



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.

Sub-deacon 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	September 22	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday	September 24	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday	September 26	Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers of the Elevation of the Cross at 5:00 pm
Sunday	September 27	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).

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.

COMMEMORATIONS

- ✘ Today --- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of John C. "Skip" Audi by Gail and John Luksic
- ✘ September 27 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Barbara Audi by Gail and John Luksic
- ✘ October 4 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Phillip Malta by Debbie Malta
- ✘ October 11 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Leo "Brady" Moses and Martha Moses by Suanne Moses
- ✘ October 25 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Leo Amelia Brody by Jack, Reba & Jackie Witko



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Great-martyr Eustathios and his family; Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos;
Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ELEVATION OF 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 ST. EUSTATHIOS AND HIS FAMILY IN TONE FOUR

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee * received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. * For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants * and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. * O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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 ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE FOUR

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

THE EPISTLE

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE GALATIANS. (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ,

we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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 of 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 He 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 September 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, and commemorate holy Great-martyr Eustathios, Theopiste his wife, and their two sons Agapios and Theopistos.

*A bronze bull burned up Eustathios' whole household; And the whole household Thou, O Word of God, savest.
On the twentieth Eustathios with family was burned in a bull.*

Eustathios, before his baptism, was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the second century. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a similar vision. They sought out the Christian Bishop and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathios, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapios and Theopistos. The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. When the family refused to sacrifice to the idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. The martyrs suffered in the year 126.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✠ Even in tough times our parish family pulls together for the good of those we love and those who need our help. We have sent a donation to Kh. Beverly in the amount of \$1200. We also sent the Archdiocese a donation in the amount of \$1020 for the Beirut disaster. These donations came from the generosity of our parishioners and reflect their understanding of our obligations to our loved ones and community. The

Biblical motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you." 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 teach clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity."

- ✘ We are very excited and happy to let everyone know we are once again holding our Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner. We had our first takeout dinner last Thursday and had a great response (as always). We are going to have two takeout dinners in October on October 1st and 15th from 4-6 p.m. each day. Please let your family and friends know about the dinners. We need your support for this very important and necessary fundraiser. Let's hope this step back is the first of many steps back to normalcy. Pray that our community efforts are rewarded and that we are once again allowed to congregate together as a parish family and offer this wonderful ministry to our parishioners and our community.
- ✘ It looks like the weather is cooperating. We are offering an outdoor Coffee Hour after Liturgy today. Please remember to wear your face mask, except for eating and drinking of course, and maintain social distancing.
- ✘ With the success of our take-out spaghetti dinners, our Parish Council has discussed holding an ethnic food take-out with kibbee and grape leaves etc. We will be examining the possibility of doing this and let you know all of the details soon.
- ✘ As you know, we have been holding services with a greater number of parishioners in attendance. There are, however, many of our parishioners who have not returned to church. We understand some are refraining from attending due to age or underlying medical conditions or both, but Father George and your parish family want you know you are missed. Father George will continue to be at the Church 2 days during the week, besides Saturday and Sunday, for you to come and receive Confession, light a candle, say a prayer or receive Holy Communion from the Reserve Sacrament. If you are unable to come and would like Father George to come to your home to administer the Sacraments of Confession and/or Holy Communion, please let him know and he will arrange a time with you that fits your schedules.
- ✘ We are presently working on the format for our Church School. As was suggested to us by our Hierarchs, we are waiting until at least the end of this month to see what the course of the spread of the virus will be before making any final decisions concerning the program.
- ✘ We are pleased to inform everyone our seminarians, Mark Makarios and Sub-deacon David Rayahin, who were with us last year, are returning this year.

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 making the sign of the cross and bowing, keeping in mind not to kiss or to touch the Holy Icons and the Holy Cross.