



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 offered/sponsored in Loving Memory of Sylvia and John Morrash and Bob Chrzanowski by the Fort Family and for the Good Health of the Fort Family *and also* Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are offered/sponsored in Loving Memory of Charles J. Audi by Gail and John Luksic *and also* Bread and Bulletin are offered/sponsored for the Good Health of Bader and Family, Moheeb and Family, Naser and Family, Waleed and Family, Samir and Family, Badera, Bdoor and Family and in Loving Memory of Yousef, Myriam, Sahrifa, Nater and Carlos *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Sylvia and John Morrash and Bob Chrzanowski
- Jan. 9 Bread, Bulletin and Coffee Hour are offered/sponsored in Loving Memory of Simon "Si" Saba by Julie Saba *and also* Trisagion Prayers are offered for Simon "Si" Saba
- 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

- Tuesday, January 4 Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, January 5 We celebrate the Great Feast of Epiphany with Royal Hours at 9:00 am, Matins at 6:00 pm and Liturgy for Epiphany at 7:00 pm with the Blessing of Water
- Thursday, January 6 Epiphany * Father George at the Church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm ** Take Out Spaghetti Dinner from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- Saturday, January 8 Confessions from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm and Vespers at 5:00 pm
- Sunday, January 9 Matins at 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am & Teen/College Student Class after Liturgy
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Brothers and Sisters In Christ

We Greet Each Other After The Nativity By Exclaiming "Christ Is Born" and Responding "Glorify Him!" When Meeting Each Other And Also During The Liturgy When Offering Each Other The Sign Of Peace ... Greet each other by exclaiming ...

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 02, 2022
FOREFEAST OF & SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST**

**Sylvester, pope of Rome; Cosmas the wonderworker, archbishop of Constantinople; Repose
of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov**

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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 FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR

In the running waters of * the Jordan River, * on this day the Lord of all * crieth to John: Be not afraid * and hesitate not to baptize Me, * for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Theophany of Christ)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

THE SYNAXARION

On January 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, the first day of the Forefeast of the Theophany of Christ, we commemorate our Father among the Saints Sylvester, Pope of Rome.

*Pope Sylvester, who even when dead, yet liveth, Quickened a dead ox, shaming magician Jambres.
At daybreak on the second, Sylvester breatheth forth his soul.*

Sylvester was born in Rome, and from his early youth was learned in worldly wisdom and in the Faith of Christ. He always conducted his life according to the Gospel commandments. He benefited much from the instruction of Timothy the priest, whose death for the true faith Sylvester witnessed. Thus, he was imbued with just such a spirit throughout his entire life. He became Bishop of Rome at age thirty. By his prayers and miracles, Sylvester assisted in bringing Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena to baptism. With the Empress Helena, he took part in finding the Honorable Cross. He governed the Church of God for twenty years. His earthly life ended honorably and he entered into the Heavenly Kingdom.

On this day, we also commemorate Cosmas the wonderworker, archbishop of Constantinople; and the repose of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

The Parish Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 16, 2022. Please mark the date and let everyone know. Anyone interested in serving on the Parish Council can see Father George or John Moses.





WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING WITH ROYAL HOURS AND ORTHROS AND THE DIVINE LITURGY AT 6:00 PM AND 7:00 PM (RESPECTIVELY) ON WEDNESDAY EVENING WITH BLESSING OF WATER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens,
leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.
On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.*

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world." When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

PARISH NEWS

Please note we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on Wednesday morning with Royal Hours and Orthros and the Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm (respectively) on Wednesday Evening with blessing of water at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

The Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner resumes on Thursday after a short but well-deserved break ... Please stop by and take out dinners for your family and friends ...