



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE ☞ www.antiochian.org ☞
PARISH WEB PAGE ☞ www.stmaryorthodox.com ☞

WELCOME to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to the first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second-largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God, our Creator, to worship and follow Him and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.

God loves all mankind and desires that all human beings should believe in Him, know Him, abide in Him, and receive eternal life from Him. To accomplish this God Himself came into the world as a man in Jesus Christ — becoming man that we might become like God.

The Parishioners of St. Mary Parish welcome you and are pleased that you have decided to worship Almighty God with our Parish family today. We encourage you to learn about our Orthodox faith and our Parish if you are not yet Orthodox.

Although the non-Orthodox may not receive Holy Communion, which may only be given to the Orthodox faithful, we invite you to come forward at the close of the Liturgy to receive a blessing from the Priest and blessed bread. Please also come downstairs to the Parish Hall join us for our fellowship hour.



Our Patronal Feast is the DORMITION (FALLING-ASLEEP) OF THE THEOTOKOS, which is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church and is celebrated each year on August 15. The Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, was "blessed amongst women," and she was chosen "to bear the Savior of our souls." Orthodox Christians consider her to be the Queen of all the saints and angels. Knowing she is eternally present at the throne of God interceding for mankind, we pray for her love, guidance, and protection.

TO ENCOURAGE OUR WORSHIP IN A PROPER SPIRIT OF PRAYER AND DEVOTION, WE RESPECTFULLY ASK YOU TO ENTER THE SANCTUARY QUIETLY DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER OR EXIT THE SANCTUARY AS (1) - the Clergy censes the Sanctuary; (2) - while the Congregation is standing; (3) - during the Little Entrance with the Gospel; (4) - during the Reading of the Epistle and/or the Gospel; (5) - during the Homily/Sermon; (6) - during the Great Entrance or (7) - during the Anaphora. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING CELL PHONES IN THE NARTHEX AND SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES WHILE IN THE SANCTUARY.

CLERGY

Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop
Bishop THOMAS,
Bishop of Charleston, Oakland
& the Mid-Atlantic
Very Rev. Father David Hester,
Pastor
Very Rev. Father Herbert
Nahas, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Deacon John Karam
Subdeacon William Obeid
Subdeacon N.D. Namey
Subdeacon John Moses Jr.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & PARISH EVENTS

Wednesday, May 24 Golf Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm in Parish Hall
Thursday, May 25 Divine Liturgy for the Ascension at 9:00 am ☩
Spaghetti Dinner at 4:00 pm
Sunday, May 28 Orthros at 8:50 am ☩ Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Monday, May 29 Annual Memorial Day Service at the Parish Cemetery
at 10:30 am
Thursday, June 1 Final Spaghetti Dinner for season at 4:00 pm
Sunday, June 4 Orthros at 8:50 am ☩ Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

PARISH COUNCIL

V. Rev. Fr David Hester
John Moses, Sr. Chair
Suanne Moses, Vice Chair.
Tracey Solomon, Sec.
N.D. Namey, Sbdn. Treas.
Karen Kasko, Fin. Sec.
Anne Hester
Lillian Bonomo
Joanne Tenneriello
Nancy Tenneriello
Nicola Qarmour
Diane Fort
John Moses Jr., Sbdn.
Richard Solomon

COMMEMORATIONS

Today Holy Bread is offered in Loving Memory of Jacob Broody on the seventh anniversary of his repose by Corey Broody and CJ Moses and Family + Holy Bread is offered in Loving Memory of Sadie Leo for 20th Anniversary of her Repose by son Charlie Leo
June 11 Bulletin, Coffee Hour and Holy Bread sponsored/offered in Loving Memory of Emily Taroli by Jerry Taroli and sons
June 25 Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in Loving Memory of Jillian Witko by Reba, Jack and Jackie Witko

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 21, 2017

- The Annual Memorial Day Service at the Parish Cemetery will be held on Monday, May 29, 2017 at 10:30 am
- There will be a meeting of the Golf Committee to plan the 2017 Golf Outing at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, May 24 in the Parish Hall.
- Congratulations to Alia Mazzatosta who was recently awarded the "Gary Inspires Me" scholarship. There is only one awarded in Luzerne County. Many Years to Alia and her Family!
- Save The Date! We are planning a golf outing for Friday August 18, 2017. The tentative tee - time is 1 PM at the Sand Springs golf course. More details to come.
- Please keep in mind the last Spaghetti Dinner for the season will be on Thursday, June 1, 2017. The Spaghetti Team will then take a well-deserved vacation for the summer months but will be back better than ever in the fall.
- The Ladies are not (until further notice) accepting any more donations for their Fall Rummage Sale. We've also been asked to remind everyone to be mindful of the goods brought the Church for the sales. Please bring only items you believe are in good enough shape to sell If something is broken, worn out or just plain beat up its probably better to just throw it out

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Antiochian Women
Joanne Tenneriello
St. Mary Youth
K. Kasko & N. D. Namey
Fellow of St. John
John Moses, Sr.
Order of St. Ignatius:
Suanne Moses
Choir
N. Tenneriello
Parish Cemetery
Joanne Tenneriello, &
Suanne Moses

FOR THE SERVANTS OF GOD THAT THEY MAY HAVE MERCY, PEACE, HEALTH, SALVATION AND VISITATION, PARDON AND REMISSION OF SIN; THE LORD GOD REMEMBER THEM IN HIS KINGDOM ALWAYS: NOW AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES . . .

Deacon John
 Subden William
 George Morrash
 Jami Yanchik
 Eileen Attar
 Dallal Neddoff
 Lottie Everett
 Kim Yuhas Whitaker
 Tom Yuhas
 George Elias
 Rick Solomon
 Ben Austin
 Tom Raski
 Jim & Edna Wolfe
 James Hunter
 Jennie Elias
 Judith Muskauski
 Barbara Dorish
 Jack Witko
 Bill Shirk

Terry Thomas
 Bob Langan

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Scott Druby (5/21)
 Eric Bella (5/21)
 Laura Podolak (5/22)
 Dylan Winters (5/24)
 Tony Morrash, Sr. (5/25)
 Dallal Neddoff (5/25)
 Danielle Mamary (5/25)
 Robert Dunbar (5/26)
 Rhoda Moses (5/27)
 Ryan Zielinski (5/27)

All members of the American Military and their families;

All police, firefighters and others who protect us and their families;

All innocent people caught in conflict and natural disasters throughout the world

FOR THE SERVANTS OF GOD DEPARTED THIS LIFE: THE LORD GOD REMEMBER THEM IN HIS KINGDOM ALWAYS: NOW AND EVER, AND UNTO AGES OF AGES

NEWLY REPOSED

Elizabeth Lillian Clark
 Louise Serhan

Sadie Leo
 Jacob Broody

Mary Awad 5/21/1914
 William Abraham 5/21/1962
 Jabre Habib 5/21/1976
 Anna (Delba) Cross 5/22/1958
 Samuel E. Hyder 5/22/1990
 William (Ham) Abraham 5/23/1977
 Albert Elias Coury 5/23/1997
 Zequa Peters 5/23/1990
 Daniel Lattouf 5/24/1963
 Shuhood Elias 5/24/1971
 James D. Sallitt 5/24/1974
 Ruth Brody 5/24/1982
 Sadie F. Leo 5/25/1997

Antoinette Moses 5/25/1997
 Geraldine Moules 5/25/1997
 Helen Elias 5/26/1972
 Jean Welch 5/26/2009
 James Morrash 5/26/2013
 Younes Brody 5/27/1930
 Jennie Druby 5/27/1972

All members of the American Military reposed in service of our Nation;

All police, firefighters and others who protect us reposed in the line of duty;

All innocent people reposed in conflict and natural disasters throughout the world

PASCHAL GREETINGS

ENGLISH

CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

ARABIC

AL MASEEH QAM!
HAQAN QAM!

GREEK

KRISTOS ANESTI!
ALITHOS ANESTI!

RUSSIAN

KRISTOS VOSKRESEY!
VOYISTINO VOSKRESEY!

PASCHAL RESPONSES

Priest: Christ is Risen!

People: Indeed He Is Risen!

Priest: Glory to His Holy Third-day
Resurrection!

People: We adore His Holy Third-day
Resurrection!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death, and upon
those in the tombs...

People: ...bestowing life!

THE SYNAXARION

On May 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Constantine, Prince of Murom, and his sons Michael and Theodore, the Wonderworkers; and the holy, glorious, God-crowned and great Sovereigns Constantine and Helen, the Equals to the Apostles.

Before a great battle, a brilliant Cross appeared to Constantine in the sky during the day, completely adorned with stars and written on the Cross were these words: "By this Sign Conquer." Astonished, the emperor ordered a large cross to be forged similar to the one that appeared to him; and that it be carried before the army. By the power of the Cross he achieved a glorious victory over the larger enemy. Immediately after that, Constantine issued the famous Edict of Milan in 313 to halt the persecution of Christians. When a discord began in the Church because of the heretic Arius, the emperor convened the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, where the heresy was condemned and Orthodoxy confirmed. Helen, the pious mother of the emperor, visited Jerusalem, discovered the Honorable Cross of the Lord, built the Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha and other churches throughout the Holy Land. This holy woman presented herself to the Lord in her eightieth year in 327. Emperor Constantine died ten years later at age 65.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyes. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

By Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE THE SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. The biblical story of this event is found in the Gospel of Saint John 9:1-41.

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes (see Saint John Chrysostom, Homily LVI on John; Saint Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book V:15; and the Second Exorcism of Saint Basil the Great). When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam."

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat. He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Therefore, the Savior sent the blind man to this pool that he might wash his eyes, which had been anointed with the clay—not that the pool's water had such power, but that the faith and obedience of the one sent might be made manifest, and that the miracle might become more remarkable and known to all, and leave no room for doubt. Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As with all of His miracles, there is great significance to Jesus Christ healing the blind man. It is the only time we hear of a person whose sight was received after having been blind from birth. In those days, there was a pervasive belief that sickness was a direct result of sin. Therefore, the Lord is questioned whether the sin of the man or his parents is the root cause of his blindness. And while humanity's sin, the primordial sin, is the reason for all sickness, suffering, and death, Jesus Christ discredits the notion that it was the personal sin of either this man or his parents that led to his impairment. Rather, the man's lack of sight will serve a greater purpose—to glorify God. Although few of us need to be healed of physical blindness, all of us need to be cured of our spiritual blindness—the sin that keeps us from living a life in Christ.

✠ SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA ✠

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

EQUALS-TO-THE-APOSTLES CONSTANTINE AND HELEN

CONSTANTINE, PRINCE OF MUROM, AND HIS SONS MICHAEL AND THEODORE, THE WONDERWORKERS

— SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017 —

✠ THE EPISTLE ✠

THE READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE SAINTLY AND PURE APOSTLES. (26:1, 12-20)

In those days, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles; to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

✠ THE GOSPEL ✠

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until

they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.

ON THURSDAY MORNING WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The story of the Ascension of our Lord, celebrated as one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church, is found in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 1:3-11. It is also mentioned in the Gospels of Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

Christ made His last appearance on earth, forty days after His Resurrection from the dead. The Acts of the Apostles states that the disciples were in Jerusalem. Jesus appeared before them and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He stated, "You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5).

After Jesus gave these instructions, He led the disciples to the Mount of Olives. Here, He commissioned them to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

As the disciples watched, Jesus lifted up His hands, blessed them, and then was taken up out of their sight (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9). Two angels appeared to them and asked them why they were gazing into heaven. Then one of the angels said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him going into heaven" (Acts 1:11).
