



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 Coffee Hour is sponsored the Parish in loving memory of Deacon John *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Deacon John and also Trisagion Prayers are offered on the repose of the soul of Lama Atieh, brother of Maha Qarmout, and for Issa Atieh, Maha's father, requested by the Qarmout Family.
- 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 for the Saint Mary Parish Family and all our loved ones for God's blessings of good health and divine protection for the living and for the blessed memory and peaceful repose of our deceased loved ones. Sponsored by Sky Elizabeth Blue in thanksgiving for her Chrismation.
- 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

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| Tuesday, December 7 | Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Parish Council meeting at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall |
| Wed. December 8 | Advent Paracletis at 6:00 pm |
| Friday, December 10 | Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| Saturday, December 11 | Confessions from 4:30 – 5:00 followed by Vespers at 5:00 pm |
| Sunday, December 12 | Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am |

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.*

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

"Faith, indeed is of two kinds:

Thus, 'Faith cometh by hearing, (Rom. 10:17) for, when we hear the sacred Scriptures, we believe in the teaching of the Holy Spirit. And this faith is made perfect by all those things which Christ has ordained; it believes truly, it is devout, and it keeps the commandments of Him who has renewed us. For he who does not believe in accordance with the tradition of the Catholic Church or who through untoward works holds communion with the Devil is without faith.

Then again, there is a faith 'which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.' (Heb. 11:1) This is an undoubting and unquestioning hope both for the things promised us by God and for the success of our petitions.

The first kind of faith comes from our faculty of judgment, whereas the second is one of the gifts of the Spirit."

- St. John of Damascus -

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2021
God-bearing Father Sabbas the Sanctified & Tenth Sunday of Luke
Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Yagaris Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos;
Gurios, missionary bishop of Kazan; Venerable Nektarios of Bitol in Bulgaria

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. SABBAS THE SANCTIFIED IN TONE EIGHT

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundred-fold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father Sabbas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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

(For St. Sabbas the Sanctified)

The saints shall boast in glory. Sing unto the Lord a new song.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (5:22-6:2)

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control: against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a person is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore such a one in a spirit of meekness; looking to yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made

straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

THE SYNAXARION

On December 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous Father Sabbas the Sanctified.

*Since he clave after God in soul all his lifetime, Sabbas in His presence now standeth before Him.
On the fifth, Sabbas was led up within the divine vault.*

Sabbas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of the monastic life at age the age of eight and was under that master trainer of monastics and teacher of the desert, Euthymius the Great. Sabbas became the spiritual father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed archimandrite of the desert-dwellers there by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age, he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. Sabbas reposed in 533 at age 94. Among all his good works, his greatest was the first Order of Services for use in monasteries, now known as the Jerusalem Typikon.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Diogenes; Venerable Nektarios of Yagaris Kelli and Philotheos of Karyes on Athos; Gurius, missionary bishop of Kazan; and Venerable Nektarios of Bitol in Bulgaria.

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

With Our Deepest Sympathy

We are saddened to hear of the passing into eternal life of Simon "Si" Saba. We extend our deepest sympathy to Julie Saba and the Saba family. We ask God to comfort them in their sorrow and we pray that God will grant his memory to be eternal!

Our sadness is deepened in also learning of the passing into eternal life of Lama Atieh, brother of Maha Qarmout in Syria. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Atieh and Qarmount families. We ask God to comfort them in their sorrow and we pray that God will grant his memory to be eternal!

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.
- ✘ On Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. our Parish Council will be holding their regular monthly meeting in the Church Hall. It is important for all of our members to attend as we have important issues to discuss and plan for our General Assembly Meeting.
- ✘ Many thanks to the "Spaghetti Crew" for the great job they did this past season in serving the Take-Out Spaghetti Dinners. We appreciate all their good work and the valuable community service provided by the dinners. Many Years to the "Crew" ...
- ✘ 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!



We are celebrating St. Nicholas Day. Please stay in Church to greet St. Nicholas and receive a treat from him. Please read about and share the life of the Saint included with today's Bulletin ...