



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.

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/>

COMMEMORATIONS

Today Holy Bread is offered and Bulletin sponsored in Loving Memory of Jacqueline Roberts by her husband Joe and her Children *also* Trisagion Prayers are offered in Loving Memory of Jacqueline Roberts

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Tuesday, July 20	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday, July 22	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday, July 25	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

SPECIAL NEWS REGARDING THE EASING OF COVID RESTRICTIONS ...

We are now permitted to attend Services without wearing a mask or following the previous rule of 6 ft. social distancing. *However, if you would like to continue to wear a mask, you may do so.* Also, we will now be permitted to hold meetings in our Parish Hall, and no longer have limits on Choir members and may hold coffee hours or other events in our Parish Hall.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

**Martyr Emilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria; John, metropolitan of Chalcedon;
Stephen, patriarch of Constantinople**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, 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.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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

(For the Holy Fathers)

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O ye righteous.

Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Holy Fathers)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (5:14-19)

The Lord said to His Disciples: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

THE SYNAXARION

On July 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Emilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria; John, metropolitan of Chalcedon; and Stephen, patriarch of Constantinople.

On this Sunday, we commemorate the 630 holy and God-bearing Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council, which convened in Chalcedon in 451 against the Monophysites.

*Shunning opposite errors like the sea monsters Scylla and Charybdis,
The Fathers steer the Church on a straight course to safety.*

The Holy Fathers were, once again, concerned with the nature of Jesus Christ. The false teaching arose that Christ's human nature (considered by heretics as less perfect) dissolved itself in His divine nature (considered by heretics as more perfect): like a cube of sugar in a parcel of water. Thus, in that scenario, Christ had only one nature, the Divine. These false preachers were called Monophysites ("mono", meaning "one" and "physis", meaning "nature"), and they were led by Eutyches and Dioscorus. Monophysitism overemphasized the divine nature of Christ, at the expense of the human. The Fourth Ecumenical Council condemned Monophysitism and proclaimed that Christ has two complete natures: the divine and the human, as defined by previous Councils. These two natures function as equally perfect, without confusion, and are neither divided nor separate. The Fathers declared that at no time did they undergo any change.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ The next event for preparing food for our Day in Damascus Take-Out event, which will be held on Saturday, October 2nd, is to roll grape leaves on Saturday July 24 at 9 am. Let Joanne know if you can work. Please remember this is a pre-order sale. We can use your help throughout our preparation for this important event. Please watch out for more events and make an effort to help us!
- ✘ The Golf Committee needs volunteers, donations and gift baskets. Please see John Moses or Theresa Solomon if you can help.
- ✘ This year, the Archdiocese Convention on July 23rd and 24th will be virtual. A Zoom link will be sent later and will also be emailed by Father George to our Parishioners. All members of our organizations are asked to attend. Father George urges each of us to virtually attend the talk by Metropolitan JOSEPH.
- ✘ Our Virtual Archdiocese Convention begins on Friday, July 23rd, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, July 24th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Father George attached a flyer to his recent email with the link to register. If you did not receive it and would like the link, please let Father George know and he will forward it to you. Saturday, July 24th is our Archdiocese General Assembly at which time Metropolitan JOSEPH will be addressing the Assembly. Father George strongly encourages all to "attend" this General Assembly on Saturday to see what the Archdiocese is doing and to listen to the address by Metropolitan JOSEPH. Also, Father George encourages all to attend the Friday sessions for the organizations to which you belong --the Order of St. Ignatius, Ladies Society, Teen SOYO, Young Adult Ministry.
- ✘ Father George will be at the Church this week on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm each day for those who would like to come for Confession, say a prayer, light a candle or receive Holy Communion from the Reserve Sacrament. As always please call ahead if planning on receiving Holy Communion so Father can be prepared and (if coming early) kindly come to the office door.
- ✘ Please remember that it is now optional to wear masks in Church. Please remember, however, to continue to take precautions and kindly refrain from exchanging the "kiss of peace" and kindly leave

some distance between you and those who are not of your immediate family. Most important of all, please refrain from coming to Church if you are sick.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Parish Golf Outing/Tournament is scheduled for Friday August 20, 2021 at the Sand Springs Country Club in Drums. Start planning now for a foursome and perhaps a sponsorship. We are slowly emerging from the black cloud of this evil pandemic and returning to some semblance of normalcy. please help us back by getting together a foursome or if you don't golf, sponsoring a hole.



ANOTHER DATE TO SAVE !

We are planning our "Day in Damascus" food festival for Saturday, October 2, 2021. we will need volunteers and we need to get the word out to our friends and neighbors!

