

SAINT

JOHN

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MARCH 8, 2026



***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 VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 08, 2026

TONE 6 / EOTHINON 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

THEOPHYLACT THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA; APOSTLE HERMAS
OF THE SEVENTY

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonder working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the land that our souls may be saved.

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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY) **IN TONE EIGHT**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

THE SYNAXARION

On March 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Theophylact the Confessor, bishop of Nicomedia; and Apostle Hermas of the Seventy.

On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

Verses

The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning

The Light's own truly great and resplendent herald.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a hierarch, a theologian who defeated the heretics of his era, and a miracle-worker who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“He who recognizes his heart’s impurity, and is not filled with pride because of the partial degree of purity he has attained, but uses it as an aid... will see more clearly the impurity of the other powers of his soul and will progress in humility, his inward grief will grow, and he will find suitable ways of healing each of his soul’s powers.”

(St. Gregory Palamas)

MARCH SERVICES

MAR. 7TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

MAR. 8TH SUNDAY—ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

COUNCIL MEETING AT 12 NOON

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MAR. 11TH. WEDNESDAY

6PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.

MAR. 13TH FRIDAY

6PM Little Compline with Akathist Canon

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MAR. 14TH SATURDAY—GREAT VESPERS 5PM

MAR. 15TH SUNDAY — VENERATION OF THE CROSS

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAR. 18TH. WEDNESDAY

6PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.

MAR. 20TH FRIDAY

6PM Little Compline with Akathist Canon

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MAR.21ST SATURDAY—Community Breakfast 8:30 –10:30am

GREAT VESPERS 5PM

MAR. 22ND SUNDAY— JOHN OF THE LADDER

MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

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MAR. 23RD MONDAY— FULL STORY OF ST. ANDREW OF

CRETE w/ STORY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT 6PM

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MAR. 25TH WEDNESDAY — ANNUNCIATION

FEASTAL MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY (ST. John) 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, 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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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) **Message from Metropolitan Saba: On Sunday of Orthodoxy we ask each parish to offer a generous gift in support of the seminarians and their families. This responsibility belongs to all of us. As they prepare to give their lives for us, let us lovingly support them in advance. Donations will be accepted throughout the Month of March. Please place in bowl near altar.**

2) **The Antiochian Woman NAB continues its tradition of designating *MARCH AS ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S MONTH*, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA. This year, we once again highlight the importance of the annual project. The Widowed Clergy Wives Endowment Fund provides meaningful , ongoing and direct assistance to the wives of our departed clergy who have faithfully and lovingly served the Church alongside their husbands. Metropolitan Saba encourages every parish to support this needy project. Donations will be accepted throughout the month. Please use Envelopes on table in Narthrex**

“ENLIGHTEN MY DARKNESS, O LORD”

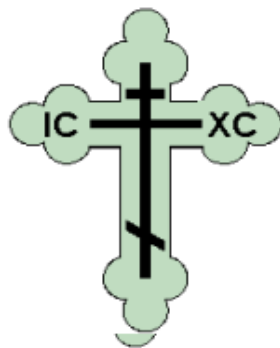
The Second Sunday of Lent is dedicated to the memory of a saint that may be described as a “*mysterious mystic*,” **St. Gregory Palamas**. Gregory was born in 1296 A.D. and received his secular education in Constantinople. His father was a prominent official in the Emperor’s court, but Gregory chose to devote his life to serving a Heavenly King rather than a temporal one. At the age of 20, he entered a monastery on Mt. Athos, and was ordained to the priesthood 10 years later.

Gregory Palamas became part of a controversial monastic movement called “*hesychasm*.” Hesychasm called for its followers to embrace a life of silence and contemplative prayer. It taught that through fasting, rigorous bodily discipline and repetition of the Jesus Prayer, Man can know God in an intimate way. For years, the only words uttered by St. Gregory were “*Enlighten my darkness, O Lord*,” as he sought to know His Creator with all of his being.

Although he would have been content to remain on Mt. Athos for the rest of his life, Gregory was appointed Archbishop of Thessalonica in 1347 A.D. His views on theological matters came under fierce attack by his enemies, even causing him to be imprisoned for heresy on several occasions. Gregory’s positions eventually became universally accepted by the entire Holy Orthodox Church, and today, Gregory Palamas is extolled as a “*Light of Orthodoxy, A teacher of the Church and an invincible champion of theologians*.” Gregory Palamas fell asleep in the Lord in 1359 A.D. He was canonized a saint only 9 years after his death.

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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**