



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Kamla Nasri,
brother of Gloria Attar, who recently departed this life.
May God comfort his family and friends in their sorrow

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- Today is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple. We attach Bishop Thomas' greeting for the Feast to our Bulletin and add articles regarding the Feast.
 - The Ladies are meeting today after Liturgy. All Ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. It will not be a long meeting. All Ladies should come downstairs immediately after Liturgy.
 - A reminder to the Ladies that Eileen Attar will be collecting dues for the year 2020 & 2021. The Ladies are asking for \$20.00 for the 2 years
 - The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Sunday, February 9th. Anyone who is interested in the business of the Parish is welcome to attend. We have a lot of issues to address and a lot of planning to consider. For example, the Day in Damascus Committee will be meeting the week after the Parish Council and a Building and Grounds Committee will be meeting the Sunday after that.
 - Please remember that minutes from all our Parish Council meetings are available and are maintained for review in the parish library.
 - The Teens held elections last week after Liturgy We congratulate the newly elected Teen officers who are: Steven Qarmout (President); Cadence Williams (Vice-President); Rachel Veniamin (Treasurer); and Abby Schaal (Secretary). We pray a successful year and Many Years to our Teens and their new officers ...
 - Speaking of the Teens, they are planning a tour of St. Tikhon's Seminary on Saturday, February 15th. We will be meeting at the Church at 10 a.m. to carpool to the Seminary. We will have lunch after the tour and be back in time for Vespers that night.
 - A flyer for the Antiochian Women of the East Lenten Retreat – which is being held at the Antiochian Village this year from March 13th - 15th is attached. This is a wonderful opportunity for busy Ladies to spiritually recharge ...

- Our Ladies and Parish were mentioned in this month's Diakonia magazine. Our parish is included in this issue, as well as our trip to Holy Protection Monastery. A link to the magazine is
- <https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/DIAKONIA%20--%20WINTER%202019-20%20--%20for%20publication%20on%20website.pdf>
- We are fast approaching Lent, which is preceded by the Sundays of the Triodion (which start on February 9). The three weeks that commence on the fourth Sunday prior to Great Lent constitute the weeks of preparation. Each has its own distinct theme which is expressed in the Gospels readings appointed for the Divine Liturgies on these days: The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee The Sunday of the Prodigal Son; and, The Sunday of the Last Judgment (also called Meatfare Sunday;. The following/next Sunday is known as Forgiveness Sunday (and also called Cheesefare Sunday). The Sundays leading up to Lent are set aside by the Church to ease us into Lent. The Sunday gospel readings during the Triodion serve to exercise the mind, whereas the fasting and discipline of Great Lent focuses on the body, and Holy Week's services exercise the spirit.
- Cemetery clean up will bring March 1. If you have any Christmas decorations you want to keep please remove them by February 29 at the latest.
- Please note our next Spaghetti Dinner will be this Thursday, February 6, 2020. Please bring a guest and enjoy great food and wonderful Fellowship!