



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 None Today

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Today After Liturgy	Parish Counsel Meeting
Monday, Sept 13	Matins at 6:00 pm & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm for the Feast of the Holy Cross
Tuesday, Sept 14	Feast of the Holy Cross ** Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday, Sept. 16	Take Out Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Friday, Sept. 17	Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday, Sept. 18	Making Kibbee at 9:30 am in Parish Hall Confessions 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm followed by Great Vespers at 5:00 pm
Sunday, Sept. 19	Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am <i>ORDER DEADLINE FOR DAY IN DAMASCUS FOOD FESTIVAL</i>

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 12, 2021
SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS
Hieromartyrs Autonomos of Italy and Coronatos of Iconium; Venerable Daniel of Thasios

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

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 Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

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 Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see how large a letter I have written to you with my own hand. As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the Cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised do themselves keep the Law; but they desire to have you circumcised, that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no one trouble me; for I bear in my body the brand-marks of the Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."



THE SYNAXARION

On September 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the celebration of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos, and we commemorate the precious staves and contest of the holy Hieromartyr Autonomos, bishop from Italy, who was slain in Bithynia.

As a sacrifice set upon Thine altar, O Savior, is Autonomos Thy sacrificer, slain by stoning. On the twelfth Autonomos was beaten to death with staves (sticks) and stones.

In Soreoi, Autonomos brought many to the Christian faith and built them a church dedicated to the Archangel Michael. Not far away was a place called Limnae, entirely inhabited by pagans. Autonomos went to this place and quickly brought many of them to the light by the Gospel of Christ. This roused the other pagans, and they hurried to Archangel Michael Church and, during divine service, slew Autonomos on the altar, killing also many other Christians in the church. Two hundred years after his death, Autonomos appeared to a soldier called John. This soldier dug up the saint's relics and found them to be completely uncorrupt, and many of the sick received healing from them.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Coronatos of Iconium; and Venerable Daniel of Thasios.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ 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 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.

✘ 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.

✘ 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.*

NEWS OF EVENTS FOR OUR ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

From our Ladies President, Anna Veniamim

The AWE Board is excited to kick off the Church New Year with two exciting events for all to come together and grow spiritually in our faith.

First: Living Faith Series of the Season kicks off with an Ask Abouna Session featuring Fr. Nicholas Alford and Fr. Meletios Zafaran on September 26th, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Any questions, big or small, will be answered in Arabic or English.

Second: AWE Book Club resumes on October 17th at 6:30 PM welcoming Kh. Frederica Mathewes-Green author of "Mary As the Early Christians Knew Her", the NAB Book Selection for the New Year. You don't want to miss the author's introduction into the book that we will begin reading in October. Order your book now from Paraclete Press or Amazon.

Ladies with questions or who need help with logging onto thee online events should see our Ladies President, Anna Veniamim ...