



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 15, 2020

IMPORTANT CORONA VIRUS NEWS REGARDING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Please note Metropolitan JOSEPH issued an Encyclical regarding steps to address the Corona Virus Pandemic

During the Divine Liturgy:

- For the kiss of peace simply bow to one another rather than hugging or kissing;
- Communion will be delivered in the same manner as always
- Be certain to open our mouths fully for Holy Communion so that it can be dropped in your mouth without touching the spoon;
- We will try to distribute blessed bread after Holy Communion but if you are left to take a piece, please make an effort to touch the piece you are taking;
- Altar servers will be instructed to wash their hands before handling the blessed bread or will wear gloves;
- Father George will be washing his hands, as is the tradition in many Orthodox churches, prior to the consecration.

By taking these precautions we can continue to worship God in his Holy House in a very safe manner.

Additional Items

Father has cancelled Great Compline services on Monday evenings but we will continue with the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and the Akathist Service on Friday during the remainder of Great Lent. As we were asked to do, there will be no Lenten covered dish dinners after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings.

There will be no Coffee Hour after Church on the last 2 Sundays in March. There will be Coffee Hour this Sunday.

- **March is Women's Month throughout our Antiochian Archdiocese.** The women of our parish will be reading the Epistle, giving the sermon and passing the trays. Please remember that ALL of the women of our church are members of the Antiochian Women.

The Ladies welcome women from the ages of 19 to 99, and urge you to join in their ministry, remembering that EVERY woman in the Antiochian Archdiocese is an "Antiochian Woman"!

Our Ladies' President Anna Veniamin has 10 copies of the book "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives", which is this year's recommendation for Antiochian Women reading groups. The books are available for purchase for only \$10 each (they retail at \$15). She will have the books for sale during Coffee Hour. Anyone who is interested is welcome to purchase a copy. Ladies should bring questions/ comments to pot luck dinner gatherings after Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays.

- *To those who like to follow along in the Service Books ...* we are celebrating the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great today and every Sunday during Lent.
- The Festival meets today after Liturgy ... anyone interested in the business of the Counsel is welcome to attend.
- The Festival Committee meets today after Liturgy ... all members of the committee are asked to attend ... anyone interested in being involved is encouraged to attend as well !
- Once again for Great Lent, we have put out the **Food For Hungry People boxes**. Please take one of the boxes, fill it during Lent and return it to the Church during Holy Week.
- Lent is a natural and perfect time to reassess where we are in terms of our spiritual life. We realize we are "preaching to the choir" to those who are in Church However, those of us who are here have an obligation to be evangelists. Let's start with those whom we love first. Reach out to your families to bring them to Church!
- We have a scaled down schedule of services over the coming week. Please make an effort to attend as many as possible. If you plan on receiving Communion during the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, we ask you fast from the time of your lunch time meal if possible.
- Please remember that ALL Orthodox Christians are to receive the Sacrament of Confession during Great Lent. Our preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ is not complete without this Sacrament. Father George hears Confessions from 4:30-5 p.m. each Saturday before Vespers and will also hear Confessions 1/2 hour prior to the Services of Great Lent. If you cannot make it during these times, please contact him and arrange another time for you to receive this Sacrament.
- Please remember minutes from all our Parish Council meetings are available and maintained for review in the Parish Library.
- The maintenance people at the Cemetery have started a general clean up. Please remove any Christmas or other decorations you want to keep today or risk having them collected and disposed of.
- A second collection will be taken on today. This collection is one of four collections mandated by the Archdiocese.