



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 CONTINUES

Monday, August 9	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Tuesday, August 10	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wed. August 11	Paracletis Service at 6:00 pm
Saturday, August 14	Great Vespers and Lamentations for the Feast of the Dormition at 5:00 pm
Sunday, August 15	Festal Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition 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 8, 2021
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Seventh Sunday of Matthew
After-feast of the Transfiguration of Christ
Emilianos the Confessor, archbishop of Kyzikos; Myron, archbishop of Crete

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 TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, 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 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

(For the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good for his edification. For Christ also did not please Himself; but, as it is written: "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me." For whatever was written beforehand was written for our learning, that we might have hope, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, even as Christ has also received you, to the glory of God.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the

Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

THE SYNAXARION

On August 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church, during the after-feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ, we commemorate our righteous father Emilianos the Confessor, archbishop of Kyzikos.

Verses

Since Emilianos made much of his soul’s salvation, He made little of the flesh even until his ending. On the eighth a furrow received the bones of Emilianos.

Emilianos was archbishop in the time of the wicked Emperor Leo the Armenian, the iconoclast. Refusing to carry out the imperial directive on the removal of icons from the churches, he was, along with other Orthodox bishops, sent into exile. Emilianos spent five years in exile, enduring many ills and much humiliation for the sake of Christ. He died in 820, and joined the company of the citizens of Heaven.

On this day, we also commemorate Myron, archbishop of Crete. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Please note the change in Father George’s office hours this week. This coming week, Father George will be at the Church on Monday and Tuesday, from 10 am till 2 pm
- ✘ The Dormition Fast continues. During the Fast we will have the Paraclesis Service on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.
- ✘ Please remember that next Sunday, August 15th, is the Feast Day of our Parish, the Dormition of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. We will be celebrating the Feast with Great Vespers and Lamentations at 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 14th and with the Festal Matins and Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 15th. We look forward to ALL of our parishioners attending these services to celebrate our Parish Feast and Name Day. Please also remember that we are all asked to receive the Sacrament of Confession during this Dormition Fast.
- ✘ And about Vespers ... Father George will begin serving Saturday evening Vespers at 5 p.m. 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.
- ✘ 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.

- ✘ 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.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Please remember that Bishop THOMAS will preside at the Matins service at 9 a.m. and serve the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. on Sunday, August 22nd. 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.
- ✘ *Please let Father George or Sbdcn Norman if anyone can be removed from the Prayer List.*