

SAINT
the

JOHN
Baptist



AUGUST 30, 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

***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 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.

DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
TONE 4 / EOTHINON 2; THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST & THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

LEAVE-TAKING OF THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ALEXANDER, PAUL THE NEW, AND JOHN, PATRIARCHS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE BAPTIST'S BEHEADING IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom they had proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us 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 ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

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

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Thirteenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

THE SYNAXARION

On August 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our fathers among the saints Alexander, Paul the New, and John, Patriarchs of Constantinople.

Verses

*Having escaped the flesh's bonds, O Alexander,
Thou hast found the Lord's inheritance as thy portion.
The faces of the Church are gloomy with sorrow,
For they cannot bear blessed John's deprivation.
Paul, leaving behind him life's pathways and its courses,
Found a pall for his casket and rest from his labors.
On the thirtieth, three before the Trinity now stand.*

Alexander took part in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, in place of the aged Patriarch Metrophanes, whom he then succeeded. When certain philosophers tried to dispute with him about faith, he said to one of them: "In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to remain silent!" The philosophers became dumb from that moment. Alexander died at the age of 98 in the year 340. Paul the New governed the Church for almost six years and renounced the throne to receive the Great Habit secretly, to repent of his sins when he first supported the iconoclasts. He was the predecessor of the great Tarasius and entered into rest in 784. John was nicknamed "Scholasticus" because he was originally a lawyer. He became Patriarch in 565. He wrote Canons which have been included in the Nomocanon. In his day, the Cherubic Hymn and the prayer "At Thy mystical supper" were introduced into the Liturgy. He departed this life peacefully and gave his soul to God in 577.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If three men meet, of whom the first fully preserves interior peace, and the second gives thanks to God in illness, and the third serves with a pure mind, these three are doing the same work."

(ABBA POEMEN THE GREAT)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

**AUGUST 30TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
ALEXANDER, JOHN & PAUL THE NEW**

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**SEPT. 6TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**

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**SEPT. 13TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS
COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON**

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SEPT. 19TH SATURDAY —COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 8:30-10:30AM

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**SEPT. 20TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS**

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**SEPT. 27TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
CALLISTRATUS & HIS 49 COMPANIONS**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

INSTRUCTOR IS JESSICA HILL

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, Patty, Jessica, Eric, Mikayla, Mira, Asher, and Benjamin.

**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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UPCOMING SERVICES

SEPT. 1ST TUESDAY — ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

Monastery of the Transfiguration —DIVINE LITURGY 8:30AM

SEPT. 8TH TUESDAY — NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Monastery of the Transfiguration —DIVINE LITURGY 9:30AM

SEPT. 14TH MONDAY — ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

Service place and time TBA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE EAST PROGRAMS

AWE plans for SEPTEMBER 2026:

+Summer Book Club, culminating on September 13, 2026 via Zoom.

+Service Retreat on September 19, 2026 at St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church and Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh, PA.

SAVE THE DATE: Fall Retreat at Holy Protection Monastery, White Haven, PA on NOVEMBER 7, 2026. Additional information, including registration details available closer to date.

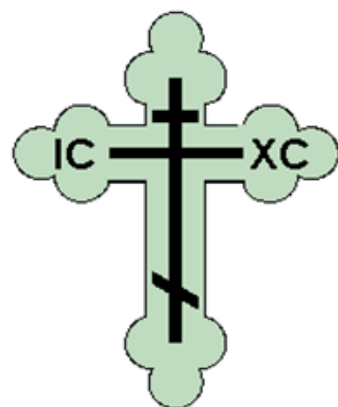
I AM NOT WORTHY

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST played a vital role in the story of salvation for the human race. The son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, John lived his adult life as a recluse in the Judean wilderness. It had been foretold that "...he would be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God." (Luke 1:15-16) It is no wonder then that many who heard him preach and came to the Jordan River to be baptized by him thought that he might be the long-awaited Messiah.

John, however, never lost sight of what his calling was. He had no "illusions of grandeur", for he fully understood that he was to be "Forerunner of Christ" - the one who would prepare the world for the coming of the Savior. He was the "voice of one crying in the wilderness." Yes, John made it perfectly clear to all those who listened to his words: "There comes One after me who is mightier than I. I am not worthy to undo the strap of His sandal." (Mark 1:7) After baptizing Jesus—something that he thought himself unworthy to do—John was content to fade into the background and allow our Lord to begin His redemptive work.

As Christ embarked upon His Divine Mission. John continued to preach the message of repentance to all who would listen. Never afraid to speak the truth, John was arrested and cast into prison for criticizing King Herod for his adulterous relationship with his brother's wife Herodias. This eventually would lead to his execution by means of beheading.

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG**

**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**