

ST. JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Reverend Fr. Steven Ritter, Pastor
The Reverend Fr. Anthony Bridges, Deacon

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Saturday Great Vespers @ 4:00 p.m. :: Sunday Orthros @ 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.



March 9, 2025





FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY) & THE HOLY AND GREAT FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA



DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT (TONE 4/EOTHINON 4)

RESURRECTION APOLYTIKION TONE 4

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY TONE 2

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE FORTY HOLY MARTYRS OF SEBASTIA TONE 1

As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous one, thou hast received the Gospel. As a Martyr thou art never turned away. As the Brother of God, thou hast boldness. As a hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou intercede with Christ God that He save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JAMES TONE 4

As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous one, thou hast received the Gospel. As a Martyr thou art never turned away. As the Brother of God, thou hast boldness. As a hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou intercede with Christ God that He save our souls.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT TONE 8

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.

As a friendly reminder, only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Holy Communion.

Confession is available after Divine Liturgy, as well as before or after Vespers on Saturday evenings. You can also Contact Fr. Steven to set up an appointment.

THE EPISTLE READING

(For the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia)

Thou, O Lord, will 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 Hebrews. (12:1-10)

Brethren, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely; and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus: the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son: do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by Him; for the Lord disciplines him whom He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father?

THE GOSPEL READING

(For the Sunday of Orthodoxy)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered

him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY at 5 PM! Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Celebration at Annunciation Cathedral

Tues., March 11 @ 6 PM – Prayer Rope Class (See Sarah Swope for details)

Wed., March 12 @ 6 PM – Presanctified Liturgy (potluck Lenten meal to follow)

Thurs., March 13 @ 6:30 PM – Parish Council Meeting

Fri., March 14 @ 6 PM – Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos (part 2)

We welcome all our visitors and are eager to share our faith with you! Please join us for coffee hour and take a few moments to fill out the VISITORS INFORMATION CARD that is found in the narthex

Your Prayers are Requested:

REMEMBER, O LORD: The Catechumens: Elias, Alexis, Anthusa, Justin, Olga, Kevin, George, Longinus, Xenia, John, Nectarios, Cassiane, Michael, Jerald, Cassiane; Olga, Conner, Khouria Janet, Constantine, Julie, Jay, Philip, Grayson, Dawn, Layla, Mia, Sarena, Michael, Marie, Mary, Madeline, Jeannette, Nectarios, Barbara, Pasquale, Patricia, Mary, Maria, Alex, Sarah, Sara, Joshua, Shirley, Theodore, Elizabeth; Newly-departed Protopresbyter George, Katherine, Helen, Adam
PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES

St. James Orthodox Church is a mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese under His Eminence SABA, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like more information about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Fr. Steven (frstevenr@gmail.com).