

ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

905 SOUTH MAIN ST. + WILKES-BARRE PA 18702



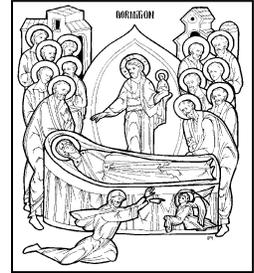
PARISH OFFICE (570) 824-5016 + PARISH HALL (570) 824-1674 + RECTORY 570-287-2049



PARISH EMAIL - stmarywilkesbarre@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE + www.antiochian.org

PARISH WEB PAGE + www.stmaryorthodox.com



PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 10, 2018

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Deacon John who has recently departed this life. May God comfort his family and friends in their sorrow and grant his memory to be eternal !'

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of George Morrash who has recently departed this life. May God comfort his family and friends in their sorrow and grant his memory to be eternal !'

- The Nativity Services will be celebrated as follows: Royal Hours for the Nativity at 9:00 am on Monday morning December 24 and then we celebrate Orthros at 10:00 pm followed immediately (@ 11:00 pm) by the Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Please make every effort to attend the Nativity services so that we may greet the birth of our Savior together as a Parish Family

Did You Know?

The Royal Hours give us a whole atmosphere surrounding the Birth of Our Lord: the venality of Herod who fears being supplanted; Joseph's fear of disgrace; Mary's faith, which leads her to inspire Joseph--and us--with words like "mystery" and "wonder" to describe the event she does not fully understand but has fully accepted. At Royal Hours all of the Hours: 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th are sung as one service. The service is read on the eves of the Nativity of Christ and is characterized by special Psalms and hymns, as well as special Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel Readings, relating to the Nativity.

Most of us probably will not think of attending the service of the Christmas Royal Hours. However, we encourage everyone who can attend to take the time and attend this solemn and meaningful Divine Service of our Holy Church. This Service allows us to sit in peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ as a Parish Family and reflect on all that is involved with the wonderful and universe-changing event we celebrate --- and allows us further to appreciate the Feast for what it is and what it

really means It is a most beautiful way to celebrate the Birth of Our Savior and the Savior of the world. *Adapted from various sources.....*

- The Annual Parish Meeting will be convened this year of Sunday January 20, 2019 after the Divine Liturgy. Anyone interested in serving on the Parish Council and wanting to run for a position on the Council should see Father George or John Moses to have your name included on the ballot.
- The 2019 Church Envelopes are in the back of Church. Please take your own envelopes as well as those of your family.
- Statements will not be prepared for Parishioners unless requested. Please see Suanne Moses if you need a 2018 Statement printed.
- All of us should make time to receive the Sacrament of Confession some time during the Advent Fast in order to be properly prepared to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.
- Father George makes it easy for us to receive Confession. He is available to hear confessions before Saturday night Vespers from 4:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. (when Vespers begin). He is also available to hear confessions prior to the Paraclesis Service, which will be held on Wednesday evenings through Advent at 5 p.m. Lastly, he is available by appointment if the Saturday and Wednesday evening times do not work for you.
- Please note there will be NO Spaghetti Dinners on December 20th or 27th so our Spaghetti Crew can enjoy a well-deserved break .
- The Ladies continue to collect membership dues for 2018 and 2019 ... the dues are only \$20.00 and can be given to Eileen Attar.
- We all enjoy the coffee hour and fellowship that follows the Divine Liturgy each Sunday. This is a special time that affords us the opportunity to visit with our fellow parishioners, catch up on what happened the previous week, maybe talk about next week and welcome visitors and new Parishioners to St. Mary's. However, we need the support of all our families in the Parish to continue with this lovely custom so please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate --- Think about it and make a plan to step up and sponsor a Coffee Hour
- *Thinking ahead* A Golf Committee meeting for the 2019 Parish Golf Event will be held on January 16, 2019 at 5:30 in the Parish Hall ... mark your calendars and if you are interested in helping please attend

.... and finally The Parish Council met for the last time for 2018 this past Sunday ... we had a busy and (at times) difficult year with many issues to address ... we face many difficult issues in the new year to come and pray for God's blessings that we can meet and overcome those issues ... The Council thanks everyone who participated in the life of the Parish for their time, talents and financial support and the Parish thanks all the officers and members of the Council for their hard and diligent work throughout the year