

ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM  
(PALM SUNDAY)



*Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem*

# St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese ([antiochian.org](http://antiochian.org)) ... and ...  
The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland & The Mid-Atlantic ([antiochian.org/east](http://antiochian.org/east))  
(“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!” [Acts 11:26](#))



111 Alberta Avenue // Johnstown, PA 15905-3002  
Website: [stmaryaocc.org](http://stmaryaocc.org) // E-Mail: [stmaryaocc@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryaocc@outlook.com)

Most Rev. Metropolitan SABA – Archbishop & Primate  
Right Rev. Bishop THOMAS – Auxiliary Bishop  
Very Rev. Fr. Donald E. Shadid, M.Div. & D.Min. – Archpriest & Pastor  
Sub-Deacon Timothy (Cade) Scott, MAT  
Edward Makdad, Jr. – Parish Council Chairperson

*“The World is Evil... Weep for your Sins... Have a Piece of Chocolate!”* (Advice from Staretz in Russia to Fr. T. Hopko+)

Fr. Don – Cell: 814-242-0084 – [abeenad1@gmail.com](mailto:abeenad1@gmail.com) – Office: 814-255-2148

+ + + **THE SUNDAY OF PALMS** + + +  
(The Entrance of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem)

Sunday, April 28, 2024

*Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory be to Him Forever!*

*We welcome all of you, our Faithful and our Visitors, to St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church! It is a pleasure to have you with us as we glorify and praise the Name of our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Please sing along with our Choir during the Liturgy.*

*Please note, as has been the practice of the Church since the Feast of Pentecost, that the Sacrament of Holy Communion can only be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting (Wed., Fri. & the prescribed Fasts), regular Confession (at least twice per year ... 7 Yrs. old & up), who attend Liturgy regularly & on time (at least 3 times a month) ... and ... are at peace with all people.*

*When receiving Holy Communion, please fold your arms over your chest, open your mouth wide, tip your head back slightly, and allow the priest to place the elements in your mouth.*

*For our non-Orthodox brethren, we welcome you to sing and pray with us, venerate the Cross, and receive the Blessed Holy Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us again soon. May God Bless You Always!*

**HOLY OBLATION:** Offered by: **(1)** *Lisa Catanese* for the health of granddaughter, *Lucia*, as she celebrates her Birthday ... **and ... (2)** *Fr. Don Shadid* for the spiritual health & strength of *All Within of our St. Mary Parish Family* as we journey with our Lord to His Passion, Crucifixion & Holy Resurrection from the Dead.

**PASCHAL CANDLES:** Offered: in beloved memory of: **(1)** *Jesse George* by his mother, *Christine Asfar ... and ... (2)* sister, *Adele (Sayegh) Audi* by *Huda Martin & Family*.

**PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE:** Offered for the health of: **(1)** *Maria's Godparents, Drew & Dena*, as they celebrate their wedding anniversary; and for *Steven, Lais, Michael, Fr. Don, Cade, Preston, Toula, Miranda, George, Leon, Susan, John, Gary, Margarita & Sotere* by *The McClatchey Family ... and ... (2)* *John & Dalal George and Family* by *Lawrence Bertino*.

**SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE:** Offered in beloved memory of: **(1)** aunts, *Rosemary Andrews & Catherine Adamese*; and sister-in-law, *Frances Skala* by *Gene & Barbara (Spada) Skala ... and ... (2)* parents, *Dr. Lawrence Bertino and Lottie (Corey) Bertino* by *Lawrence Bertino*.

**PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE:** Offered: **(1)** for the health of *Francis & Renee D'Ettorre, Lawrence Bertino & George Hamaty* by *John & Gail Luksic ... and ... (2 a)* in beloved memory of *Lottie Bertino* by *The Hamaty Family & (2 b)* *William Joseph (05/05/07)* by *The Joseph Family*.

<p><i>For The Living – “God Grant Them Many Years!”...and... For The Departed – “May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!”</i></p>
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**- VARIATIONS & NOTES ON THE LITURGY -**

**FIRST ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: “Thru the intercessions of the Theotokos...”*)  
“I am filled with joy, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. The anguish of death encompassed me, the perils of hell beset me.” / *Refrain.* /  
“I found tribulation and anguish, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. I will walk acceptably before the Lord in the land of the living.” / *Refrain.* /  
“Glory & Now.” / *Refrain.*

**SECOND ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: “Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass, who sing unto Thee, Alleluia.*

"I believed, and therefore have I spoken: but I was deeply humiliated. What shall I render unto the Lord, for all His benefits unto me?" / *Refrain.* / "I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord." / *Refrain.* / "I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now." / "O only-begotten Son and Word of God ...".

**THIRD ANTIPHON:** (*Verses & Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone One*)  
"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now say that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

See "Troparion of Lazarus Saturday" Below.
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**THE ENTRANCE HYMN:**

"Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass; who sing to Thee. Alleluia."

**AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

**TROPARION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY:** (*Tone One*)

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**TROPARION OF PALM SUNDAY:** (*Tone Four*)

As by baptism, we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY:** (*Tone Six*)

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

**EPISTLE:** [Philippians](#) 4:4-9 (*Palm Sunday*)

**HOLY GOSPEL:** [John](#) 12:1-18 (*Palm Sunday*)

Concerning the “Kiss of Peace,” prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a handshake, saying: **“Christ is in Our Midst!”** ... the response being: **He is And Always Shall Be!”** In this way, we express: (1) our Joy that God has acted to restore our Communion with Him ... **and ...** (2) our Hope in the Resurrection from the Dead that is offered to us by our Lord’s own “trampling down death by death!” **God is With Us (“Emmanuel”)!**

**MEGALYNARION (Instead Of “It Is Truly Meet...”):** (Tone Four)

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us; ordain a feast, and rejoicing, come let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, crying out with hymns: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

**KOINONIKON (Communion Hymn):** (Tone Eight)

*Refrain:* “Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, Alleluia.” ... **and ...** “Rejoice, O Bethany.”

**INSTEAD OF “We Have Seen The True Light...”:**

See “Troparion of Lazarus Saturday” Above.

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**- THIS WEEK’S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

*Church Office: Tuesday – Friday ... 9 AM – 2 PM.*

Please Note that on this Great Feast of Palm Sunday, our Fasting is “relaxed” and we are allowed Fish, Wine & Olive Oil.

Beginning tomorrow, we resume our Full Fast (Meat, Dairy Products, Fish, Wine & Olive Oil) until Holy Pascha, Sunday, May 05.

**+A Separate Holy Week Service Schedule Has Been Offered To All Parishioners+  
Please note that all evening services, except for Holy Saturday, now begin at 6 PM.**

**THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS:** AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): *Mary Ann Unis-Asfar* (#606); LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: *Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky* (Vista – 913); HILLTOP HEIGHTS CARE CENTER (formerly “Laurelwood Care Ctr.): *Suzanne George* (#37-W); HERITAGE RIDGE SENIOR LIVING (formerly “Lutheran Home”): *Elaine Heider* (#34); QUALITY LIFE SERVICES – WESTMONT WOODS (formerly “Presbyterian Home”): *Emma (Nasser) Audey* (#115-W) ... **and ...** IN TREATMENT, RECOVERING AND / OR “SHUT-IN AT HOME”: *Becky Azar; Larry Bertino; Carolyn Clark; Renee D’Ettorre; Michael & Patty Devich; Joanne George; John & Dalal George;*

Olga Hodge; Denise Khorey-Harriman; Matthew Makdad; Huda Martin, Donald McMillan; Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovansek; Jane (Farrah) Salem, and Sara Shahade. **May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and/or in Need!**

**PALM SUNDAY OFFERINGS: PALMS** – Donated & Offered by Loretta Shahade in beloved memory of parents, Samuel & Mary (Andrews) Shahade, sister, Cristina Marie Shahade, uncle, William Shahade and grandparents, Jacob & Skundra Andrews and George & Mary Shahade.

**PALM SUNDAY CANDLE** – (Used to lead our Palm Sunday Procession and for next year's Lenten Services) – Donated & Offered by Majda (Geha) Farra: **(1) for the health of:** Children (Simon, Nadine, Anthony & Charbel and Fares Family / Fadi, Darlene & Jacob and Roumanos Family / David), Siblings and Families (John & Dalal George / John & Lynne Geha / those in Lebanon / Mary Ann [Farra] Unis-Asfar), Charlie & Joanne George, great-nieces, Sophia Micheline, Dalal & Ciel, Abraham Family, son, David's Godmother, Kelly Barger and her Family, Rev Fr. Christopher, Khouria Sophia, Luke & Nora Shadid, Huda Martin & Children (Susan & Laila and her Family), all within our Parish Family, all of her friends & family, especially those who are sick and/or in need and Herself; **(2) with prayers for Peace (John 14:27) in the Middle-East ... and ... (3) in beloved memory of:** Archbishop & Metropolitan PHILIP, Archpriest Joseph Shahda, husband, David II, parents, Salim & Katar Geha and David & Frieda Farra, grandson, Giovanni Alexander, sister, Elaine Beylounie, brothers-in-law, George Baylounie & Wajde El Khoury, uncle, Anthony Abraham, nephews, Joseph El Khoury, Michele Geha & John R. George, niece, Juliette El-Khoury, cousin, Assad Geha, Alex J. Abraham, Waffa Labakkey, Elias El Gazzar, Adele Geha, Marjorie Hamaty, George Haidar, Dr. Samuel Massoud, Steve Sarkis, May Petimezas, William David Heider, Lottie Bertino, Donna Haidar, Edward Martin, uncles & aunts who have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord," Gary George Geha, Sonya Daly Belcher (Boston, MA), Georgette Geha, Leila Geha, Gregory Nazarian, Gail (George) Henry, Ray Asfar, Diane George, Jesse George, Jack Romanos, Margie Abraham and all within our St. Mary Parish Family, Geha Family, Farra Family, Abraham Family, George Family & Kubinsky Family who have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord" ... **and ...**

**DECORATED CANDLES** – (Used by the Children of our Parish Family for the Palm Sunday Procession) – Donated & Offered by Pam Audey & Lisa Catanese (Church School & Choir Director) for the health of all the Children of our St. Mary Parish Family, their Families and Themselves.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND:** Donations have been offered in beloved memory of **George Haidar** by Elizabeth Catanese, Patricia Gregorchik, and Charles & Joanne George. **May His Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!**

# Epistle

*Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.  
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (4:4-9)**

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

# Gospel

## **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (12:1-18)**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!" His Disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

*May God Be With You!*

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+++ Important Notes Concerning Holy Week +++

If You Are a Member of Our St. Mary Parish Family Who Lives in This Area, You Should Have “Prepared For” and “Received” the Sacrament of Confession Already if You Have Not & Would Like to ... and ... If You Want to Receive The Sacraments of Holy Unction on Wednesday & The Holy Eucharist on Thursday, Saturday & Sunday, Please See Fr. Don in order to make an appointment by this Tuesday. Thank You!

Also, The Great Lent has come to an end ... Have You Been Praying, Fasting & Giving Alms? It's Not Too Late to Start! Please Remember That These Ascetical Efforts are Spiritual Disciplines and Should Be Followed in “The Spirit of The Law!”

Please Join Our Parish Family in This Fast As We Journey Through The Holy Week of Our Lord's Passion Together!

May God Help Us and Guide Us!

Note Also That if Planning to Receive The Sacrament of Holy Unction, You Should Fast From Food & Drink After An Early Afternoon Lenten Lunch on Wednesday.

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*Accompanying Christ*

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today He returns from Bethany and proceeds of His own free will toward His holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with Himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of His own free will to make His journey to Jerusalem.

Let us run to accompany Him as He hastens toward His passion, and imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him by being humble and by trying to live as He would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at His coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

In His humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and He is glad that He became so humble for our sake, glad that He came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise

us up again to Himself. And even though we are told that He has now ascended above the highest heavens – the proof, surely, of His power and godhead – His love for man will never rest until He has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with His own in heaven.

So let us spread before His feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.

*St. Andrew of Crete*

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