

**PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE  
ARCHDEACON**



**AUGUST 2, 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 FR. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS**

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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 worshiping with us.***

***Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Dan Volitich, Joann Rossman or leave message on 724-847-1111.***

***The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshiping 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, AUGUST 02, 2026**

**TONE 8 / EOTHINON 9; NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**& NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**RELICS TRANSLATION OF PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCH-  
DEACON**

Venerable Photeini the wonderworker of Carpasia in Cyprus;  
Blessed Basil the fool-for-Christ, wonderworker of Moscow

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT**

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON IN TONE FOUR**

*(\*\*Be quick to anticipate\*\*)*

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head \* because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; \* for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest \* Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. \* O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

**KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN**

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

## **THE EPISTLE**

(For the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

***Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.  
God is known in Judaea; His Name is great in Israel.***

### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (3:9-17)**

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's husbandry, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise architect I laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. Let each one take heed how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; everyone's work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test each one's work of what sort it is. If anyone's work which was built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone corrupts the temple of God, God will corrupt him. For the temple of God is holy, whose temple you are.

## **THE GOSPEL**

(For the Ninth Sunday of Matthew)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)**

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

## THE SYNAXARION

On August 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the recovery of the sacred relics of the holy Proto-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen.

### *Verses*

***A great many strange and divine things hast thou, O Zion:  
So give Constantine's city the dead body of Stephen.  
On the second Stephen's corpse was removed.***

When the wicked Jews stoned Stephen to death, they left his body for the dogs to eat. After two nights Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and a secret follower of Christ, came and took his body to Caphargamala, and buried it in a cave. Eventually, Gamaliel's friend Nicodemus, his nephew Abibos and he were laid to rest in the same cave. The graves were forgotten, but in 415, in the time of Patriarch John of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to the Priest Lucian, in Caphargamala, and told him the exact location of the burial place. With the Patriarch's blessing, Lucian and others dug up the graves. A strong and fragrant odor from the relics of these saints filled the cave. Stephen's relics were solemnly translated to Zion and there buried with ceremony, and the relics of the others were taken to a hill above the cave and laid to rest in a church there. Later, Stephen's healing relics were translated to Constantinople.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Photeini the wonderworker of Carpasia in Cyprus; and Blessed Basil the fool-for-Christ, wonderworker of Moscow.

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Perry Sassic is in CCU at Sewickley Valley Hospital.

Please keep him in your prayers!

## **AUGUST SERVICES**

*(NO VESPER SERVICES FROM  
MAY 1ST. THROUGH AUGUST 31ST.)*

**AUGUST 1ST SATURDAY—DORMITION FAST BEGINS**

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**AUGUST 2ND SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**AUGUST 6TH THURSDAY — TRANSFIGURATION  
SERVICE AT MONASTERY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION  
SEE SCHEDULE FOR PATRONAL FEAST ->->->->**

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**AUGUST 9TH SUNDAY — MATTHEW THE APOSTLE  
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**AUGUST 15TH SATURDAY — FEAST OF THE  
DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

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**AUGUST 16TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**AUGUST 23RD SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**AUGUST 30TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

When a person is helped to believe in God and in the future, eternal life—that is, when he grasps the deeper meaning of life— and repents and changes his way of life, divine consolation comes immediately with the Grace of God, which transforms the person and dispels all his inherited shortcomings. Many people who repented and struggled with philotimo and humility, received Grace and became Saints.... St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

**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, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Joni, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew, Yvonne, Rosemary and Patty.

**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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**PATRONS FEAST**

***ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AT MONASTERY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION***

**Presiding Hierarchy**

His Eminence the **Most Reverend Daniel**  
Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest  
The Orthodox Church in America

**Wednesday, August 5 — Eve of Transfiguration**

6:00 Festal Vigil Service

**Thursday, August 6 — Feast of Transfiguration**

9:00 Akathist "Glory to God for All Things"

9:30 Procession and Hierarchical Liturgy

12:00 Catered Luncheon

2:00 Memorial Service in the cemetery

2:30 Holy Unction with Paraklesis

## FOLLOW THIS GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

The Church has laid out a path for us to achieve **SPIRITUAL SUCCESS**. These several steps can lead us to daily victory and an abundant life. They encompass the **FOUR H'S: HUMILITY, HOLINESS, HEALTH & HONOR**.

**HUMILITY** is this quality that makes us more like Jesus. Do not forget that pride is the first step towards a fall. Consider for a moment the humility our Lord displayed. He had a humble birth in a stable. During His ministry, Christ took upon Himself the form of a servant. He came to serve, not be served. In the end Jesus was obedient thru His painful death on the cross, dying for our salvation.

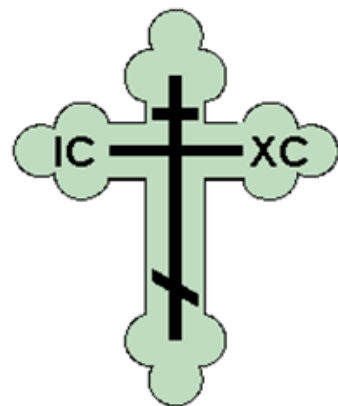
**HOLINESS** identifies us as Christians. We must have reverence and trust in our one true God. We recognize what we have done wrong, vow repentance and turn to Jesus for the remission of our sins. He is our example. By trusting in Christ as our Saviour, we receive the power to overcome hardship.

**HEALTH** of both body and soul will improve because of our holy lifestyle. There certainly are physical and spiritual benefits to be had. We are able to forgive because we have been forgiven. We can stop worrying because we have learned to trust God. We are able to find true joy because we walk in God's will.

**HONOR** the Lord with all your heart. Our Lord asked us to be charitable and giving of our riches. In doing so, God increases His Blessings. There is a phrase that goes: Fear says, "I'm afraid to give" while Faith says, "I'm so blessed I cannot withhold."

As we reflect inward, we must ask if we have been using these four basic keys to spiritual success. By doing so, our daily quality of life will be greatly improved.

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES  
[WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG)**

**OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment**