



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

Sunday January 17 Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

COMMEMORATIONS

- ☞ Today 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 *and also* Holy Bread and Bulletin offered in loving memory of Marla Hunter by Nancy and Jim Hunter and Family

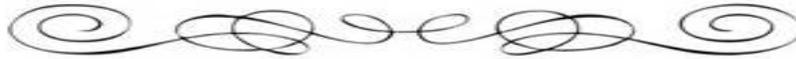
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Prayer is the test of everything. If prayer is right, everything is right." -- St. Theophan the Recluse

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

Gregory, bishop of Nyssa; Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora and Makarios of Pisma; Bishop Theophan the Recluse



RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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 THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a

great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

THE SYNAXARION

On January 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we continue to celebrate the Theophany of Christ, and we commemorate our Father among the Saints Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa.

*Gregory, the muse who had his throne in Nyssa, dwelleth not in Pieria, but in Eden.
On the tenth death's gloaming shroud Gregory over.*

The brother of St. Basil the Great, Gregory was at first a married priest; but when his wife, the blessed Theosevia, died, he was chosen and consecrated as Bishop of Nyssa. He was distinguished by great secular learning and spiritual experience, and was a great preacher, a translator of the Scriptures and a theologian. As a result of his opposition to the Arians, they did everything in their power to crush him, regarding him as their chief enemy. They were so successful in this that, in the reign of the Emperor Valens, their ally, they managed to depose Gregory from his episcopal throne and drive him into exile in 376. The holy Father spent several years in patient exile, enduring poverty and humiliation. In 381, Gregory took part in the Second Ecumenical Council, where he formulated the final part of the Creed concerning the Holy Spirit. Finally, finishing his life at a great age in about the year 395, Gregory entered into the Kingdom of God and has been commemorated through all succeeding ages as a great light in the Church.

On this day, we also commemorate Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora and Makarios of Pisma; and Bishop Theophan the Recluse.

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



PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Please note 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 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