



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

None Today

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

THE DORMITION FAST BEGINS TODAY

Today After Liturgy	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 3	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wed. August 4	First Paraclesis Service at 6:00 pm
Thursday, August 5	Father George at the Church from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Transfiguration Matins at 6:00 pm Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration at 7:00 pm (in anticipation of the Feast on August 6)
Saturday, August 7	Confessions at 4:30 pm and Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday, August 8	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, AUGUST 01, 2021
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost & Sixth Sunday of Matthew
Procession of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross
The seven Maccabean youths, their mother Solomonia and Eleazar
their teacher

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 FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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 TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man is no more.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace that was given to us, let each use them accordingly: whether prophecy, let him prophesy according to the proportion of the faith; or ministry, let him give himself to the ministry; or the teacher, to the teaching; or he who exhorts, in the exhorting; he who gives, let him do it with simplicity; he who presides, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

THE GOSPEL

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

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.



THE SYNAXARION

On August 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Procession of the honored and life-giving Cross.

Let the whole world entire worship the Cross through Which it truly knew to worship Thee, O Word.

This multi-dimensional feast was established as a memorial of the simultaneous victories of the Russians over the Bulgars and the Greeks over the Saracens. In both battles, the soldiers carried crosses from which a heavenly radiance shone forth. A memorial was therefore instituted that, on August 1, the true Precious Cross be carried from the Church of Saint Sophia in Constantinople, first around the interior of the church and then through the streets to allow the people to venerate it. The Precious Cross consecrated the earth and the air, and protected against sicknesses. Finally, on August 14, the eve of the Dormition of the Theotokos, it was taken back to the church in the imperial palace. In the Russian Church, this feast is also combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus on August 1, 988.

On this day, we also commemorate the holy Seven Martyrs, the Maccabees: Abim, Anthony, Guria, Eleazar, Eusebona, Achim and Marcellus; their mother Solomone and Eleazar their teacher.

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

PARISH NEWS

✘ This coming week, Father George will be at the Church on Tuesday, August 3rd from 10 am till 2 pm and again on Thursday, August 5th from 4 pm till 6 pm at which time the Matins of the Feast of the Transfiguration will begin. Father will be hearing Confessions during that time from 4-6 p.m.

✘ The Dormition Fast begins today. During the Fast we will have the Paraclesis Service on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. beginning this Wednesday, August 4th.

✘ We will be celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration Thursday evening, August 5th, the Eve of the Feast, with Matins beginning at 6 p.m. followed by the Festal Divine Liturgy and the blessing of grapes, fruits and vegetables at 7 p.m. You may bring fruits and vegetables from your garden to be blessed that evening.

✘ Father George will begin serving Saturday evening Vespers at 5 p.m. beginning on Saturday, August 7th. He will hear Confessions prior to Vespers from 4:30-5 p.m. On Saturday, August 14th we will hold the Vespers and Lamentations for the Feast of the Dormition, our Parish Feast Day, which falls on a Sunday this year--August 15th. On Saturday August 21 at 5 p.m., Bishop THOMAS will be visiting our Parish and will preside at that Vesper Service. Following the Service, our Parish Council will be taking him out to dinner.

✘ An Important Reminder from Bishop THOMAS:

Bishop THOMAS has asked all his clergy to remind our parishioners of the following protocol that must be followed when another clergyman is invited to serve in our parishes. Please take note of this for the future.

Bishop THOMAS writes, "I want you to pass on the following reminder to the parishioners. They are not to invite bishops, priests or deacons to our parishes without first asking my permission as well as your permission. In some cases, it also involves asking the permission of the Metropolitan." Bishop THOMAS has had

several incidences of bishops and/or priests, some of whom were not from our Diocese, being invited to parishes or just showing up without Bishop Thomas' knowledge or blessing. Bishop THOMAS continues, "I don't want this to happen any more. Please make sure that you teach our people the proper protocol. Thank you." If you have any questions concerning this protocol, please feel free to contact me.

- ✘ We have learned ... and are excited to let everyone know... that our seminarian Cody Vest has been given the permission to be ordained a Deacon. Bishop THOMAS will ordain him during his visit to our parish on August 22, 2021.
- ✘ We are attaching the August Calendar to today's Bulletin.
- ✘ 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!
- ✘ The Golf Committee needs volunteers, donations and gift baskets. Please see John Moses or Theresa Solomon if you can help.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ 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.