

## 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](http://www.antiochian.org) ∞

PARISH WEB PAGE ∞ [www.stmaryorthodox.com](http://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

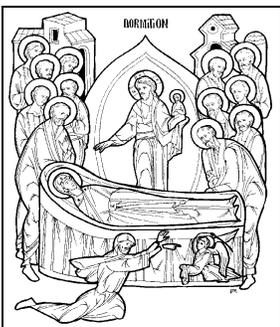
**WELCOME** to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to the first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26).

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

#### Third Sunday of Lent –Sunday of the Cross

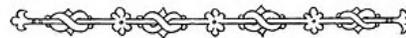
Wednesday, March 25      Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm \*\* Live-Streamed on Parish's Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAO/>

*Please Note ....* On March 17 Metropolitan JOSEPH issued a directive addressing the current public health crisis. We are sadly limited in the number of services we can hold. Our Parishes have been given the blessing by Metropolitan JOSEPH to serve ONLY the following services until further notice: 1<sup>st</sup> -- Orthros and the Divine Liturgy on Sunday March 22, and (2) the Vesper-Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation on Wednesday evening March 25. We are not permitted to serve any other services until the Metropolitan permits ....

We are not permitted to have more than 10 people in the Church at one time but Father George will be at the Church on the following schedule to permit the Faithful to come and pray and/or light a candle:

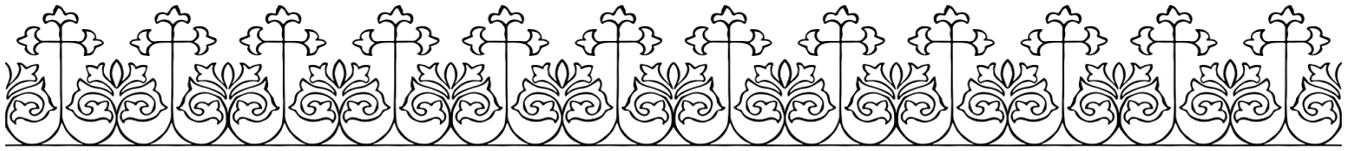
- Monday, March 23 from 3-6 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 from 3-6 p.m. prior to the Vesper-Liturgy
- Thursday, March 26 from 2-5 p.m.
- Friday, March 27 from 3-6 p.m. prior to the Akathist (if it is to be served) ...

*May God bless you all and keep you and your family members safe and in good health.*



### COMMEMORATIONS

- ❖ Today -- None today
- ❖ 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
- ❖ May 10 -- Holy Bread & Bulletin offered/sponsored by Jack, Reba and Jackie Witko Elizabeth in Loving Memory of Zira Brody
- ❖ June 28 -- Holy Bread & Bulletin offered/sponsored by Jack, Reba and Jackie Witko Elizabeth in Loving Memory of Infant Jillian Witko



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020  
THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT  
VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS  
\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT\*\*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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**

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.*

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE HEBREWS. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## **THE GOSPEL**

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

## **THE SYNAXARION**

On March 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Kallinika of Rome; and Venerable-martyr Euthymios of Prodromou Skete on Athos. On this same day, the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

*Let the whole world entire worship the Cross through Which it truly knew to worship Thee, O Word.*

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. *Amen.*

## **A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AND HEALING FROM THE NEW PANDEMIC**

*His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X of Antioch and All the East and His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, have approved use of this "Special Prayer for Protection and Healing from the New Pandemic" by our clergy and faithful.*

O Lord, our God, the rich, the merciful, and wise in His care:

In Thy wisdom take care of our lives, hear our prayers, accept our repentance for our sins, and stop this rampant pandemic in the same way that Thou didst stop punishing Thy people in the days of David the King.

O Physician of our souls and bodies: grant healing to those infected by this pandemic, and let them rise quickly from their pain to glorify Thee, O merciful Savior; as for those who are healthy, protect them from any disease.

Bless, O Lord, and support all those who care with love and sacrifice for the sick wherever they are found, whether they are at home or in hospitals, and keep them with Thy grace. Protect Thy people from all disease and pain, and teach us to value life and health as Thy gifts.

Grant us, O God, Thy peace, and fill our hearts with firm faith in Thy care, and with love towards Thee and our neighbor. Have mercy on us, and save us, O our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen +