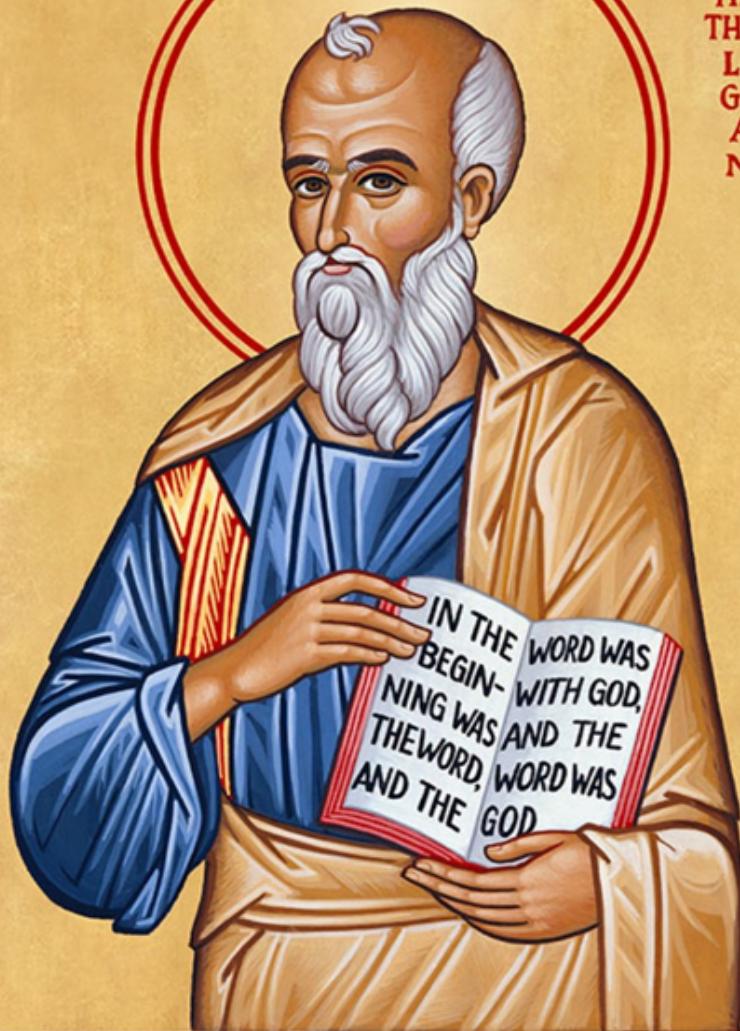


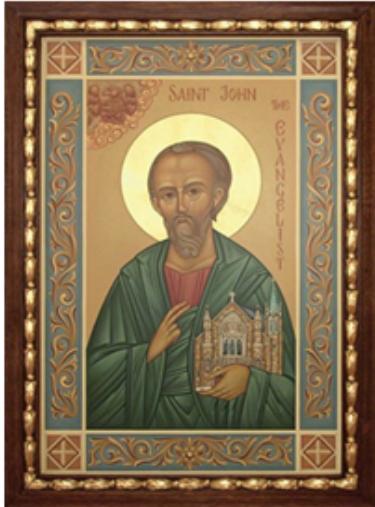
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JANUARY 4, 2026



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

(724) 847-1111

**WWW.SAINTOHNCHURCH.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, JANUARY 04, 2026

## TONE 5 / EOTHINON 8; FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

SYNAXIS OF THE SEVENTY HOLY APOSTLES;

VENERABLE THEOKTISTOS OF SICILY

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

### APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(*\*\*Joseph was amazed\*\**)

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. \* River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive \* the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. \* O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; \* hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. \* Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now \* to clothe you in the first robe again. \* Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

### 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 THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

(*\*\*On this day Thou hast appeared\*\**)

In the running waters of \* the Jordan River, \* on this day the Lord of all \* crieth to John: Be not afraid \* and hesitate not to baptize Me, \* for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

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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 EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

***O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.***

### **The Reading from St. Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy. (4:5-8)**

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

### **The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## **SYNAXARION**

On January 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we prepare to celebrate the Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the holy Seventy Apostles.

### **Verses**

*It is right to acclaim with songs all together all of the  
Seventy glorious Apostles.  
On the fourth we glorify men of mighty renown.*

In addition to the twelve Great Apostles, the Lord chose seventy other, lesser apostles and sent them to preach to the Jews. He sent them out two by two before His face, to each town and place, saying: "Behold, I send you as sheep among wolves" (Luke 10:1-5). But as Judas, one of the Twelve, fell away from the Lord, so some among these Seventy withdrew from Him, not with the intention of betraying Him but from human weakness and lack of faith (John 6:66). The apostles elected new ones to take the fallen apostles' places. These Seventy labored in the same way as the twelve Great Apostles; they were the assistants of the Twelve in the spreading and strengthening of the Church of God in the world. They suffered much torture and malice, from men and from demons, but their firm faith and burning love for the risen Lord made them conquerors of the world and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily.

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### **"THOUGHT FOR THE DAY"**

"One who performs saving works simply from the fear of Hell follows the way of bondage, and he who does the same just in order to be rewarded with the Kingdom of Heaven follows the path of a bargainer with God the one they call a slave, the other a hireling. But wants us to come to Him as sons to their Father."

("Way of a Pilgrim").

JANUARY/FEBRUARY SERVICES

JAN. 3RD SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS 5PM

JAN. 4TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY  
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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JAN. 5TH MONDAY — THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

EVENING DIVINE LITURGY 6PM

BLESSING OF THE WATER

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JAN. 10TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

JAN. 11TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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JAN. 17TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

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

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JAN. 24TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

JAN. 25TH SUNDAY — SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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JAN. 31ST SATURDAY — GREAT VESPERS 5PM

FEB. 1ST 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 Sasic & 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 SYNAKARION for THEOPHANY 1-6-26

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### *verses*

*Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens, leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.  
On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.*

**When our Lord** reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world." When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

## JESUS CHRIST WANTS US

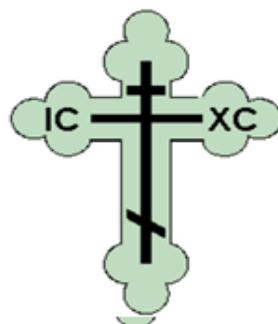
For decades, the United States Armed Forces have effectively used the following slogan for recruiting purposes: "Uncle Sam Wants You!" Surely, we have seen the poster of the old, bearded gentleman, attired in his patriotic suit of red, white and blue. With a piercing gaze, he points to us and appeals to our civic pride. Our country needs us! There is work for us to do for America! We are important to our government! Enlist now!

We should note, however, that the Church has placed a similar message before us for centuries: JESUS CHRIST WANTS US! Yes. We are all important to the Lord. Every Orthodox Christian is expected to contribute to the growth of Christ's Church. Christ wants us to be modern-day "apostles," defending His teachings and living according to His precepts. He wants us to be teachers, preachers, leaders and ministers -- there is something we all can be doing for our Savior. Indeed, "...we, being many, are one body in Christ."

(Romans 13:5)

Our Orthodox Christian responsibility to Christ and His Church is great. The Church has prevailed for over 2,000 years largely because Christ's dedicated followers of every generation have recognized the role that they have been called upon to fulfill. Our Lord needs us to be true to our baptismal vows and serve Him with love to the best of our ability. The future of the Church now rests in OUR hands.

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OFFICE HOURS

By Appointment