

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## VENERABLE MACARIUS OF ALEXANDRIA

Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:35-43

Troparion — Tone 8

In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Father, / for taking up your cross, you followed after Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, / but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. / Therefore, most venerable Father Makarios, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protospresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Richard Matthews, Tanya and John Francis.

\*\*\* To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski\*\*\*

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# The Weekly Bulletin

## HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

[www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**VENERABLE MACARIUS OF ALEXANDRIA** - Saint Macarius of Alexandria was a contemporary and friend of Saint Macarius of Egypt (January 19). He was born in the year 295, and until the age of forty he was occupied in trade. Later, he was baptized and withdrew into the desert, where he spent more than sixty years. After several years of ascetic life, he was ordained to the holy priesthood and made head of the monastery the Cells in the desert between Nitria and Skete, where hermits silently lived in asceticism, each separately in his own cell. There were three deserts in northern Egypt: the first was the Cells (the inner desert), so designated because of the many cells carved into the rocks. The second was called Skete (utter desert). The third was the Nitrian desert which reached the western bank of the Nile. Saint Macarius of Alexandria, like Macarius of Egypt, was a great ascetic and monastic head, and he worked many miracles. Learning about some monk's ascetic feat, he attempted to imitate it. Thus, when he heard that someone ate only one pound of bread a day, he would eat only that much or even less. Wishing to shorten his sleep, he stayed for twenty whole days under the open sky, enduring heat by day and cold by night. Saint Macarius once received a bunch of newly picked grapes. He very much wanted to eat them, but he conquered this desire in himself and gave the grapes to another monk who was sick. That monk, wanting to preserve his abstinence, gave the grapes to another, and he gave them to a third and so forth. In the end the bunch of grapes returned to Saint Macarius. The ascetic was astonished at the abstinence of his disciples and gave thanks to God. Once, a proud thought came to the saint to go to Rome and heal the sick. Struggling with the temptation, the saint filled up a sack of sand, loaded it on himself and walked into the desert until he exhausted his body. The proud thought then left him. By his ascetic life, fasting, and renunciation of earthly things, Saint Macarius acquired the gifts of wonderworking and of discerning the inner thoughts of people, and he also saw many visions. He once saw how one of the ascetics of the holy monastery, Saint Mark, received the Holy Mysteries from the hands of angels, and how during Communion the careless brethren received burning coals from the demons instead of the Body of Christ. Saint Macarius was glorified by many miracles of healing the sick and casting out devils. Saint Macarius of Alexandria died in about 394-395 at age of one hundred. He wrote a Discourse on the Origin of the Soul included in the text of the Annotated Psalter.

## Service Schedule

**Great Vespers:** 5pm Saturdays  
**Hours:** 9:45am Sundays  
**Divine Liturgy:** 10:00am Sundays

**Confessions:** Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

**Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com)**

Monthly calendar at [www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org](http://www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org)

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of January**  
**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of January**  
**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of January**  
**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of January**  
**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**  
**Baptism of Harper May after Coffee Hour**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of February**  
**Great Vespers at 5 pm**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February**  
**MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE**  
**Divine Liturgy at 10 am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

### Thank you

Sincere thanks to Timothy Katchur, Seth Fleishman, and choir members of the HSOC as well as all altar servers for all their work during Nativity Season and Theophany Season. May God grant you many blessed years!

### New Catechumen

James Pillion became a catechumen last Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> of January. Please join us in welcoming him and keeping him in your prayers as he begins his faith journey.

### Join us for the Baptism

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of January, Harper May Trevenen, daughter of Stephanie Trevenen- Holtz, will be baptized into the Holy Orthodox Faith. Please plan to attend this wonderful event. Furthermore, please keep Harper May in your prayers.

### Holy Water

During the feast of the Holy Theophany water has been blessed and it is currently available in the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. Please take some and bring it to your home.

### Blessing of the homes

We are again with the opportunity to bless the homes of all our parishioners. If you would like your home to be blessed, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact Father Michael at [pejovicveljko@gmail.com](mailto:pejovicveljko@gmail.com). Blessing of the homes is a wonderful opportunity to bring the joy of the Holy Theophany into your home.

### All-American Council 2025

The Orthodox Church in America has announced the opening of registration for the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council. For more information, please follow the link:

<https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/registration-opens-for-delegates-and-observers-for-the-21st-all-american-council>

### His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in the parishes of the Orthodox Church in America. For more information, please follow the link: <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon-announces-sanctity-of-life-sunday-january-26-2025>

### Sussex Help Center Announcement

Recently Dan Taylor had a meeting with the Sussex Help Center Food Pantry. Their requests are for soups or stews and items for school lunches for children. This is an ongoing HSOC outreach program and thank you for your support and contributions.

### Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at [holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com) or Mary Osinski at [mary.osinski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.osinski@gmail.com).