

March 9th, 2025

First Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of Orthodoxy

The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebastia

As we enter the Church let us pray.....

*I will come into Thy House In the multitude of Thy mercy;
And in Thy fear I will worship toward Thy Holy Temple.*

Resurrectional 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 First Sunday of Great Lent – 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

Be Thou entreated for the sake of the sufferings of Thy Saints which they endured for Thee, O Lord, and do Thou heal all our pains, we pray, O Lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of St. John Chrysostom - Tone 8

Grace shining forth from your lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls!

Kontakion for the 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.

Synaxarion

On March 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Holy and Great Forty Martyrs who were martyred at Sebastia of Pontus. All of these martyrs were Roman soldiers. When their commander threatened to strip them of their ranks, one of them responded, “Not only the honor of being a soldier, but take away our bodies, for nothing is more dear or honorable to us than Christ our God.” The angry torturers bound all of the holy martyrs and tossed them into the freezing lake. The torturers even heated a bath by the lake in sight of the frozen men. One lost his courage and entered the bath. An extraordinary light appeared from Heaven and 39 wreaths descended upon their heads. Upon seeing this, a guard on the shore removed his clothes, confessed the Name of the Lord Jesus and entered the lake so that he could become worthy of the fortieth wreath, which indeed descended upon him. The local bishop, Peter, with his clergy went out into the dark of night and beheld the martyrs shining brightly in the water. Bishop Peter honorably buried them in 320.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor. This restoration was accomplished in the year 843. Theodora’s husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches. O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.

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St John Chrysostom Antiochian Orthodox Church is a parish of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Metropolitan of New York and North America

His Grace Bishop Thomas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic

The V. Rev. Peter Pier, Pastor

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Come Visit St. John Chrysostom's Web Sites: www.orthodoxyork.org

The Inquirer's Class – will meet next Sunday, March 16th, following the Divine Liturgy. These classes are for those studying the Orthodox Christian Faith, and those wishing to deepen their understanding of the Faith. All are welcome.

Weis and Giant Grocery Gift Cards – are available for purchase. You pay the face amount of the card and the church receives 5% of the value of the card. Please go to the church office after any Divine Liturgy to purchase a card. Purchases benefit the general fund of St. John Chrysostom Church.

Attendance: 201

Operating Fund Offering Received: \$9,329.85

Amount Needed Each Week To Meet Operating Fund Budget: **\$8,432.00**

Church Calendar

March 9 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. SCS.
March 10 6:00 pm Great Compline followed by Bible Study: I Corinthians.
March 11 9:00 am Lenten 3rd Hour and Pray & Play.
March 12 5:20 pm 9th Hour. 6:00 pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy. Pot Luck Supper following
March 14 6:00 pm Akathist Service followed by IOCC presentation.
March 15 6:00 pm Great Vespers.
March 16 8:50 am Orthros. 10:00 am Divine Liturgy. SCS. Inquirer's Class. Parish Council.

Remember In Your Prayers

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Is. 65:24)

The Living – for their health & wellbeing

Metropolitan SABA
Bishop Thomas
Denise Zakula
Subdeacon Ron Bartholomew Bassarab
Olena Bassarab
Jayme Miller
Matthew Miller
Officer Jamie Miller
Joyce "Kassiane" Williams
Michael Acierno
Jerry "David" Desautels
Christopher Reese
Beverly Kushner
Michelle Prince
Richard "Stephen" Vangel
Joshua "John" Ranck
Ronna "Sophia" Castle
Kera McBurnett
Arlene "Éirene" Maisch
Christine Bogosh
Sasha Florenz
Nicholas Glagola
Marjorie "Marion" Barrett

The infant Jesse Hanna

The Departed – Memory Eternal!

Metropolitan PHILIP
Bishop Antoun
Priest Boniface Black
Helen Diamond
Angela Burke
Wayne "Stephen" Coleson
Georgette Habib Soliman
Joseph Danyo
Leavitt "George" Keener
Mary Jane Glagola
Norm "Nourhan" and Eva "Marie" Kailian
Nicholas Raptapolus
Walter and Mary Damm
Donnell Gregory and Mary "Rebecca" Beck
Michael Bogosh
Christos Tsakiris
Harry and Grace Dorion
Marianne Rupp and Mary Bincarowsky
Gene "Paul" Strayer
Katherine Monsour
George and Darla Feeser

Cindi "Monica" Bennett
Mary Kopey
Martha Allen
Mary Lou Grove
Melinda "Magdalena" Stika
James Fetter
Andrew Himes
Patty May
Julie Acierno
Vincent Michael Terzano-Borovic
Steven Smith
Edward Boner
Cheryl "Alexandra" Bury
Thomas Lehman
Barry "John" Hart
Angela Pandelidis
Kathryn Velen
Karl and Nancy Usner