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DECEMBER 28, 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 FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**

## **TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7**

### **AFTER-FEAST OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**

**Commemoration of Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King,  
and James the brother of God**

#### **THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

***Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.***

They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... (***Refrain***)

#### **THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

***Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.***

Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (***Refrain***)

There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (***Refrain***)

Glory... Both now... **O, only begotten Son and Word of God...**

#### **THE THIRD ANTIPHON**

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

***Chant the Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ. After the Little Entrance, chant these hymns in the following order:***

## **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR**

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

## **APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR**

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

## **APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO**

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to 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 THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE**

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

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; \* to the Unapproachable, \* the earth doth offer a small cave; \* Angels join in choir with shepherds \* in giving glory; \* with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; \* for our sakes is born a young Child, \* He Who existed \* before the ages as God

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## **"THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

" The Lord does not forbid us to desire to become His favorites, for He wants us to desire advancement in the spiritual life. But He does not want us to grasp for honors and privileges, but rather to reach to the heights of humility.."

**(St. Theophylact of Ochrid)**

## THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Nativity of Christ)

***God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.***

***The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)***

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

## THE GOSPEL

***God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.***

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**DECEMBER/JANUARY SERVICES**

**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**

**JAN. 5TH MONDAY — THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**

**EVENING DIVINE LITURGY 6PM**

**BLESSING OF THE WATER**

**JAN. 10TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**JAN. 11TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

**JAN. 17TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**JAN. 18TH SUNDAY—MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

**JAN. 24TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**JAN. 25TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

**JAN. 31ST SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**FEB. 1ST SUNDAY—SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**



## **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, Carrie, Lori, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Holden, Justin and Kayla.

**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**

**On the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ, we commemorate the holy and just Ancestors of God: Joseph the Betrothed of the Holy Virgin, our Lady the Theotokos; James the Brother of God and the First Bishop of Jerusalem; and David the Prophet and King.**

#### *Verses*

I honor Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin, who to be her protector was alone chosen.  
Thou art a carpenter's son, but also the brother of the Lord that built all with a word, O  
blest James.

What shall I say, seeing that the Lord testifieth, as a man after Mine own heart, I have  
found David.

David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him and glorified him above all the kings of Israel. He gave him the great grace to compose the most beautiful penitential prayers (the Psalms) and to prophesy the coming of Christ. Thus, God was not ashamed to take upon Himself flesh from David's seed. God designated Joseph to protect the Most-holy Virgin, and imparted to him great honor in the plan of the salvation of mankind. Although Joseph was of the royal lineage of David, he was a humble carpenter in Nazareth. At the age of 80, Joseph took the Most-holy Virgin from the Temple in Jerusalem and into his home. He entered into rest at the age of 110. The Apostle James is called the "Brother of the Lord" because he was the son of the righteous Joseph the Betrothed. James greatly loved Jesus and, according to tradition, he traveled to Egypt with the Most-holy Virgin and Joseph, when Herod sought to slay the newborn King.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**1) HOUSE BLESSING SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE  
SIGN UP BY JANUARY 4TH AND FR. SERAPHIM WILL CONTACT YOU.**

## THE ULTIMATE "PROTECTIVE PARENTS"

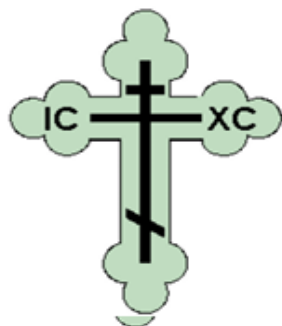
Being a parent can be described as a multi-faceted vocation. A father and mother are called upon to provide for every need of their child—sometimes at great expense and often with greater sacrifice. A child must be taught, nurtured, fed and disciplined. These are just a few parental responsibilities that a father and mother are obligated to meet.

Perhaps the most important duty, however, that every parent must embrace is protecting their child from harm and misfortune. Sometimes last in the story of our Lord's Nativity is the effort made by Joseph and the Virgin Mary to protect their precious Child from King Herod. He slaughtered scores of innocent children in Bethlehem and its surrounding region in his rage-driven quest to eliminate anyone who would dare be referred to as the "King of the Jews."

The Gospel of St. Matthew gives us the account of the courageous actions of our Lord's earthly parents. The Angel of the Lord warns Joseph in a dream: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word, for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy." (Matthew 2:13) In dead of night, they fled Bethlehem and embarked on long and dangerous journey, over rugged and unfamiliar terrain. They safely arrived in Egypt to get another heavenly visitor saying, "Arise and take the Child and His Mother to the land of Israel. For those who sought the Child's life are dead. Their stay in Israel is shrouded in mystery. What we know is: Joseph and Mary were the ultimate protective parents," preserving the one Who grows up to be the Savior of the world!

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CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES  
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OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment