



August 4, 2024

*ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH*

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WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
AND

METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERIC

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, AUGUST 04, 2024
TONE 5 / EOTHINON 6; SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

THE HOLY SEVEN SLEEPING YOUTHS OF EPHEBUS;
RECOVERY OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR EUDOKIA OF PERSIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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.

DORMITION FAST — AUGUST 1ST THRU 15TH

THE EPISTLE

(For Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sixth Sunday of Matthew)

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

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

THE SYNAXARION

On August 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy Seven Sleeping Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Exacustodian, Jamblichus, Martinian, Dionysius, John and Constantine, who rose from the sleep of death.

Verses

I honor the seven-numbered choir of Martyrs,
Which showed the world that the dead are resurrected.
On the fourth the seven dead risers died together.

The Roman Emperor Decius came to Ephesus in 250 and arranged a boisterous celebration in honor of the lifeless idols, as well as a terrible slaughter of Christians. Seven young men, soldiers and sons of influential elders, refrained from the impure offering of sacrifices and they earnestly prayed to the one true God to save the Christian people. When they were accused before the emperor, they retreated to a hill outside Ephesus called Celion and hid in a cave, which Decius commanded to be sealed. However, God, according to His far-reaching Providence, caused a miraculous and long-lasting sleep to fall upon the young men. The imperial courtiers, Theodore and Rufinus, secret Christians, built in that wall a copper sarcophagus with lead plaques on which were written the names of these young men and their martyric deaths. After 184 years, during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Younger, there was a great dispute about the resurrection. Emperor Theodosius prayed to God that He, in some way, would reveal the truth to mankind. At that time of turmoil some shepherders of Adolius, who owned the hill Celion, removed stone after stone from that cave. The youths then awakened from their sleep young and healthy. The news of this miracle was spread abroad on all sides so that even Theodosius himself came with a great entourage and with delight conversed with the youths. After a week, they again fell into the sleep of death to await the universal resurrection.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SERVICES

August 1st thru 15th — Dormition Fast.

August 3th Saturday — NO Great Vespers

August 4th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

**August 6th Tues. -TRANFIGURATION will be Celebrated at
Monastery of the Transfiguration**

August 10th Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

**August 11th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
Council Meeting 12 NOON**

**August 14th Wednesday—Divine Liturgy 6PM
Dormition of the Theotokos**

**August 17th Saturday —Community Breakfast 8:30-10:30AM
Great Vespers 5PM**

August 18th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

August 24th Saturday — NO Great Vespers

August 25th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM

August 31st Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

**September 1st Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR**

September 7th Saturday — Great Vespers 5PM

**September 8th Sunday — Matins 9AM / Divine Liturgy 10AM
NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**

Prayers are offered for the health and well-being of:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Ann, Carol, Debbie, Jim, Shannon, Aiden, Justin, Sassic Family, Harriet, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Yvonne, Cindy, Joann, and Julianna.

For Thou are the Resurrection, the Life, and the Repose of Thy servants who have fallen asleep especially:

Prayers are offered in memory of ND Mark, Infant Micah and Eleanor.

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ATTENTION TO ALL—COME JOIN US

Weekly gathering will start on Wednesday, September 4th at 6PM — Compline prayers, a light meal, & time of study/fellowship. Study time is helpful to inquirers, catechumens, and those in church desiring to deepen faith in Orthodox Tradition. Fr. will offer weekly topics with one page study sheets. This study will be available for 15 weeks. Please make time to join us.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“THROUGH IT IS A GREAT THING TO FORGIVE MEN THEIR SINS...NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A MUCH MORE DIVINE WORK TO GIVE RESURRECTION TO THEIR BODIES, BECAUSE THE LORD IS HIMSELF THE RESURRECTION.”

ST. AMBROSE

INSPIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD

The highlight of the first part of every Diving Liturgy (the teaching portion), comes with the chanting of Sacred Scripture. Two lessons are provided: the first is the EPISTLE, consisting of a portion of the Acts of the Apostles or of the Letters of St. Paul; the second a portion of one of the 4 GOSPELS (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

These lessons are from the WORD OF GOD, the inspired Scriptures, the Holy Bible. Thus they form the main source of Christian teaching and truth, the light which dispels the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. No wonder we are called upon to "be attentive" at this portion of the divine service.

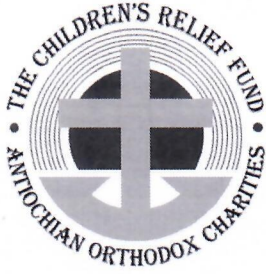
The chanting is usually done by a lector, reader, cantor or server. Of course, the Gospel lesson is chanted by the Priest standing at the "ambo" before the icon screen, while the faithful stand in attention.

We should take a moment to acknowledge the time and commitment our young servers contribute to the Church. Some parishes call them "altar boys" who faithfully minister to the Priest, Sunday upon Sunday, assisting in the sanctuary. Theirs is a holy and worthwhile task, one to be undertaken in all seriousness. It is not unusual to find vocations to the Priesthood, and other positions in the Church, fostered among these servers. Those who serve today are following the long tradition in the Christian community, and they deserve our respect and support. Please commend them for their work in your Congregation!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only



Antiochian Charities

www.childrenrelieffund.org
email: childrensrelieffund@gmail.com

“Whoever receives one little child like this in my name receives me.” (Matthew 18:5)

August 1, 2024

TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARISHIONERS

For over forty years the Children’s Relief Fund has provided financial support to help defray the cost of education for children in Lebanon and Palestine. Requests for such support have increased significantly in recent years. As a result of dire circumstances in Lebanon, many parents have become unable to pay tuition to send their children to Orthodox Christian schools. Our Orthodox schools are at risk of closing, and consequently many of our children will now have to attend a public school or to discontinue their schooling altogether.

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, we are seeking your help. We have approximately thirty Lebanese children from the Archdioceses of Beirut, Koura, Tripoli, and Zahle who need assistance to continue their education at an Orthodox Christian school this coming school year. The tuition cost per student varies from \$750 to \$1200 per school year, depending on the school and the student’s grade level.

Donated funds will be wired directly to the Orthodox school in the child’s name. The child and their family will receive a notice of your support, and you will receive contact information so that you can communicate directly with the child if you wish. Children receiving a tuition scholarship will not receive any other funding from the Children’s Relief Fund. Sponsorship in any amount will be appreciated.

School begins in a few weeks, so if you can help, please contact CFR Administrator Amy Stiffler at: childrensrelieffund@gmail.com.

Children’s Relief Fund Scholarship Program

Antiochian Village
140 Church Camp Trail
Bolivar, PA 15923

God bless you for your consideration of this urgent request.

In Christ’s work,

Amy Stiffler, CRF Administrator & Executive Director
Anne Bourjaily Thomas, Charitable Outreach Chair

cc: His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

A charity of the ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

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