

ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

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ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE ** www.antiochian.org

PARISH WEB PAGE ** www.stmaryorthodox.com

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

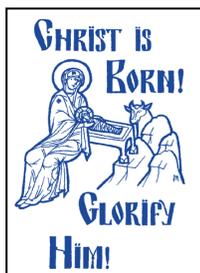
Tuesday January 5 Royal Hours at 9 a.m. ** Festal Matins at 6 p.m. ** Festal Divine Liturgy at 7 p.m. with Blessing of Water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

Wednesday January 6 Great Feast Of Epiphany

Sunday January 10 Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

COMMEMORATIONS

- ☞ Today None Today
- ☞ Jan 10, 2021 Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Marion Norman for her 40 day memorial by her family also Trisagion Prayers are for Marion Norman for her 40 day memorial
- ☞ 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
- ☞ Jan 24, 2021 Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Thomas Yuhas Jr on the two year anniversary of his repose by Tom and Rose Yuhas



Brothers and Sisters In Christ

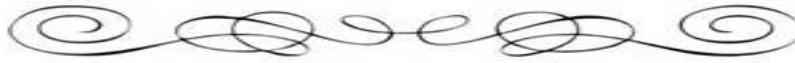
We Greet Each Other After The Nativity By Exclaiming "Christ Is Born" and Responding "Glorify Him!" When Meeting Each Other And Also During The Liturgy When Offering Each Other The Sign Of Peace ... Greet each other by exclaiming ...

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 03, 2021

Forefeast of & Sunday before Theophany of Christ

Holy Prophet Malachi; Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Venerable Thomais the Wonderworker of Lesbos; Venerable Genevieve of Paris



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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist,

and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

THE SYNAXARION

On January 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the second day of the Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate the holy Prophet Malachi.

*Malachi, who boasteth to be named Angel, boasteth yet more in that he standeth with Angels.
On the third Malachi's soul flew from things fleeting.*

He was chronologically the last of the prophets, born after the return of the Jews from exile in Babylon in 538 B.C. He was unusually fair of face. According to tradition, he was nicknamed "the angel" perhaps because of his outward fairness, or because of his purity of spirit, or because of his companionship with an angel, with whom he often spoke face to face. At these times, others also heard its voice but were not worthy to look on its face. The young prophet spoke forth that which the angel revealed to him. Malachi cried out against the ingratitude of Israel and the sins of the priests. Five hundred years before Christ, he clearly foretold the coming and work of John the Baptist (Mal. 3:1). Malachi was chiefly the prophet of the Day of Judgment (Mal. 3:19-21). Malachi went to God young in years, and after him there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist, the last of all prophets.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Venerable Thomais the wonderworker of Lesbos; and Venerable Genevieve of Paris.

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



WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY ON TUESDAY MORNING WITH ROYAL HOURS AND ORTHROS AND THE DIVINE LITURGY AT 6:00 PM AND 7:00 PM (RESPECTIVELY) ON TUESDAY EVENING WITH BLESSING OF WATER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens,
leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.
On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.*

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John

the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.” When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Please note we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday morning with Royal Hours and Orthros and the Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm (respectively) on Tuesday Evening with blessing of water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
- ✘ Father George will be taking a part of his vacation time from Tuesday, January 12th through Friday, January 22nd because Kh. Carol will be having shoulder replacement surgery in Connecticut. God-willing, Fr. David will be serving here at St. Mary Church on Sunday, January 17th. We pray Kh. Carol enjoys a speedy, pain-free and complete recovery! Please keep both Kh. Carol and Father George in your prayers.
- ✘ Our Teen and Young Adult Zoom class will resume on Saturday, January 23rd from 11 a.m. till Noon. It will continue each Saturday for a total of 6 weeks. We encourage all our Teens, College Students and Young Adults to attend and participate. Father George will send the link to these sessions shortly.
- ✘ We hope and pray everyone will continue to protect themselves and others from this insidious and evil pandemic. Many of us are experiencing some amount of “pandemic fatigue” that might cause us to leave down our guards. It is however most important that we continue to fight the fight and abide by the recommendations of the CDC and continue to socially distance from each other as necessary and appropriate and of course wear a mask when out in public. We include the Special Prayer authorized by the Patriarch and Metropolitan JOSEPH ... Please include this prayer into your Daily Prayers and if you do not regularly say Daily Prayers, start taking time and recite the prayer at least once a day ...
- ✘ We regret to advise everyone that we will not be resuming our take-out Spaghetti Dinners this month. We are hoping to be able to resume sometime next month – God willing. We will keep everyone posted and up-to-date concerning the return of our great take-out Spaghetti Dinners.
- ✘ 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 ...
- ✘ Please let us know if there is anyone who can be removed from the prayer list. Please contact either Father George or Subdeacon Norman.

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

A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AND HEALING FROM THE NEW PANDEMIC

His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X of Antioch and All the East and His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, have approved use of this "Special Prayer for Protection and Healing from the New Pandemic" by our clergy and faithful.

O Lord, our God, the rich, the merciful, and wise in His care:

In Thy wisdom take care of our lives, hear our prayers, accept our repentance for our sins, and stop this rampant pandemic in the same way that Thou didst stop punishing Thy people in the days of David the King.

O Physician of our souls and bodies: grant healing to those infected by this pandemic, and let them rise quickly from their pain to glorify Thee, O merciful Savior; as for those who are healthy, protect them from any disease.

Bless, O Lord, and support all those who care with love and sacrifice for the sick wherever they are found, whether they are at home or in hospitals, and keep them with Thy grace. Protect Thy people from all disease and pain, and teach us to value life and health as Thy gifts.

Grant us, O God, Thy peace, and fill our hearts with firm faith in Thy care, and with love towards Thee and our neighbor. Have mercy on us, and save us, O our God, and to Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen +