



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 ∞

CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Auxiliary Bishop of Charleston, Oakland & the Mid-Atlantic

Very Rev. Fr. George Alberts, Pastor

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. David Hester, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Deacon George Goodge

Subdeacon William Obeid + Subdeacon N.D. Namey + Subdeacon John Moses Jr.

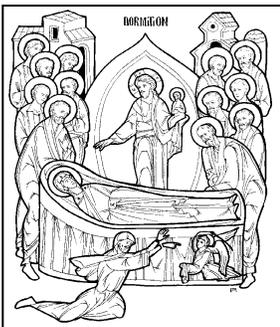
WELCOME to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to the first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

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.

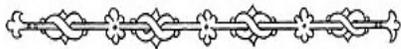


Our Patronal Feast is the DORMITION (FALLING-ASLEEP) OF THE THEOTOKOS, which is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church and is celebrated each year on August 15. The Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, was “blessed amongst women,” and she was chosen “to bear the Savior of our souls.” Orthodox Christians 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.



SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Mon. June 24 Beginning of Apostles Fast
Wed. June 26 – Sun. June 30 – Parish Life Conference at Antiochian Village
Sat. June 29 No Vespers
Sun June 30 Matins at 8:50 & Divine Liturgy at 10:00



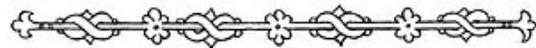
A Few Words Regarding Church Etiquette ...

Our "modern" American society has become rather casual in its approach to life, good taste, manners and respect for others. Please don't allow these "modern" attitudes affect your Orthodox Christian piety. The very simple point is this: humility before God is a good place to start if you're wondering how you need to act in Church ... Much of church etiquette is based on common sense and showing respect for God and others. Always remember you are in Church to worship God, the Holy Trinity. A good approach to worship and the best guidepost regarding how to act in Church is to keep the words spoken by Father George during the Liturgy in mind: " ... with the fear of God and faith and love, draw near " If you use these words as your guidepost, you will probably have good church etiquette.

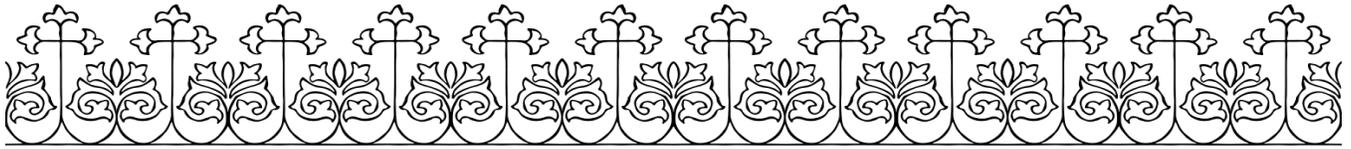
COMMEMORATIONS

- ✘ June 23 Holy Bread and Bulletin are offered/sponsored in loving memory of Infant Jillian Witko by Jack, Reba & Jaclyn Witko and also Holy Bread and Bulletin are offered/sponsored in loving memory of Sandra Abraham by Kathy Adonizio and Family for her 4 year memorial
- ✘ August 18 Bulletin and Coffee Hour are sponsored in loving memory of Jennie A. George to commemorate the one year anniversary of her repose, Abraham George Jr. and Lorraine George by Donna George + Trisagion Prayers are said for Jennie, Abraham and Lorraine George

Confession is one of the Sacraments of the Church & Is Important To Our Continued Spiritual Health Father George is available every Saturday before Vespers and Sunday after Liturgy or by appointment to hear your confession



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES IN CHURCH



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

MARTYR AGRIPPINA OF ROME; HIEROMARTYRS ARISTOCLES THE PRESBYTER, DEMETRIOS THE DEACON, AND ATHANASIOS THE READER, OF CYPRUS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ALL SAINTS IN TONE FOUR

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifteth her voice crying: Turn with Thy compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION

In giving birth thou didst keep thy virginity and thy repose thou didst not forsake the world O Theotokos, for thou art the mother of life and thou didst pass over into life. And through thine intercessions from death thou dost redeem our souls.

KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS IN TONE EIGHT

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, * the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. * Through their earnest entreaties, * keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, * through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

✠ THE EPISTLE ✠

God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS. (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, 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 perfection of our faith.

✠ THE GOSPEL ✠

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW. (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)
The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

THE SYNAXARION

On June 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Agrippina of Rome; and Hieromartyrs Aristocles the Presbyter, Demetrios the Deacon, and Athanasius the Reader, of Cyprus. On this day, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of All Saints who shone forth throughout all the world, North and South, East and West.

Of all my Lord’s friends, I laud and sing the praises; And let any to come, with them all be numbered.

David the Prophet and king, who revered the beloved of God, and respected them because of his great piety, said in the Psalms, “How precious are Thy beloved unto me, O God” (138:17). And the Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, recounted the lives of the saints, when he wrote, “Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets us; and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (12:1). Therefore, as Orthodox Christians, we honor the beloved saints of God, respecting them as keepers of God’s commandments, shining examples of virtue and benefactors of humanity. We commemorate all of the holy ones every year on this day, as the list of saints ever increases, even though some of their names escape us. Nevertheless, we honor them for their piety and strive to imitate their good works.

By the intercessions of Thine immaculate Mother, O Christ God, and of all Thy Saints from the beginning of time, have mercy and save us, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.

Today’s Gospel reading finds Jesus Christ listing certain criteria for His followers. He very plainly speaks to the focus of our life must be directed – on Him. As much as we love our families, friends, and possessions, our first priority remains our resolute, uncontested love for God and His Church. Nothing must outrank God in our lives. Jesus helps us by telling of the rewards that await us if we are faithful to Him.

As Jesus Christ speaks of the requirements of discipleship, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Sunday of All Saints, which always falls the week after Pentecost Sunday. The Church, in its wisdom, celebrates the memory of the countless men, women, and children who led anonymous Christ-like lives and are now sharing in the blessings of Paradise. This Sunday is a gift from the Church because it provides us with a blessed reminder that ALL of us are called to be Saints and that we ALL have the potential -- by the grace received at our baptism --- to be counted among them. How can we possibly do this? We must look to the faithfulness and commitment to Christ of the saints of the Church of each generation and by emulating their examples.

+ Adapted from the Family Gospel Lesson for the Greek Archdioceses Webpage