



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 None Today

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Tuesday, July 27	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Day In Damascus Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm
Thursday, July 29	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 1	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 25, 2021

Dormition of Righteous Anna, Mother of the Theotokos & Fifth Sunday of Matthew & Righteous Mothers Olympias, deaconess of Constantinople; Eupraxia of Tabenna

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE DORMITION OF ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

O Godly-minded Anna, thou didst give birth unto God's pure Mother who conceived Him Who is our Life. Wherefore, thou hast now passed with joy to thy heavenly rest, wherein is the abode of them that rejoice in glory; and thou askest forgiveness of sins for them that honor thee with love, O ever-blessed one.

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 DORMITION OF ST. ANNA IN TONE TWO

(Thou soughtest the heights**)**

We celebrate now * the mem'ry of Christ's ancestors, * while asking their help * with faith, that we may all be saved * from all manner of tribulation as we fervently cry aloud: * Be Thou with us, O Lord our God, * Whose pleasure it was to glorify them both.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Dormition of St. Anna)

God is wondrous in His saints. In the churches, bless ye God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by the handmaid, and one by the freewoman. But the one from the handmaid is born according to the flesh; whereas the one from the freewoman is through the promise. These things are an allegory, for these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for bondage, which is Hagar. For Sinai, which corresponds to Hagar, is a mountain in Arabia, and resembles the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is the mother of us all. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry out, you who are not in travail: For many are the children of the desolate, much more than of her who has a husband."

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

THE SYNAXARION

On July 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Dormition of Saint Anna, Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos.

*The Virgin-mother Maiden's Mother now dieth,
Who for child-bearing mothers is swift salvation.
On the twenty-fifth died Anna, the assuager of hard travail.*

According to tradition, Anna, the ancestor of God, lived for 79 years, and her spouse Joachim, for 80, who preceded Anna in death. They were married for 50 years and prayed to God for a child—male or female—to comfort them in their old age. Anna gave birth to the one who would bear God in her womb. The Theotokos had been orphaned of both her parents when she was 11 years old, when she was living in the Temple. Saint Anna is invoked for conceiving children, and for help in difficult childbirth..

On this day, we also commemorate our righteous mothers Olympias the deaconess of Constantinople; and Eupraxia of Tabenna.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Our Day in Damascus Take-Out event will be held on Saturday, October 2nd, 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!
- ✘ Thanks to all who helped roll grape leaves!
- ✘ The Golf Committee needs volunteers, donations and gift baskets. Please see John Moses or Theresa Solomon if you can help.
- ✘ Our Day in Damascus Committee will be holding their meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27th. We ask all of our committee members to plan on attending.
- ✘ The Dormition Fast will begin next Sunday, August 1st. This is a Fast period prior to the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition on August 15. As you know, the Feast of the Dormition is our Parish Feast Day. This year it falls on a Sunday and Father George and the Parish Council hope to have a full church for this celebration. During the Fast, we will hold the Paraclesis Service at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
- ✘ The Feast of the Transfiguration always falls during the Dormition Fast on August 6th. We will be celebrating this Feast with Matins and Divine Liturgy on the Eve of the Feast--August 5th. Matins will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy at 7 p.m. Fasting for Holy Communion should be from the NOON meal. It is the custom to bless grapes and the first fruits and vegetables from our gardens on this day. If you would like, you may bring your fruits and vegetables to the Divine Liturgy that evening to be blessed.
- ✘ Our Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, August 20th at Sand Springs in Drums, PA beginning with registration at 11:30 a.m.
- ✘ This year, Bishop THOMAS will be making his yearly parish visit with us on the Golf Tournament Weekend. He will attend the Golf Tournament on Friday and on Saturday evening, August 21 at 5 p.m. we will hold Great Vespers with Bishop THOMAS presiding. Following the service our Parish Council will be having dinner with him.
- ✘ Sunday, August 22nd, Bishop THOMAS will preside at the Matins service at 9 a.m. and serve the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. A Coffee Hour will be held following the Divine Liturgy. Father George and the Parish Council hope to see all of you at these services.

✘ 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!

