

SAINT

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FEBRUARY 22, 2026



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

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

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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 ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 4

SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)

**UNCOVERING OF THE SEVEN MARTYRS' RELICS AT GATE OF EUGENIOS IN
CONSTANTINOPLE;
MARTYR ANTHUSA AND HER TWELVE SERVANTS**

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 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 FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

LETTER FROM METROPOLITAN SABA: GREAT LENT 2026

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

***O Lord, how magnified are Thy works.
In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.***

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts. But as for the one who is weak in faith, receive him, but not for disputes over opinions. For one believes he may eat anything; but the weak person eats herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to be the judge over the servant of a stranger? To his own master he either stands or falls; but he will be made to stand; for God is able to make him stand.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

THE SYNAXARION

On February 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the uncovering of the Seven Martyrs' relics at Gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; and Martyr Anthusa and her twelve servants.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

Verses

***Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.***

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Emotions are the fire, and thoughts are the logs—the combustible material. Let us note that the devil does not attach to us through through our emotions. Sin does not enter us through sadness, fear, hatred, or pride expressed as feelings. These are the energies of a sick soul, bursting from our fallen nature, beyond our control of our will. Since enters through evil that promises deliverance from the pain caused by their feelings—thoughts that lead us to the Evil One, to evil words, and to destructive actions... There is addiction to negative emotions, just as there is addiction to alcohol; therefore healing is difficult. ..When we repress the effects of trauma and do not offer them to God, we contribute to passing them on to our children and grandchildren."

(from Mother Siluan Vlad. *God, Where is the Wound*, 2022)

FEBRUARY/MARCH SERVICES

**FEB. 21ST. SATURDAY--Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30am
GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**FEB. 22ND SUNDAY —FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
GREAT VESPERS TO FOLLOW DIVINE LITURGY
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**FEB. 23RD MONDAY —GREAT LENT BEGINS
6PM** Great Compline with first quarter of Great Canon of St. Andrew

**FEB. 24TH TUESDAY
6PM** Great Compline with second quarter of Great Canon of Andrew

**FEB. 25TH WEDNESDAY
6PM** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.

**FEB. 26TH THURSDAY
6PM** Great Compline with third quarter of Great Canon of St. Andrew

**FEB. 27TH FRIDAY
6PM** Little Compline with Akathist Canon
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**FEB. 28TH. SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM
MAR. 1ST. SUNDAY— “SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY”
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
PROCESSION OF THE ICONS at end of Divine Liturgy
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**MAR. 4TH. WEDNESDAY
6PM** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.

**MAR. 6TH. FRIDAY
6PM** Little Compline with Akathist Canon

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, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Holden, Justin, Levon, Aiden, 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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FOR SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (Lenten Vesper Stichera)

After taking me as dust * out of the earth, my Creator * and my Lord, with quick'ning breath, * made me live, gave me a soul, * and he honored me * as the prince of all things * visible upon earth, * with a life that rivalled Angel-kind. * But Satan, full of guile, * making of the serpent his instrument, * enticed me with the bait of food, * rent me from the glory of God therewith, * and through nethermost death, * he gave me back again unto the earth. * But as the Master and merciful, * do Thou call me back again.

That divinely-woven robe, * I stripped clean off, disobeying * Thy divine command, O Lord, * through the counsel of the foe, * wretched as I am. * And now I have been clothed * all about with fig leaves * and with coats of skin, and am condemned * in the sweat of my face * here to eat the bread of my wearied toil. * The earth doth bring forth unto me * thorns and thistles, having been cursed through me. * Thou Who, of a Virgin * becamest flesh for us in these last times, * call me again and conduct me back * into blessed Paradise.

O most honored Paradise, * thou fairest summit of beauty, * God-created dwelling-place, * never-ceasing joy of heart, * glory of the just; * gladness that hath no end, * sweet delight of prophets, * habitation of the saints of God, * with the sound of thy leaves * pray to the Creator of all for me, * to open up to me the gates * that I by transgression closed up before, * that I be deemed worthy * of full partaking of the Tree of Life * and of the joy I delighted in * in thee in the days of old.

For his disobedience, * aforetime Adam was banished* from sweet Paradise and cast * from delight, being deceived * by the woman's words; * he sat opposite that place, * naked and lamenting * and bewailed his sorrow: Woe is me! * Let us then all with zeal * welcome this whole time of the holy fast, * obeying the traditions of * the all-holy Gospels without reproach, * that through them becoming * well pleasing unto Christ, we might again * receive the dwelling in Paradise * in that place of all delight.

“LET US BEGIN THE FAST WITH JOY!”

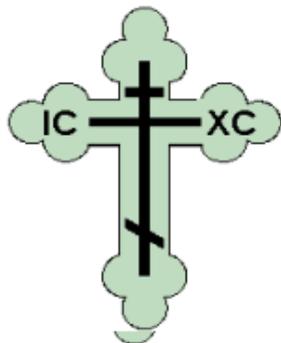
Although some may associate Great Lent with suffering and sacrifice, our church gently reminds us that the 40-day Fast which precedes our Lord's Resurrection is actually a time for us to experience a great spiritual joy. The Church's service book for Lent — The Triodion — calls this period the “spiritual spring which blossoms with the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. For us to “harvest” these fruits, however, it is necessary for us to master two vital disciplines: **PRAYER** and **FASTING**.

St. John Chrysostom writes that prayer and fasting are like “two wings that carry a person to the heights of God.” They are the means for us to become mentally, physically and spiritually prepared to encounter the Lord in an intimate way. Prayer and fasting help us to become closer to God. The more time we spend in prayer, the less time we have to become consumed with the sins and temptations that are constantly placed before us. Fasting shows our willingness to cast aside the pleasures of the world, abstaining from wrong-doing as well as food.

While urging us to embrace these admirable virtues during the Lenten season, the Church reminds us of the emphasis that Christ Himself placed on prayer and fasting. There were countless times during His earthly ministry that Jesus became deeply immersed in practicing these disciplines. Indeed, when His disciples questioned why they were unable to cast our demons from a possessed young man, Christ pointed out to them that only through prayer and fasting could they ever receive the ability to do this!

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**