**.

The message on this day is a clear one. We are about to celebrate the culmination of centuries of anticipation. The faith of the Holy Forefathers is about to be rewarded. Soon, we will rejoice along with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as we bear witness to the Birth of Christ. We will "..... Run with patience the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and finisher of our **FAITH**." (Hebrews 12:2)

The spirit of the jubilant day is captured wonderfully by today's Troparion: :Through faith, You justified the patriarchs, and through them. You made a commitment to a church with gentiles. The saints in glory rejoice, because from the seed of these forefathers had come forth the blessed fruit which gave birth to You without seed.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ORTHODOX CHURCH
1501 8TH AVENUE
BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG



OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment