

ELEVATION OF

THE CROSS



SEPTEMBER 20, 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 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, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
TONE 7 / EOTHINON 5
SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Great-martyr Eustathios and his family;
Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

O God, my God, attend to me; why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my salvation are the words of my transgressions.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

My God, I will cry by day, and wilt Thou not hearken? And by night, and it shall not be unto folly for me. But as for Thee, Thou dwellest in the sanctuary, O Praise of Israel. ***(Refrain)***

Glory... Both now... ***(Refrain)***

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

O God, why hast Thou cast us off unto the end? Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast crucified in the flesh, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

This is Mount Zion wherein Thou hast dwelt. ***(Refrain)***

God is our King before the ages. He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth. ***(Refrain)***

Glory... Both now... ***O, only begotten Son and Word of God...***

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord reigneth, let the people rage; He sitteth upon the cherubim, let the earth be shaken. The Lord is great in Zion; and He is high above all peoples. Let them confess Thy great Name, for it is terrible and holy.

Chant the APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY CROSS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

*(**Thou Who wast raised up**)*

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was elevated on the Cross, bestow Thy bounties upon the new people who are called by Thy Name; O Christ our God. Make glad with Thy might our believing rulers, grant them victory over their enemies. May Thine aid be a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord glory and honor.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

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THE SYNAXARION

On September 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate holy Great-martyr Eustathios, Theopiste his wife, and their two sons Agapios and Theopistos.

Verses

**A bronze bull burned up Eustathios' whole household;
And the whole household Thou, O Word of God, savest.
On the twentieth Eustathios with family was burned in a bull.**

Eustathios, before his baptism, was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the second century. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a similar vision. They sought out the Christian Bishop and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathios, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapios and Theopistos. The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. When the family refused to sacrifice to the idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. The martyrs suffered in the year 126.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SERVICES

***(NO VESPER OR MATINS SERVICES
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.)***

**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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**OCT. 4TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
HEIROTHEUS OF ATHENS**

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**OCT. 11TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH COUNCIL**

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**OCT. 18TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

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**OCT. 25TH SUNDAY—DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
MARCIAN & MARTYRIUS the Notaries**

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**Everywhere, wherever you may find yourself, you can
set up an altar to God in your mind by means of prayer.**

St. John Chrysostom

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..... Trisagion—Margaret Kalcevic

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE EAST PROGRAMS

AWE plans for FALL RETREAT: 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.**

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IOCC EVENTS

- 1) DINNER WITH WINE PAIRING : SUNDAY 20, 2026 5:30 ~ 7:30 PM**
- 2) OKTOBERFEST HAPPY HOUR: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 6-9 pm**
BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
- 3) BOURBON TASTING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 7:00 PM**
****TO BENEFIT IOCC****

REFER TO ADVERTISMENT SHEETS on TABLE IN NARTHREX

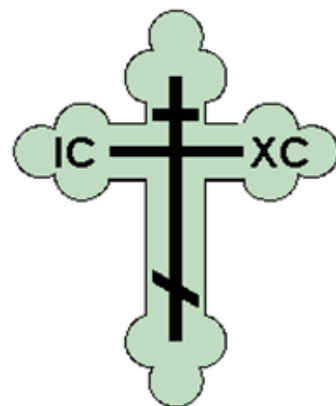
PROPER PROTOCOL WITH GOD

It's unlikely that many of us will ever be privileged to have an audience with the President of the United States, or anyone else of similar stature. If however, we did, we would be given a "crash course" on what proper protocol would be for our encounter. Undoubtedly, we would be briefed on how we should dress, what we should say and how we should say it when meeting with the leader of our nation. Certainly we would not act as if we were in the company of a work colleague or a school classmate — our behavior would be expected to be dignified and respectful.

Every Sunday, we have a wonderful opportunity to have an "audience" with Someone Who carries much more "clout" than the President when we attend Divine Liturgy. We often overlook what a special experience this should be, and that certain things are required of us when we "meet" Him. When God spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush, He instructed him to "... take off your shoes, for you are on holy ground." While we need not follow these words too literally, we must nonetheless, remember the sacredness and sanctity of being in the presence of the Lord. Our prayers must always be sincere; our approach to the Lord in this special way should always be with great humility and love— We must never demand that our prayers be answered by Him — nor should we expect a positive response every time we call upon Him to assist us.

May we "know our place" in our relationship with God. He is our Father; we are His children. He is the Giver of all good things, and when we come to Him with unwavering faith, we can rest assured that the Lord will certainly listen to our supplications.

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CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment