



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 8, 2019

- The Advent Fast continues. We ask you to follow the fasting guidelines when hosting coffee hour at the Church during Advent -- No meat, fish, eggs or dairy products. The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ.
- The Church prescribes we all receive the Sacrament of Confession during this Fast Period as a means of receiving forgiveness for our sins and also as a means of preparing our heart and soul to meet the Christ Child and celebrate His birth. 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 are 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 remember we celebrate the Advent Paraclesis Service each Wednesday at 5:00 pm. Let us join together this evening to give thanks for all that God has done for us and continues to do for us.
- The 2020 Church Envelopes are in the back of Church. Please take your own envelopes as well as those of your family.
- Today is the last day to reserve your ticket for the Ladies Christmas Party The Ladies continue to take reservations for their annual Christmas Party, which is next week ... December 15 at 3 PM at the Wyoming Valley Country Club. Please remember this "Ladies" party is open to everyone in the Parish (including the guys). A sign up sheet along with the menu are located in the Parish Hall. Please get your tickets early!
- Please note there is NO Spaghetti Dinner this week but that we will have the final Spaghetti Dinner for 2019 on Thursday, December 19th.
- 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 ...