



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/>**

Today after Liturgy – Parish Council meeting

Tuesday -- November 2--- Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Thursday -- November 4--- Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm **and also**
Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Friday – November 5 --- Matins at 6:00 pm and Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm for St. Raphael of Brooklyn

Saturday -- November 6 --- Teen ZOOM Class at 11:00 am **and** Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm

Sunday -- November 7 --- 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 Sam, Najoum, George, Abraham, Mary and Naphie Solomon by the Solomon Family



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2020
HOLY UNMERCENARIES COSMAS & DAMIAN OF ASIA & FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE
Theodota, the Unmercenaries' mother; Venerable-martyr James and his disciples James the deacon and
Dionysios of Prodrromou Skete on Athos; Venerable David of Evia in Greece

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN OF ASIA IN TONE EIGHT

O ye silver-hating, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

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

In the saints that are in His earth bath the Lord been wondrous.

I beheld the Lord ever before me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (12:27-13:8)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

THE SYNAXARION

On November 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy and wonderworking Unmercenarics Cosmas and Damian, the sons of Theodota of Asia.

*The two Unmercenarics, from earth departed, Yet again, as before, fill the earth with wonders.
November first they flew from earth, O healing Light.*

The brothers were from Mesopotamia in Asia Minor. After the death of their pagan father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, Cosmas and Damian are called "Unmercenarics." They fulfilled Christ's command: "Freely have ye received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8). And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace. Even after their deaths, Cosmas and Damian worked healing miracles for all who called upon their names. On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable-martyr James and his disciples James the deacon and Dionysios of Prodrumou Skete on Athos; and Venerable David of Evia in Greece.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The righteous Job said: Is not a man's life on earth a trial? Are not his days as those of a hireling? (Job 7:1) Therefore, one must be as a watchful guard and be prepared for all that may happen. -- *St. Nikolai of Zica*

PARISH NEWS

- ✂ We have begun our online Teen and Young Adult Church School Program, which will be held on Saturday mornings from 11 am to Noon. We encourage ALL of our Teens and Young Adults to join us. If you have not received the login information please let either Father George or Subdeacon David know and they will send you the link.
- ✂ Many thanks to all who helped prepare the food for our Take-Out Festival. Please remember the cut off date for ordering your food is TODAY!
- ✂ Our Parish Council meets following the Divine Liturgy today.
- ✂ This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the arrival of St. Raphael to America. We will be holding Matins at 6 p.m. and Divine Liturgy at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 6th, the Eve of his Feastday.
- ✂ Advent--The Christmas Fast--begins on Sunday, November 15th. We will be holding the Paraclesis Service each Wednesday evening of Advent at 6 p.m. beginning November 18th.
- ✂ The Fall online Diocesan Retreat will be held November 12th-15th. Please see the attached flyer.
- ✂ We will celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple on Saturday, November 21 with Matins at 9 am and Festal Divine Liturgy at 10 am.
- ✂ 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/>
- ✂ 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 which is today! 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.