



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 + Seminarian Christopher (Cody) Vest

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).

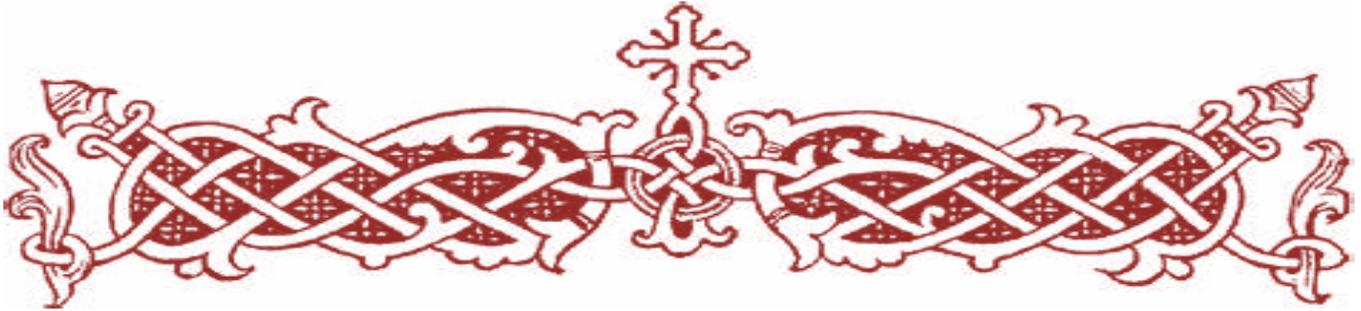
The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second-largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God, our Creator, to worship and follow Him and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.

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

Please Note * All our services can be watched as they occur on our Parish Face Book page at <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAO/>**

Monday October 26 -- Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Tuesday – Thursday – October 27 – 29 - Diocesan Clergy Synaxis Online Each Day between 2 & 3
Saturday October 31 --- Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday November 1 - Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

A Few COVID-Related Reminders to Consider

*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.*

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. Please also use the hand sanitizer provided for your convenience.

Finally, please report to us if you learn you have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive or believes they may have been exposed themselves. We owe it to each other to be vigilant and warn of any potential exposure, no matter how inadvertent or innocent it may be

COMMEMORATIONS

- 🕯 Today - Holy Bread and Bulletin Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Amelia Brody by Jack, Reba & Jackie Witko **and also** Offered/Sponsored in Loving Memory of Rachel Moses Hebda by John and Jean Moses and Family **and also** Trisagion Prayers for Rachel Moses Hebda



**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE
MARTYRS MARCIAN AND MARTYRIOS THE NOTARIES**

Martyrs Valerios and Chrysaphios; Tabitha the merciful, raised from the dead by the apostle Peter; relics translation of Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified & Venerable John of Beverly

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 SS. MARCIAN & MARTYRIOS THE NOTARIES 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.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

THE EPISTLE

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:26-39)

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as He stepped out on land, there met Him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech Thee, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all that God has done for you." And went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.

THE SYNAXARION

On October 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Martyrs and Notaries Marcian and Martyrios, disciples of Saint Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople.

*Note ye in these notaries the pens of Jesus,
Dipped by the sword's nib in their own blood as Martyrs.
On the twenty-fifth, they beheaded Marcian and Martyrios.*

These saints fought against the Arian heresy which blasphemed God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. The Emperor Constantius himself inclined towards it. Patriarch Paul was dethroned and driven out to Armenia, where the Arians strangled him. Orthodoxy had two fierce strugglers on hand against the pagans and the heretics. Marcian, a reader, and Martyrios, a chanter, ranged themselves decisively on the side of Orthodoxy. The Arians first tried to bribe them, but, when the two holy men refused this with scorn, the heretics condemned them to death. At their martyrdom, they raised their hands and prayed to God, thanking Him that they were finishing their lives as martyrs in 346. St. John Chrysostom later built a church in their honor over their relics, which worked miracles and cast out demons.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Valerios and Chrisaphios; Tabitha the merciful, raised from the dead by the apostle Peter; and the translations of the relics of the Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified and Venerable John of Beverly.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

- ✂ His Grace Bishop Thomas and the Eastern Dioceses announces a very special virtual Fall Retreat targeting the work of evangelization of Orthodox Christians. The retreat, slated for Thursday November 12-through Sunday November 15, 2020, will feature discussions designed to benefit all Orthodox Christians as well as others who may be interested in finding out about Orthodox Christianity. The topics and speakers for the weekend include: (1) **Healing** by His Grace Bishop JOHN (Abdalah) of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Fr. David Alexander & Fr. Isaiah Gillette; (2) **Evangelism** by Fr. Turbo Qualls of the OCA; (3) **Teen SOYO** by Fr. Joshua Makoul; and Presentations for **Men, Women, Young Adults and Teens!** This is a virtual conference so no one has to travel. You need only have an internet connection and zoom – which you can download. We will publish links to the meetings. This is a wonderful way for those of us who cannot travel (for whatever reason) to experience a Church Retreat. You can even participate in your sweats or pajamas! There will be a zoom meeting every evening from Thursday to Sunday so please select one or more meetings and set aside some time to join in. It is a free event!
- ✂ We regret to inform everyone of an accident that occurred at the Parish Cemetery. More specifically, an accident involving two vehicles (operated by non-parishioners) struck and pretty badly damaged about 25 to 30 feet of the wrought iron fence on October 17, 2020. Fortunately, it does not appear as if any of the grave markers inside the Cemetery were damaged. The Parish Council and Cemetery Committee are following up on the accident and resultant damage with the Hanover Township Police Department and the involved parties' Insurance companies as well as our own insurance company.
- ✂ October is Youth and Seminary Month. We will be taking a special collection for the seminaries at which our students are studying. If you are making a check for your donation, please earmark your check for that purpose. Also, if you are making an online donation for the seminaries, please send Father George an email at the Church (stmarywilkesbarre@gmail.com) to let us know that your donation is for the seminaries.
- ✂ The Parish Council and in particular the Stewardship Committee, are beginning to develop a Parish Census. We will be sending an introductory letter to all of our parishioners in the near future. The Parish Census is very important for a number of reasons, not the least of which is to better determine how we can serve our Parish needs and understand how best to allocate Parish resources. Please pay attention to the census process once it begins and please cooperate.
- ✂ We recently told everyone we planned to switch our live-stream of services to YouTube. Unfortunately, due to the requirements that YouTube places on those posting videos, we were unable to do so. We will, however, continue to be live-streaming our services on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryAO/>
- ✂ Father George is changing his days at Church this coming week due to the Diocesan Online Clergy Synaxis (gathering). He will be at the Church only on Monday, October 26h from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please make note of this change. If you would like to come to Church to receive Confession, light a candle, say a prayer or receive Holy Communion from the Reserve Sacrament, please come to the Office Door. Again, you

will need to inform Father George in advance if you would like to receive Holy Communion and remember that Fasting for Holy Communion should be from Midnight the previous day as we do on Sunday.

- ✂ Our takeout Spaghetti Dinners for November will be held on November 5 and November 19 (both obviously Thursdays). We will not have any takeout Spaghetti Dinners in December but will return better than ever on January 7, 2021. Please come out and take home a Spaghetti Dinner for yourself and your family or perhaps an elderly neighbor who cannot leave their home.
- ✂ Our Take-Out Middle Eastern Food Event featuring Kibbee, Grape leaves and Baklava happens on **Saturday, November 14th** – which the day before we begin our Advent Fast. We will be selling the Kibbee and Grape leaves in two forms, cooked and uncooked. Orders must be made in advance and you will be able to place your order by phone or online. This is a Pre-Order festival only. Your order must be placed by the deadline of November 1 --- NO EXCEPTIONS! The take-outs will be done as we are doing the Spaghetti Dinners. They will be pre-packaged and ready for you to pick up between Noon and 6 p.m. on November 14th.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do not fear the conflict, do not flee it. Where there is no struggle, there is no virtue. Where faith and love are not tested, it is not possible to be sure if they are really present. They are proved and revealed in adversity. -- St. John of Kronstadt