



## ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA

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ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE \*\* [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

PARISH WEB PAGE \*\* [www.stmaryorthodox.com](http://www.stmaryorthodox.com)

### 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

August 29 Holy Bread offered and Bulletin and Coffee Hour sponsored in loving memory of Jacob Censulla by wife Corrine Censulla & Trisagion Prayers offered for the 5 year anniversary of the repose of Jacob Censulla

**SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY**

Tuesday, August 17	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday, August 19	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Friday, August 20	Parish Golf Outing at Sand Springs * registration begins at 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, August 21	Great Vespers with Bishop THOMAS at 5:00 pm with Parish Council Dinner with Sayidna following Vespers
Sunday, August 22	Matins at 9:00 am & Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am with Ordination of Subdeacon Kristopher Vest to Holy Diaconate

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**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.

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**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021  
FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

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**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN**

**Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.**

## **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 IN TONE TWO (CHANT)**

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

## **THE EPISTLE**

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*

*For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (2:5-11)**

Brethren, let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus; who, being in the form of God, did not think it robbery to be equal with God, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming Himself in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. For this cause also God highly exalted Him, and gave Him a Name which is above every name; that in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and those who are on earth, and those who are under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **THE GOSPEL**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:38-42; 11:27-28)**

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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## **THE SYNAXARION**

On August 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the venerable Dormition and Translation of our supremely glorious Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

*That the world-saving Maiden died is no marvel, Since, after the flesh, the world's Maker died also.  
God's Mother liveth forever, though she died on the fifteenth.*

The Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and revealed to her that within three days she will find repose. She returned to her home with great joy, desiring in her heart once more to see in this life, all of the Apostles of Christ. The Lord fulfilled her wish and all of the Apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered at the same time at the home of John on Zion. After seeing them, the

Theotokos peacefully gave up her soul to God without any pain or physical illness. The Apostles took the coffin with her body from which an aromatic fragrance emitted and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane to the sepulcher of her parents, Saints Joachim and Anna. Only the Apostle Thomas was absent, according to God's Providence, in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would again be revealed. On the third day, Thomas arrived and desired to venerate the body of the Holy All-pure one. But when the Apostles opened the sepulcher, they found only the winding sheet and the body was not in the tomb. That evening, the Theotokos appeared to the apostles surrounded by a myriad of angels and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always."

*By the intercessions of the Theotokos, O God, have mercy on us and save us,  
since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.*

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## PARISH NEWS

✘ WE'RE GOING TO BE BUSY THIS WEEK! Please leave next weekend free so that you may attend these services with our Bishop THOMAS.

✘ Bishop THOMAS will be with us next weekend (e.g. August 20-22<sup>nd</sup>). We will be holding our Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Then on Saturday evening, August 21<sup>st</sup>, we will hold Great Vespers with Bishop THOMAS presiding. Following Great Vespers, our Parish Council members will be taking Sayidna to Dinner. On Sunday morning, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Bishop THOMAS will preside at the Matins Service and serve the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy during which our seminarian, Subdeacon Kristopher Vest, will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate. A special Coffee Hour will be held following the Divine Liturgy.

✘ Our Day in Damascus Take-Out event is fast approaching. Let Joanne Tenneriello or John Moses know if you can work. We can use your help throughout our preparation for this important event.

✘ Our Day in Damascus Take-Out Festival will be held on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-5 p.m. for order pick-up. Please remember this is a pre-order sale. ALL orders must be placed by Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Order Forms will be available soon. Please keep an eye out for them and place your order as soon as possible to ensure that we will be able to fill all the orders. The Committee has established the following schedule for Preparation and the Festival:

- ✘ *September 18 - Kibbee Baking at 9:30 a.m.*
- ✘ *September 29 -Dessert Drop-Off beginning at 10 a.m./Hummus Preparation*
- ✘ *September 30 - Preparation of Rice, Beans and Taboolee at 10 a.m.*
- ✘ *October 1 - Set-up and Preparation at 10 a.m.*
- ✘ *October 2 - Cooking of Grape Leaves/Packaging of Food Items begins at 8 a.m./Order Pick-up 2-5 p.m.*

✘ *Also ... We are currently accepting Donations to help offset the cost of the ingredients for our food preparation. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to St. Mary Church and note on the Memo it for "Festival Donation". You can also make a Donation online at our Website and again designate it for the Festival. Thank you.*

✘ This week, Father George will be at the Church on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. for those who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confession, light a candle, say a prayer or meet with Father George.

✘ 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.

✘ Our Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, August 20th at Sand Springs in Drums, PA beginning with registration at 11:30 a.m.

✘ 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.*