

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

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

Subdeacon/Seminarian David Rayahin + Seminarian Mark Makarios

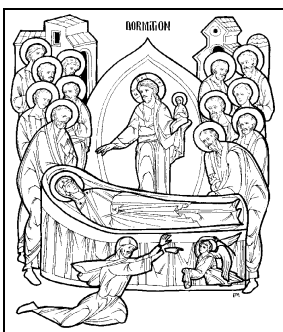
WELCOME to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to the first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

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 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

First Sunday of Lent

Today	<u>Sunday of Orthodoxy with Procession with Icons</u> + Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy + Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at Holy Resurrection OCA Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre at 4 p.m.
Monday, March 9	Great Compline at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 11	Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm followed Lenten Covered Dish Dinner
Friday, March 13	Akathist Service at 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 14	Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 pm + Vespers at 5:00 pm

LENTEN SERVICES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARY

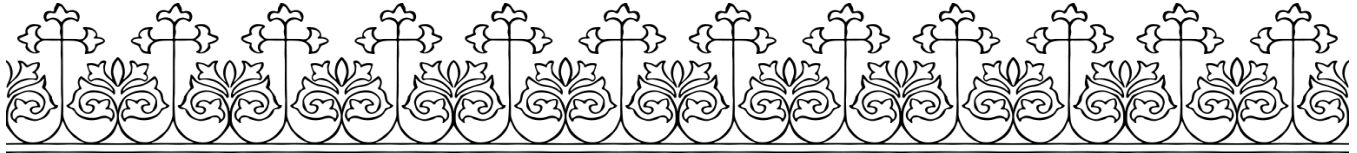
Sunday, March 15	Festival Meeting after Liturgy
Monday, March 16	Great Compline at 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18	Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 pm followed Lenten Covered Dish Dinner
Thursday, March 19	Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Friday, March 20	Akathist Service at 6:00 pm

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR LENTEN SERVICES ...

We begin the regular Lenten Schedule of Services with Great Compline (with no canon or Gospel reading) on Monday evenings; the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings; and the Akathist Service on Friday evenings along with our regular Vespers and confessions on Saturday evenings.

COMMEMORATIONS

- ✘ Today – Holy Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour offered/sponsored in loving memory of O.J, Guy, and Marge Solomon by the Solomon Family and also Bulletin is sponsored by Suanne Moses in loving memory of Hope and Jimmy Moses and also Trisagion Prayers are offered for O.J, Guy, and Marge Solomon
- ✘ March 15 - Holy Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour offered/sponsored in loving memory of Sadie Barkovitz for her 2 year memorial by her Family and also Trisagion Prayers are offered for Sadie Barkovitz
- ✘ March 29- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored by Corrine Censulla in loving memory of Mildred Broody
- ✘ April 26 – Holy Bread & Bulletin offered/sponsored in Loving Memory of Phyllis Namey by Kate and Subdcn Norman



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 08, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)
THEOPHYLACT THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF NICOMEDIA; APOSTLE HERMAS OF THE SEVENTY
DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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 FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (& AKATHIST SATURDAY) IN TONE 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets; who 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, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release 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 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.

THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

THE SYNAXARION

On March 08 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous father Theophylact the Confessor, bishop of Nicomedia; and the Apostle Hermas of the Seventy.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence. The icons formerly unfittingly banished.

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.

*We invite everyone who is able to join in the Procession with the Icons today
We have icons available for everyone*

Do You Know The Origins of Icons?

According to Tradition, Avgar, king of a province in Mesopotamia, entered into correspondence with our Lord, Jesus Christ. Avgar begged our Lord to come and heal him from a severe sickness. Christ refused the invitation, telling Avgar that His mission on earth was nearing completion. Avgar then sent his royal artist to paint the likeness of Christ, but the artist was unable to fulfill his task because he was dazzled by the brilliance of Christ's Divinity. In His mercy, the Lord took a handkerchief, placed it against His face; miraculously, the outline of Him was traced onto the cloth: this is believed to be the first icon, "Not Made By Hands." It is this likeness, however derived, we find in all authentic icons of Christ. Thus, icons were not only blessed by our Lord, but the first one was, according to tradition, made by Him, and of Him.



- Adapted from IKONS by John Tavener and Mother Thekla