



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

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 24	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday, August 26	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday, August 28	Great Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday, August 29	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept 7	Matins at 6:00 pm & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm for the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos
Monday, Sept 13	Matins at 6:00 pm & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

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 22, 2021

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost & Ninth Sunday of Matthew

After-feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, 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.

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KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE TWO

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

(For the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.

God is known in Judaea; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (3:9-17)

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's husbandry, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise architect I laid a foundation, and another builds upon it. Let each one take heed how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; everyone's work will become manifest; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test each one's work of what sort it is. If anyone's work which was built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as by fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone corrupts the temple of God, God will corrupt him. For the temple of God is holy, whose temple you are.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Ninth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He

said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

THE SYNAXARION

On August 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, during the after-feast of the Dormition of our Lady the Theotokos, we commemorate the holy, glorious and right victorious Martyr Agathonikos of Nicomedia and those with him: Zoticus, Zeno, Theoprepus, Acindynus, Princeps and Severian.

Agathonikos' name, the pledge of goodness, calleth his triumph by the sword very goodly. These men enduring the most violent devices, break the devices of the wicked deviser. On the twenty-second a sword killed Agathonikos.

Agathonikos turned the Greeks away from idolatry with great fervor, and instructed them in the true Faith. The imperial governor, on orders from the Emperor Maximian, persecuted Christians with great harshness. He seized Zoticus in a place called Carpe, crucified his disciples and took him off to Nicomedia, where he also seized and bound Agathonikos, Princeps, Theoprepus, Acyndinus, Severian, Zeno and many others. In their captivity, Zoticus, Theoprepus and Acyndinus died from exhaustion and of their wounds. Severian was killed near Chalcedon and Agathonikos and the others were taken to Thrace, to a place called Silybria, where, after torture before the Emperor himself, they were beheaded with the sword and entered into eternal life and the joy of their Lord in the year 298.

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

PARISH NEWS

✘ We welcome Bishop THOMAS to St. Mary for his annual visit. As always, we are thrilled to have Sayidna with us in Wilkes-Barre and welcome him with open hearts and arms. Many Years to Bishop THOMAS!

✘ We also welcome the family and friends of Seminarian Kristopher who is being ordained to the Holy Diaconate today during Liturgy. We offer our prayers for a long, healthy, happy and productive ministry. A special handout ... prepared by Father George ... explaining the Ordination is included with today's bulletin.

✘ Our Golf Tournament scheduled for this past Friday has been postponed and is rescheduled to October. More details will be provided on the new date in the near future.

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

✘ Beginning on Thursday, September 9th, Father George will be teaching Antiochian Liturgical Practice at St. Tikhon's Seminary on Thursdays, which necessitates a change in his usual Thursday office hours at Church. He will be sending out the revised schedule each week.

✘ Our Ecclesiastical New Year begins on September 1st each year. In the month of September we have 2 major Feast Days--September 8th, the Birth of the Theotokos and September 14th, the Elevation of the Holy Cross. We will celebrate each Feast on the Eve of the Feast with Matins at 6 p.m. and Divine Liturgy at 7 p.m. Father George will send out the September calendar next week.

✘ Our "DAY IN DAMASCUS TAKE-OUT FESTIVAL" is Saturday, October 2nd 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 19th. 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.*

✘ 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.

✘ 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.*