



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.



PLEASE NOTE

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

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

ADVENT CONTINUES

Wed.	December 16	Father George at the Church from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and Advent Paraclesis at 6:00 pm
Thurs.	December 17	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday	December 20	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

COMMEMORATIONS

- Today Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Emily Achey by Lillian Bonomo and David Achey *also* Trisagion Prayers are for Emily Achey *and also* Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Herman & Mary Reh, Joseph Reh and Elaine Reh Berenguer by Nancy Hunter and Family
- Jan 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



"The Season of the Nativity is about nothing other than preparing a little room for the Lord Jesus Christ to come and shine in our souls."

-- His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

Divine Liturgy Variables on Sunday, December 13, 2020
Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ
Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of the Aleuts
Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes at Sebastia; Virgin-martyr
Lucia of Syracuse; Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Serbia

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. HERMAN IN TONE FOUR

Blessed ascetic of the northern wilds and gracious intercessor for the whole world, teacher of the Orthodox Faith, good instructor of piety, adornment of Alaska and joy of all America, holy Father Herman, pray to Christ God that He save our souls.

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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

THE SYNAXARION

On December 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugene, Mardarios, and Orestes at Sebastia; Virgin-martyr Lucia of Syracuse; and Hieromartyr Gabriel, patriarch of Serbia.

On this day, we commemorate our righteous Father Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of the Aleuts, who reposed in peace in the year 1837.

*Having stripped off the old man with many labors, To the new world came Herman as an Apostle.
On the thirteenth, Herman shineth with Alaskan gold.*

Herman was born in 1756. At age 16, he entered the Orthodox Christian monastic life at the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Hermitage near St. Petersburg. Later, he moved to the Valaam Monastery. Father Herman was selected, along with seven other monks, to begin a mission into the Alaskan territory. They arrived on Kodiak Island on September 24, 1794. The monks educated and converted the Aleuts and native Alaskans and, as time progressed, they found themselves protecting the natives from exploitation and abuse. Thus the monks themselves were abused, arrested and physically threatened. The natives regarded Herman as their defender and intercessor before God. Herman died on December 13, 1837, and was forgotten until the first investigation of his life in 1867 by Bishop Peter of Alaska.

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers (Ancestors) of our Lord Jesus.

*Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,
As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.
Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.*

We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

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

PARISH NEWS

Please Note A Holiday Treat is Here For You

****Baklava Sale****

We have Baklava for sale just in time for Christmas. The cost is as follows:

Full Tray of 96 cuts---\$76

Half Tray of 48 cuts--\$38

Quarter Tray of 24 cuts--\$19

To place your order, please call Eileen at 570-829-7090

- ✘ Plan ahead to attend our services for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On Wednesday, December 23rd we will have the last Advent Paraclesis Service at 6 p.m. On Thursday, December 24th, the Eve of the Feast, we will have the Royal Hours beginning at 9 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be: Matins at 6 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 7 p.m.
- ✘ St. Ignatius Sunday is December 20th. We ask all of our members of the Order of St. Ignatius to wear their crosses to church that Sunday.
- ✘ Please note that Father George will be at the Church from 3-6 p.m. Wednesday prior to the Advent Paraclesis and then Thursday from 10 am to 2 p.m. (as in the past).
- ✘ Many thanks to Lillian Bonomo who donated a hand sanitizer station/dispenser for the Church. Many Years to Lillian ...
- ✘ Please take note the Church envelopes, for the Parishioners who request them are in the Narthex (vestibule) of the Church. Please take your envelopes and if you see envelopes belonging to your family, please take them and safely deliver those too ...
- ✘ With God's help we continue the forty-day NATIVITY FAST in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. The Nativity Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 through December 19 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis (allowance) for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is December 20 through 24 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with katalysis (allowance) for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday."
- ✘ A reminder that during Advent we will hold the Advent Paraclesis Service to the Holy Theotokos at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
- ✘ The Parish Council will try it again and will meet today after Liturgy. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.
- ✘ Please remember there will be NO dinners in December but that we will resume these great takeout dinners in January, 2021. Who knows - with God's blessings and His Grace we may be able to sit together again in the Parish Hall and enjoy the traditional spaghetti dinners early in the new year.
- ✘ Please let us know if there is anyone who can be removed from the prayer list. Please contact either Father George or Subdeacon Norman.



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