



## ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA

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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.

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	September 1	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday	September 3	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday	September 5	Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday	September 6	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Tuesday	September 8	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

**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 ....

We remind everyone to wear their masks while in Church. Please remember to wear your mask over both your nose and mouth. This may be uncomfortable at times but the CDC recommendations mandate wearing the mask over your nose and mouth. Please also observe social distancing while in Church 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 and fast from the night before.*

### COMMEMORATIONS

- ✠ Today --- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored by Corrine Censulla in Loving Memory of Jake Censulla
- ✠ September 6 Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Michael Habib and The Habib Family: Jobre, Freiza, Rumsa, Fred, Samuel, Jeanne, Rebecca, George by Johanna Habib Czarnecki



**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020**  
**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW &**  
**LEAVE-TAKING OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**  
**BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Alexander, Paul the New, and John, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Venerable Phantinos of Calabria; repose of Venerable Alexander of Svir; translation of the relics of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod; Cyril and Makarios, patriarchs of Serbia

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE BAPTIST'S BEHEADING IN TONE TWO**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom they had proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us Great Mercy.

**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 OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

**THE EPISTLE**

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

**The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)**

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to

all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)**

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## THE SYNAXARION

On August 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the commemoration of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John. We also commemorate our fathers among the saints Alexander, Paul the New, and John, Patriarchs of Constantinople.

*Having escaped the flesh's bonds, O Alexander, Thou hast found the Lord's inheritance as thy portion.  
The faces of the Church are gloomy with sorrow, For they cannot bear blessed John's deprivation.  
Paul, leaving behind him life's pathways and its courses, Found a pall for his casket and rest from his labors.  
On the thirtieth, three before the Trinity now stand.*

Alexander took part in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, in place of the aged Patriarch Metrophanes, whom he then succeeded. When certain philosophers tried to dispute with him about faith, he said to one of them: "In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to remain silent!" The philosophers became dumb from that moment. Alexander died at the age of 98 in the year 340. Paul the New governed the Church for almost six years and renounced the throne to receive the Great Habit secretly, to repent of his sins when he first supported the iconoclasts. He was the predecessor of the great Tarasius, and entered into rest in 784. John was nicknamed "Scholasticus" because he was originally a lawyer. He became Patriarch in 565. He wrote Canons which have been included in the Nomocanon. In his day, the Cherubic Hymn and the prayer "At Thy mystical supper" were introduced into the Liturgy. He departed this life peacefully and gave his soul to God in 577.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Phantinos of Calabria; the repose of Venerable Alexander of Svir; translation of the relics of Alexander Nevsky, prince of Novgorod; and Cyril and Makarios, patriarchs of Serbia.

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

## PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Father George received a Thank You from Kh. Beverly for the gift our Parish sent her of the repose of Father John. The note is addressed to our Parishioners, Here it is:

Dear St. Mary Family,

I received your card on the Feast of the Dormition! How perfect! Thank you for your generous gift. Metropolitan Philip once asked me if I miss St. Mary and I said yes that I do and he said he did too. After all, you all taught Fr. John to be a priest and me to be a Khouriah. Thank you.

My love to you, Khouriah Beverly

- ✘ We include a letter from Bishop THOMAS on the occasion of the Church New Year, which is September 1. We include a copy with today's bulletin. Sayedna's words are particularly applicable at this difficult time. We thank him for his spiritual guidance and love.
- ✘ We also include a calendar for September. You will note we celebrate two of the Great Feasts of the Church this month -- The Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8 and The Elevation of the Cross on September 14.
- ✘ We commemorated The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist yesterday. We include a brief article adapted from the website of the Orthodox Church in America explaining the feast day.
- ✘ The Archdiocese continues to collect for the victims of the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon. You can still make an online donation through the Archdiocese Webpage.
- ✘ *DID YOU KNOW?* The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction (which comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose."). It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2), the Savior proclaimed, *"The spirit of the Lord is upon me; because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."*.
- ✘ Just a few COVID related reminders .... We ask everyone to observe proper hygiene practices – no hugging, handshakes, or kissing ...Honor/veneration is to be shown to the Holy Icons and the Holy Cross by only making the sign of the cross and bowing, keeping in mind not to kiss or to touch the Holy Icons and the Holy Cross.
- ✘ Also just a reminder, the recommended donation for sponsoring the Holy Bread or the Bulletin is (only) \$15 (for each). Anyone interested in sponsoring either the Holy Bread or the Bulletin (or even both) should email or call Father George before Friday of the week they want to sponsor either. You can bring a check or cash in an envelope marked Bulletin and/or Holy Bread and drop it off at the office during the week (when Father George has office hours) or on Sundays.