



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/>**

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

Thursday -- November 12--- Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday -- November 14 --- Take-Out Festival Pick up between 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm + Teen ZOOM Class at 11:00 am **and** Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 & Vespers at 5:00 pm

Sunday -- November 15 --- Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am + Advent Begins

COMMEMORATIONS

- ✂ Today – None today.
- ✂ November 22 - Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Janine Saba and George Saba Sr by Jane Saba
- ✂ December 6 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of George Morrash on the two year anniversary of his repose by his family also Trisagion Prayers are for George Morrash
- ✂ January 17, 2021 -- Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Hal Morrash on the four year anniversary of her repose by her family also Trisagion Prayers are for Hal Morrash

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



DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2020

The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and all the bodiless powers of Heaven & Seventh Sunday of Luke

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ARCHANGELS IN TONE FOUR

Supreme Commanders of the Hosts of the Heavens, * we, the unworthy, importune and beseech you * that by your supplications ye encircle us * in the shelter of the wings * of your immaterial glory; * guarding us who now fall down * and cry to you with fervor: * Deliver us from dangers of all kinds, * as the great marshals of the heavenly hosts on high.

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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Archangels)

He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers flames of fire. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (2:2-10)

Brethren, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His own Will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man, that Thou carest for Him? Thou didst make Him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned Him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because

of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:41-56)

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round Him. And a woman, who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround Thee and press upon Thee! And Thou sayest, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While Jesus was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when Jesus came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

THE SYNAXARION

On November 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Synaxis of the Supreme Commanders Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, and of the other bodiless and heavenly orders, the Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

Fain a fitting song would I fitly sing thee, but a song immaterial I have not, O Michael. Seeing thee, the great Angel of joy, O Gabriel, I greatly rejoice, and fly upon wings of longing. Sent from on high as a minister of mercies, Raphael comforteth all them that invoke thee. The eighth honoreth the Princes of the celestial orders.

Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of the Apostle Paul who was taken up into the third heaven (II Cor. 12:2), described the nine orders of angels in his book, *On the Celestial Hierarchies*. The Apostle Paul says all angels are ministering spirits to them who shall be heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). The Archangel Michael leads the angelic hosts. When Satan fell away from God and drew a third of the angels with him to destruction, Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: "Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear! Let us attend!" and all of the faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!" The Archangel Gabriel proclaimed the news of the conceptions of John the Baptist and our Lord Jesus Christ to their mothers, Elizabeth and the Ever-virgin Mary (Luke 1). The Archangel Raphael healed Tobit of his blindness (Tobit 11) and freed his daughter-in-law, Sarah, from a demon (Tobit 6). Every nation and Christian has a guardian angel. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✂ Please Remember our Virtual Eastern Diocese Fall Retreat will be held every night November 12-15th. There will be presentations for all of the family members. Please see the attached flyer for all of the details and the log-ins for each of the presentations.
- ✂ Next Saturday, November 14th, we have our Pre-Order Take-Out Food Festival from 1-4 p.m. Please come to pick up your orders during that time. At 4:30 Father George will be hearing Confessions and at 5 p.m. we will hold the Vespers Service.
- ✂ Next Sunday, November 15th, Advent, the 40-day Christmas Fast, will begin. During the Advent Season we will hold the Paracletis Service on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m.
- ✂ 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.
- ✂ Advent--The Christmas Fast--begins on Sunday, November 15th. We will be holding the Paracletis 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.
- ✂ 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.
- ✂ Please let us know if there is anyone who can be removed from the prayer list. Please contact either Father George or Subdeacon Norman.