



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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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

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

Subdeacon/Seminarian David Rayahin + Seminarian Mark Makarios

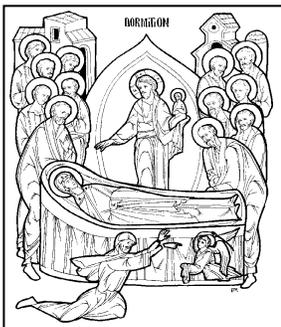
WELCOME to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to the first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

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



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

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of the Lord

Today After Liturgy + Ladies Meeting

Thurs. Feb. 6 Spaghetti Dinner 4-6 pm

Sat. Feb. 8 Confessions from 4:30 – 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm

Sun. Feb. 9 Matins at 8:50 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am & Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy + *Lenten Triodion Begins*

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARY

Sat. Feb. 15 Teen Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon Seminary

Sun. Feb. 16 “Day In Damascus” Festival Meeting after Liturgy

Sat. Feb. 22 Memorial Saturday Liturgy at 10:00 am

Sun. Feb. 23 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting after Liturgy

Thurs. Feb. 20 Spaghetti Dinner 4-6 pm

Sun. March 1 Cemetery Clean Up Begins

Mon. March 2 Lent Begins

COMMEMORATIONS

- ✘ Today – Holy Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are sponsored/offered in loving memory of Margaret George by her sister Betty Polanowski also Trisagion Prayers are for Margaret George and also Trisagion Prayers are also said for Recently Reposed Kamal Nasri
- ✘ Feb 16 – Holy Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour all sponsored by Eileen and Riad Attar and Family and Jan and Charlie Aquilina and family in loving memory of George and Hal Morrash + Trisagion Prayers are for the 1 year memorial of George Morrash's repose and the 3 year memorial for Hal Morrash's repose
- ✘ March 1 – Holy Bread and Bulletin offered/sponsored in loving memory of Lee Namey by his family and also Holy Bread and Bulletin and Coffee Hour are offered/sponsored in loving memory of Peggy Malta by her family and Trisagion Prayers are also said for Peggy Malta for her 40 Day Memorial
- ✘ March 8 - Holy Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour offered/sponsored in loving memory of O.J, Guy, and Marge Solomon by the Solomon Family and also Trisagion Prayers are offered for O.J, Guy, and Marge Solomon

We urge everyone to take stock of their spiritual health and growth. We are blessed with Holy Tradition and Scriptural lessons through the Pre-Lenten and Lenten Sundays leading to Holy Week and Pascha that nourish our souls and renew our selves in Christ. Do it for your own good and commit to attending as many Lenten services as you can ... think about it ... attending one is better than none and attending ten is better than five ...

CONFESSION is one of the Sacraments of the Church & Is Important To Our Continued Spiritual Health The Church prescribes confession at least four (4) times a year **There is no better time than this Lenten season to make your confession.** Father George is available every Saturday before Vespers and Sunday after Liturgy or by appointment to hear your confession

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2020 PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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 THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS. (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel.” And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

THE SYNAXARION

On February 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Meeting (Presentation) of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple, wherein the righteous Simeon received Him into his arms.

*The hands of righteous Simeon, as they bear Thee, depict, O my Christ, the bosom of Thy Father.
On the second, Simeon received Christ in the Temple.*

The Greek word for the feast is “Hypapante” [ee-pah-pan-DEE] which means “Encounter” or “Meeting.” However, this was not just some chance encounter. This feast, which closes the cycle of the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, reminds us that on the fortieth day after the birth of her first-born Son, Mary carried Him to the Temple in accordance with the Mosaic Law to offer Him to the Lord, and to ransom Him by the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:22-37). In one of many acts of extreme humility, the divine Word thus lowers Himself and submits to the law in order to fulfill it. This lowering is also Jesus’ first official encounter with His people in the person of Simeon. It is not only an encounter, but also a manifestation. Simeon bears in his arms the One he knows to be the Salvation of the world, “a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.” His endearing prayer, as found in the Gospel of Luke, endures in the Orthodox Church to this day. The Church considers this celebration as a Feast of the Theotokos in praise of her role in this Presentation, and her connection in the work of her Son. “Adorn thy chamber, O Zion, and receive Christ the King. Welcome Mary the heavenly gate; for she hath appeared as a cherubic throne; she carrieth the King of glory” (Aposticha of Great Vespers). The Virgin today accompanies the Child in His first offering to the Father; she will also accompany Him even to the realization of His sacrifice for humanity.

Unto the very God be glory and dominion unto the ages. Amen.