



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 Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are sponsored in Loving Memory of Helen Moses by the Moses Family *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Helen Moses *and also* Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are sponsored in Loving Memory of Joseph and Ruth Solomon by the Solomon Family *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Joseph and Ruth Solomon
- Dec. 12 Trisagion Prayers are offered for the 40 day Memorial for Joseph Morrash. The Coffee Hour is sponsored, in honor of Joe and Connie Morrash by their children, grandchildren, and their families.
- Dec. 19 Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are sponsored in Loving Memory of the Reposed of St. Mary Parish as well as for the Good Health of the Parishioners and the Parish by Sky Elizabeth Blue
- Jan. 16 Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are offered/sponsored in Loving Memory of Hal Morrash for her 5 year memorial for George A Morrash for his 3 year memorial by their family *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Hal and George Morrash

SCHEDULE OF PARISH LIFE AT ST. MARY

Advent Fast Continues

- Tuesday, November 30 Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Wed. December 1 Advent Paracletis at 6:00 pm
- Thursday, December 2 Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm (final dinner for the season)
- Friday, December 3 Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Saturday, December 4 Confessions from 4:30 – 5:00 followed by Vespers at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 5

Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am ** Special visit from St. Nicholas (whose Feast Day is Monday, December 6, 2021)

Preparing for the Nativity of Our Lord

Advent is the 40-day period of preparation preceding the Nativity and is observed by the Advent Fast. The Scriptural readings for the Nativity Season orient us to one of the reasons God gave His only begotten Son, which is to establish a New Covenant between Himself and all those who would believe in His Son, from every tribe and nation. *We will all know Him in our hearts if we allow Him to enter!*

The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ and is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods: (1) November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays; and (2) December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period. Please see Father George if you have questions.

The Feast of the Nativity is celebrated for twelve days after December 25 culminating in the Feast of Epiphany, or Theophany. We will be holding the Advent Paraclesis Service on Wednesdays during Advent unless otherwise listed on the calendar or in the bulletin. Please take some time to slow down and orient yourself to the Season ... *Please join us as often as possible throughout Advent for these Paraclesis Services.*

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021 **Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost & Thirteenth Sunday of Luke** **Venerable-martyr Stephen the New Martyr Irinarchos of Sebastia and those with him**

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN THE NEW IN TONE FOUR

Trained on the mountain in ascetical-labors, * with the whole armor of the Cross thou didst vanquish * the spiritual arrays of unseen enemies; * and when thou hadst stripped thyself * with great courage for contest, * thou didst slay Copronymus * with the sword of the true Faith. * For both these things hast thou been crowned by God, * O righteous Martyr, blest Stephen of great renown.

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 PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

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 Ephesians. (2:4-10)

Brethren, God, being rich in mercy, through His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through the trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you are saved—and raised us up together with Him, and made us to sit together with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He would show the exceeding riches of His grace, in kindness toward us, in Christ Jesus. For by grace you are saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

THE SYNAXARION

On November 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable-martyr Stephen the New.

*Wounded, O Stephen, in the head with a cudgel,
A crown which never groweth old thou rightly foundest.
On the twenty-eighth the head of Stephen the New was crushed.*

As aforetime Hannah the mother of Samuel, so Anna the mother of Stephen prayed God to give her a son. When Anna had conceived Stephen, she asked the newly-elected Patriarch Germanus to bless the babe in her womb. He said, "May God bless him through the prayers of the holy First Martyr Stephen." At that moment Anna saw a flame of fire issue from the mouth of the holy Patriarch. Stephen struggled in asceticism from his youth in Bithynia at the Monastery of Saint Auxentius, and helped many who came to him. During the reign of Constantine Copronymus, Stephen showed his love of Orthodoxy in contending for the Faith. Besides being a fierce Iconoclast, Constantine raised up a ruthless persecution of monasticism. He held a council in 754 that anathematized the holy icons. Because Stephen rejected this council, the Emperor framed false accusations against him and exiled him. Nevertheless, Stephen performed healings with holy icons and turned many away from Iconoclasm. Later, he was stoned, like Stephen the First Martyr; wherefore he is called Stephen the New. Finally, he was struck with a wooden club on the temple and his head was shattered, and thus he gave up his spirit in the year 767.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Irinarchos of Sebastia and those with him.

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

PARISH NEWS

- ✘ Please remember we celebrate the Advent Paraclesis Service each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Let's join together at this service to give thanks for all that God has done for us and continues to do for us.
- ✘ Please remember we are all asked to receive the Sacrament of Confession during the Advent Fast as well as the other major fasting periods of the Church Year. Father George will be hearing Confessions from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening (with Vespers beginning at 5:00 p.m. as usual). Father George will also hear Confessions from 5:30-6 p.m. prior to the Paraclesis Service on Wednesday evenings and also each Tuesday and Thursday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm and/or by appointment.
- ✘ Our final Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner is this coming Thursday, December 2nd from 4-6 p.m. Please spread the word. Please plan on taking out dinners for family, friends and neighbors ...
- ✘ Father George will be in the Church on Tuesday and Friday this week between 10:00 and 2:00.
- ✘ We still have frozen uncooked stuffed grape leaves and frozen baked kibbee for sale. We will also be able to cook the grape leaves for you if you desire. The cost is \$6 per kibbee and 5 grape leaves for \$7.
- ✘ *Please let Father George or Sbdcn Norman if anyone can be removed from the Prayer List.*
- ✘ We all enjoy the coffee hour and fellowship that follows the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, which is really a special time that gives us the opportunity to share fellowship with our fellow parishioners, catch up on what happened the previous week, maybe talk about next week and welcome visitors and new Parishioners to St. Mary's. However, we need the support of all our families in the Parish to continue with this lovely custom so please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate --- *Commit to hosting a Coffee Hour and make a plan Go ahead and do the shopping and come to the Parish Hall on Sunday morning to set up ... put your own "stamp" on the Coffee Hour you host and use the experience to bring together your family!*