



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

905 SOUTH MAIN ST. ** WILKES-BARRE PA 18702

PARISH OFFICE (570) 824-5016

PARISH HALL (570) 824 - 1674

RECTORY 570-287-2049 **

PARISH EMAIL - stmarywilkesbarre@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE WEB PAGE ** www.antiochian.org

PARISH WEB PAGE ** 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*

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 sponsored in loving memory of Bahia Malta and Kate Hannye by Debbie Malta

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Tuesday, Sept 7	Matins at 6:00 pm & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm for the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos
Wednesday, Sept 8	Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos
Saturday, Sept. 11	Making Kibbee at 9:30 am in Parish Hall Confessions 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm followed by Special Trisagion for 20 th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks prior to Vespers followed by Great Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 12	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am
Tuesday, Sept 14	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, SEPTEMBER 05, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost & Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

Prophet Zachariah, father of the Forerunner

Obadiah, bishop of Persia; martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the

earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PROPHET ZACHARIAH IN TONE FOUR

In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God, * thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings, * as it befitted a priest, O wise Zachariah. * Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries, * bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace; * and in God's temple, O wise Prophet * of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword. * Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.

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

(For the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

Brethren, the seal of my apostleship are you in the Lord. My defense to those who would examine me is this: Do we have no authority regarding what to eat and what to drink? Do we have no authority to lead about a wife, who is a sister, as the rest of the apostles, even as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no authority to refrain from working? Which soldier ever served at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit thereof? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat from the milk of the flock? Do I speak of these things according to human nature? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Thou shalt not muzzle an ox which treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God cares, or does He say it altogether for our sakes? Indeed, for our sakes it was written: because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope, so that the same might partake in hope. If we have sown in you spiritual things, is it a great matter if we should reap your carnal things? If others are partakers of this authority over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we endure all things, in order that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Eleventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of

pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

THE SYNAXARION

On September 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the glorious Prophet Zachariah, father of the Forerunner.

*For the Divine Lamb of God's sake, Zachariah
Is slain like a lamb in the midst of the temple.
On the fifth Zachariah lieth slain on the temple's floor.*

Herod and the Jews killed Zachariah between the temple and the altar (Matt. 23:35), first, because even after the Virgin Mary gave birth, he continued to refer to her as virgin and number her among the virgins; second, because Zachariah's son John was not found during the slaughter of the Innocents. Zachariah's wife Elizabeth had taken him and carefully hid him, while he was yet an infant, in an unnamed and hidden cave that sprung forth in her prayer to God. Zachariah's blood spilled over the marble and became as hard as stone, remaining as testament to Herod's wickedness. Forty days after Zachariah's death, blessed Elizabeth also entered into rest. The child John stayed in the wilderness, fed by an angel and guarded by God's providence, until that day when he appeared by the Jordan.

On this day, we also commemorate Obadiah, bishop of Persia; and the martyrdom of the Holy Passion-bearer Gleb.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Father George will hear confessions next Saturday, September 11th, from 4:30-5 p.m. At 5 p.m., prior to the start of Vespers, we will hold a special Trisagion Service and Prayer for the Victims of the 9/11 Attack on its 20th Anniversary. All our Parishes have been instructed to do the same by Metropolitan JOSEPH.
- ✘ The Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos falls on the 8th of September, the first major Feast Day of the New Church Year. We will be celebrating this Feast on its Eve, Tuesday, September 7th, with Matins at 6 p.m. and Divine Liturgy at 7 p.m. Fasting for Holy Communion should be from the NOON meal.

- ✘ The second Major Feast Day is the Elevation of the Cross which is a STRICT Fast Day and Falls on September 14th. We will be celebrating this Feast also on its Eve, Monday, September 13th, with Matins at 6 p.m. and Liturgy at 7 p.m. followed by the Service for the Procession of the Holy Cross. Again, fasting for Holy Communion should be from the NOON meal.
- ✘ The DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD FESTIVAL Committee is asking for your help! We are asking you to help us out by donating bake sale items of any kind! Please drop off bake goods on Wednesday September 28th from 10:00-12:00 in the Church Hall. Also, we will also be holding a basket raffle. If you or anyone you know would like to donate a basket all donations would be greatly appreciated. In order to make this festival a success, on October 2, we are asking for your help! Don't forget to get your food orders in by September 19th!
- ✘ Our DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD FESTIVAL is Saturday, October 2nd. This is a pre-order Festival and all orders MUST be placed by September 19th. We have posters and flyers for this event available to you in the Church and Church Hall. If you are able to post them at businesses or other establishments, please take one and do so. Also, we have placed a link to order your food on our Facebook page and have sent out this link via Facebook to many of our parishioners. If you have received it, please share it, like it and place it on your Facebook Page. Soon a link will also be placed on our Church Website.
- ✘ Our DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD 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 DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD FESTIVAL Committee has established the following schedule for Preparation and the Festival:
 - ✘ *September 11 - 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.
- ✘ Please let Joanne Tenneriello or John Moses know if you can work during our DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD FESTIVAL, which is fast approaching. We can use your help throughout our preparation for this important event.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Attached to this bulletin is a flyer from St. Anthony and St. George Maronite Catholic Church for their Lebanese Festival.
- ✘ Our Golf Tournament has been postponed and is rescheduled to October. More details will be provided on the new date in the near future.
- ✘ *Please let Father George or Sbdcn Norman if anyone can be removed from the Prayer List.*