



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*

Deacon Ephraim Vest

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 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 31	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday, Sept. 2	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Saturday, Sept. 4	Great Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 5	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
Tuesday, 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 29, 2021

**Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John
Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica;
Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the

heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF THE BAPTIST'S BEHEADING IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Whom they had proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us 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 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

THE EPISTLE

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Hearken unto my voice, O God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (13:25-33)

In those days, as John was fulfilling his course, he said, "Who do you suppose that I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me the shoes of whose feet I am not worthy to unloose." Men, brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you is the word of this salvation sent forth. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read on every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him. And though they found no cause of death in Him, yet they asked Pilate that He should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all the things that were written of Him, they took Him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; and for many days He was seen by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled the same to us their children, in that He raised up Jesus again.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (6:14-30)

At that time, Jesus' Name had become known, and King Herod heard of it. Some said, "John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in Him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading

men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The Apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

THE SYNAXARION

On August 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the beheading of the holy, honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

A defiled and blood-stained hand now cutteth off with the sword The head of him who placed his hand on the head of the Lord. On the twenty-ninth a bronze edge cut the neck of the Forerunner.

Herod Antipas, son of the Herod who slew the young children in Bethlehem at the time of the Savior's birth, ruled of Galilee when John the Baptist preached. The evil Herod put away his lawful wife, the daughter of Prince Aretas, and took Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, to live with him while Philip was still alive. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod, at which Herod threw him into prison and ordered him beheaded. The event is recalled in today's Orthros and Liturgy Gospel lections. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and buried it, but Herod tore out John's tongue with a needle and then buried his head in an unclean place. God quickly punished the evildoers. Prince Aretas, to avenge his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and brought him to his knees. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in need and debasement until the earth opened and swallowed them up. Salome, Herodias' daughter, came to a bad end in the river Sikaris. The Church commemorates the beheading today because a church that had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated on this day.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Theodora of Thessalonica; and Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Our Golf Tournament 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.

✘ 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.*