



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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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.

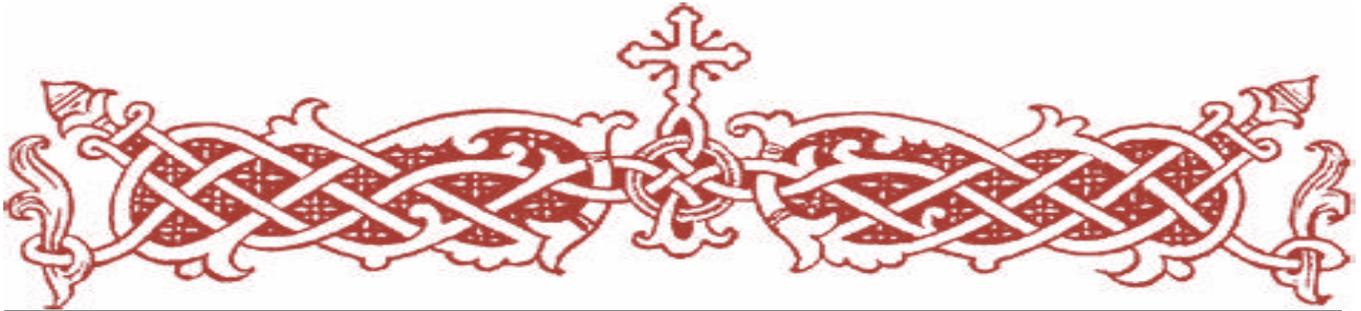
God loves all mankind and desires that all human beings should believe in Him, know Him, abide in Him, and receive eternal life from Him. To accomplish this God Himself came into the world as a man in Jesus Christ --- becoming man that we might become like God.

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

Note + All Services Can Be Watched Through the Parish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAO/>

Tuesday	August 18	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday	August 20	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday	August 22	Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday	August 23	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

Please note you can watch these services even if you do not have Facebook ... you need only copy and paste the link (that is in blue above) into the search bar in your internet browser (like Yahoo or Google, etc).

Please continue to check your emails as Father George continues to update us through periodic email and please share information with Parishioners who do not have or use email

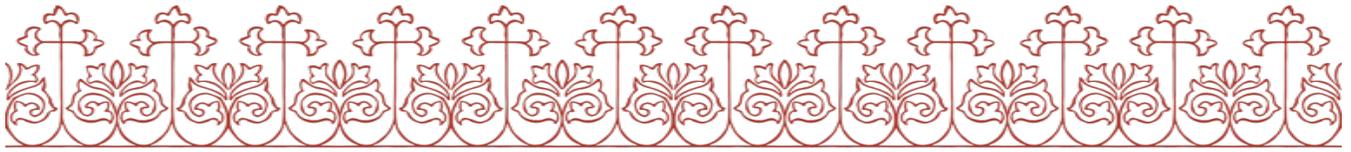
May God bless you all and keep you and your family members safe and in good health.

We remind everyone to wear their face masks while in Church. Please remember to wear the face mask over your nose and mouth, This may be uncomfortable at times but we must take the steps necessary to protect ourselves and each other from this virus. Please also observe social distancing to help avoid the spread of the virus.

Father George continues to be present in the Church during the week for those who would like to come to receive the Sacrament of Confession and/or Holy Communion or just to light a candle, say a prayer or talk. Please remember to use the Office Door and wear a mask if you come. If you want to receive Holy Communion you need to let Father George know in advance so that he may prepare the Sacrament.

COMMEMORATIONS

- ✠ Today –Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored by Corrine Namey in loving memory of John Namey
- ✠ August 30 – Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored by Corrine Censulla in loving memory of Jake Censulla



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020 -- TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW
AFTER-FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS & RECOVERY FROM EDESSA OF THE ICON OF CHRIST NOT MADE BY HANDS: 'THE HOLY NAPKIN'

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ICON OF CHRIST 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. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: 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.

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KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE TWO

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:9-16)

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in

Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:14-23)

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

THE SYNAXARION

On August 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos, and we commemorate the Recovery from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of Christ Not Made by Hands, known as 'The Holy Napkin.'

*Thou didst wipe Thy face with linen while yet living,
Who later, being dead, wouldst be wrapped in linen.*

Prince Avgar of Edessa sent a portrait-painter, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ our Savior, in which he begged the Lord to come and heal him of his leprosy. In the event that Lord was unable to come, the prince commanded Ananias to paint His likeness and bring it, believing that the portrait would heal him. The Lord replied that he could not come, as the time of His Passion was at hand. Our Savior took a napkin and wiped His face, leaving a perfect reproduction of His most pure face on it. The Lord gave this napkin to Ananias, with a message that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely, and He would later send him an envoy that would rid him of the remainder of the disease. Receiving the napkin, Avgar kissed it and the leprosy fell from his body, with just a little remaining on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Avgar, fully healed him and baptized him. Then the prince smashed the idols that stood at the city's gateway and placed the napkin with the face of Christ above the entrance, stuck onto wood, surrounded with a gold frame and ornamented with pearls. The city eventually fell to Arab conquest, and the Holy Napkin was translated to Constantinople in 944.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Diomedes the physician of Tarsus in Cilicia and Alkiviades; Venerable Gerasimos the New Ascetic of Kephallenia; Timothy, bishop of Epiros; New-martyrs Nikodemos of Meteora and Apostolos (Stamatios) of St. Laurence; and the New-martyrs of Megaris.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ We are taking a special collection for the victims of the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. If you write out a check, please ear mark it for that purpose. Also, if you would like to make a donation using our Website Donation Button, please send Father George an email informing him that your online donation is for Beirut Relief. The Website Donation Button does not allow for special designation so you will need to let Father know so that we can list your donation properly. This same process is necessary for any other "specific" or "special" online donations that you are making.
- ✘ We need to be extra mindful, now that these fellowship and fundraising activities have been postponed of the financial needs of the Parish. It is more important than ever that we maintain and even increase if possible our contributions to ensure the continued operation of the Church. No one likes to ask for more financial aid but we are confronted with a sad reality in these difficult times. The Parish Council is doing all that it can to reduce costs and conserve our financial resources. Please help them if you can.
- ✘ We are very close to completing installation of our new Internet video system donated by the Solomon family. We are looking forward to a day when it will be much easier to remotely view our services and other church events.
- ✘ We attach a translation of the Lord's Prayer from Arabic to English for those who are interested in saying the Lord's Prayer in Arabic.