



## ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

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### \*\*\* FESTIVAL NEWS \*\*\*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ... We have a lot going on over the next 2 weeks ... we need help and support ... we need HELP in the form of volunteers to work at the Festival and make baked goods ... we need SUPPORT in the form of Parishioners bringing family, friends and neighbors to the Festival ... don't be shy .... If you cannot help then you need to support ...*

- We are accepting ALL types of baked goods, not just Arabic pastries, for the Festival Bake Sale .... **Please Note:** We are asking that your delicious donated baked goods be prepared and dropped off at the Church kitchen on **Friday, September 6th between noon and 5 PM.** This will allow us to pack and price them prior to the Festival.
- We thank the Parishioners who came to the Church to help in the making Baklava and Graybee for the Festival this past week ...
- *We all need to remember the "Day in Damascus" festival is a look into our Parish Family ... we want everyone who walks onto the Church grounds to feel the wonderful hospitality of our people ... it is admittedly a little about fund-raising but it is more about welcoming the community into our Parish home ... Each one of us is a part of our Parish Family and we all have a responsibility to each other ... making our guests feel welcome and making this a success says something about everyone one of us ... so join in and let the community see of what we are made !*
- It's still not too late to sign-up to help .... While it may seem a little strict to ask people to "sign-up" it is necessary to allow us to understand how to best allocate our people resources ... showing up to help is great and no one gets turned away ... but letting us know you'll be available to help on a certain day and time makes us more efficient and the job less stressful ...
- There is something for every single one of us to do ... there are big jobs and there are small jobs but every job is important ... tell us if you want to work with someone special ... we'll make it work ... we are approaching this as a labor of love among Family so no need feel uncomfortable or uneasy about helping ... please sign up to help ... the sign up sheets are in the Parish Hall ....
- **A Reminder ....** We have attached a separate page with our menu and the entertainment for the Festival ... we'll have extra sheets for you to take if you think you can use them ... we are also opening the doors of the Church to introduce our friends and neighbors and everyone else who comes to the beauty of Orthodoxy

### \*\*\* GENERAL PARISH NEWS \*\*\*

- ✘ We are excited to learn His Eminence has assigned David Rayahin, a second-year seminarian, and Mark Makarios, a first-year seminarian, to our Parish. They are scheduled to begin their assignment at St. Mary TODAY!

Mark and Marian Makarios have been attending services at St. Mary since the beginning of August and we are very pleased that Metropolitan JOSEPH officially assigned them to us. We look forward to meeting and welcoming David Rayahin to our Parish family.

As you know, the Seminarians must not only attend services and Sacraments at our Parish but must also attend Parish Council meetings, General Assemblies and Organizational meetings. They will also be tasked with preaching on a regular basis and teaching Sunday School. His Eminence has asked Father George to work closely with our seminarians to impart his great knowledge and pastoral skill. His Eminence expects that the seminarians will be given a well-rounded formational experience in the Parish, which means we should all work together to give our seminarians a spiritually rewarding experience while they are with us.

- Please remember we have NO coffee hour this week or next week ....
- Your additional gifts to the Church yielded much needed results! Hopefully you all noticed the grounds have been tidied-up to a considerable degree since last week ... we may still have a little more to get done but it will be completed by the time of the Festival .... Many thanks to Kh. Carol who found, negotiated with and then supervised the landscaper ... your generous donations over the past few weeks made it possible to get this hard work done without taking any money from the Parish's general fund or compelling Festival workers to take time to do the work themselves. Many Years to Kh. Carol for a job well done .... !!!
- We are still waiting for the first Parishioner to ask to read the Epistle .... We have a sign-up sheet in the Vestibule for those who would like to read the Epistle during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. Fr. George or Sub-deacon Norman will contact you in advance of the Sunday you are assigned or ask to read.
- We are blessed to have two retreats coming up in the next two months ...
  - We have a sign-up sheet on the table in the Church Hall for those who would like to attend the Teen and Parish Retreat at the Monastery of the Protection in White Haven on September 21st. Flyers with details are available for your consideration. Everyone is invited.
  - Also, the Ladies are sponsoring a Retreat at the Monastery of the Protection in White Haven on October 12<sup>th</sup> .... A flyer for this retreat is also for your consideration.
- We thank Corinne Censulla for her donation of the beautiful wooden candle sticks with hand-painted icons she donated to our Parish in memory of her husband, Jake. May God bless her and grant Jake's memory to be eternal!
- Many thanks to Frank Hine and the employees of Frank Henry Lumber for repairing the door in the Church. They donated their time and efforts to the Parish ...