

+++ PRIEST'S MESSAGE +++

Dearest St. Mary Parish Family:

We would like to wish all members of our Parish Family a most Joyous, Blessed & Peaceful (John 14:27) "Twelve Days of Christmas" and "A Healthy & Joyous New Year!" Thanks also to all of you for your constant prayers, support & love throughout the last 37 ½ years. ***May God Grant Our St. Mary Parish Family Many, Many Years!***

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

In The Love Of Our Newborn Lord,

***+Fr. Don & Khouria Janet, Fr. Chris, Khouria Sophia & Luke Gabriel
and Dr. Steve & Zayna***



St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

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



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Most Rev. Metropolitan ANTONIOS – Patriarchal Vicar
Right Rev. Bishop THOMAS – Auxiliary Bishop
Very Rev. Fr. Donald E. Shadid, M.Div. & D.Min. – Archpriest & Pastor
Edward Makdad, Jr. – Parish Council Chairperson

"Go to Church ... Say Your Prayers ... Don't Forget God!" (+Fr. Tom Hopko's Mom)

Fr. Don – Cell: 814-242-0084 – abeenad1@gmail.com – Office: 814-255-2148

+ THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST +
Festal Matins & Divine Liturgy – Sunday Evening – December 24, 2023

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!

We welcome all of you, our Faithful and our visitors, to St. Mary Orthodox 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 that the Sacrament of Holy Communion can only be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, regular Confession (at least twice per year ... 7 Yrs. old & up), who attend Liturgy regularly & on time ... 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 Holy Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us again soon. May God Bless You Always!

HOLY OBLATION: Offered by: **(1)** *Lawrence Bertino* in beloved memory of parents, *Dr. Lawrence & Lottie (Corey) Bertino* and dear friend, *Marjorie Hamaty ... and ... (2) Fr. Don, Fr. Christopher & Khouria Sophia and Dr. Stephen & Zayna Shadid* for the health of wife, mother & grandmother (Sitto), the handmaiden of God, *Khouria Janet*, as we remember her accident on December 14, 2019 ... we are so very thankful for our "Christmas Miracle," which we know is an answer to the Holy Prayers of all within our St. Mary Parish Family and all who interceded on Khouria Janet's behalf before our Lord Jesus Christ ... **and ... (3)** *Loretta Shahade* in beloved memory of parents, *Sam & Mary Shahade* and sister, *Crissy Shahade*.

PASCHAL CANDLES: Offered in beloved memory of: son, brother & uncle, *Eddie Martin (+16 Yrs.)* by Huda Martin & Family ... and ... *Jesse George* by his mom, *Christine Asfar*.

PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE: Offered: in beloved memory of father, *William ("Speedo" - +59 Yrs.)* & mother, *Barbara (+4 Yrs.)* and for all within the *Salem & Galayda Families who have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord;"* and for the health of all within the *Salem & Galayda Families* by *Christine Salem*.

SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE: Offered: for the health of niece, *Lexi*, & sister, *Susan*, as they celebrate their Birthdays; and in beloved memory of grandmother, *Domnicki* & great-grandmother, *Maria*, by *Jay & Nitsa McClatchey*.

PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE

Offered for the health of: our parishioners who are members of The Order of St. Ignatius (*Larry Bertino, Lisa Catanese, Renee D'Ettorre, William & Lindsay (Heider) Fennell, Albert Ghantous, Elaine Heider, Norman Joseph, Dr. Adib Khouzami, Ed Makdad, Jr., Sandy Milkie, Christine Salem, Fr. Don, Khouria Janet, Fr. Christopher & Dr. Stephen Shadid and Loretta Shahade*) by our St. Mary Parish ... **and ...**

Offered in beloved memory of: our parishioners who belonged to The Order of St. Ignatius and have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord" by our St. Mary Parish.

***For The Living – "God Grant Them Many Years!"...and...
For The Departed – "May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!"***

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- VARIATIONS & NOTES ON THE LITURGY -

FIRST ANTIPHON: (*Refrain - "Through the intercessions of the Theotokos..."*)
"I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of

the Lord." / *Refrain.* / "They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... *Refrain.*

SECOND ANTIPHON: (*Refrain – "Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia."*)

"Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed. / *Refrain.* / "Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages." / *Refrain.* / "There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... and ... "O Only-begotten Son & Word of God"

THIRD ANTIPHON: (*Sung During The Little Entrance – Tone Four*)

Verses: "The Lord said unto my Lord: 'Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.' "

<i>Troparion:</i> See "Troparion of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ" Below.

ENTRANCE HYMN (*Instead of "Come, let us worship & fall down..."*):

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee. Alleluia."

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: (*Tone Four*)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: (*Tone Three*)

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He Who existed before the ages as God.

ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (*Sung instead of "Holy God, Holy Mighty,..."*):

"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!" (3X)

“Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

“Have put on Christ. Alleluia.”

Priest: *“Dynamis!” (“With Strength!”)*

“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!”

EPISTLE: Galatians 4:4-7 (*The Nativity of our Lord*)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 (*The Nativity of our Lord*)

Concerning the “Kiss of Peace,” prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a handshake, saying: **“Christ is Born!”**... the response being: **“Glorify Him!”** 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...” – for St. Basil’s Liturgy*):

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation: the angelic hosts, and the race of men, O hallowed Temple and noetic paradise, glory of Virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God Who is before all the ages; for He made thy womb a throne, and thy body He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation; and it glorifieth thee.

NOTE: Every Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great requires “In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation: ...” for the Megalynarion. However, as the Faithful depart the church, the choir can sing the Megalynarion of the Nativity of Christ, which is provided below after the “Troparion of The Nativity of Christ.”

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

“The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia!”

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

See “Troparion Of The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ” Above.

MEGALYNARION – NATIVITY (*Instead of “It Is Truly Meet...” ... Tone One*):

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

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+++ CONFESSION SCHEDULE +++

By Appointment ... Please Call or Text Fr. Don @ 814-242-0084.

Due to Fr.'s Commitment to Matins, Confession Will Not Be Offered On Sun. Mornings.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: UPMC MERCY INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITY – Pittsburgh: Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovansek (#6024); AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): Mary Ann Unis-Asfar (#606); LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: George Zdravecky (Health Care #302) & Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky (Vista – 913); LAURELWOOD CARE CENTER: Suzanne George (#37-W) & George Haidar (#49); (LUTHERAN HOME (Johnstown): Elaine Heider (#34); WESTMONT WOODS – QUALITY LIFE SERVICES (Westmont): 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; George Milkie; Maryanne Milkie and Sara Shahade. **May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and / or in Need!**

STEWARDSHIP OFFERINGS TO ST. MARY PARISH

Please note that in order for your Stewardship Offerings to be on your Stewardship Statements for the Calendar Year of 2023, we must receive them by noon on Tuesday, December 26, 2023. If there are any questions, please contact either Eddie Makdad (Council Chair) or Fr. Don. **Thank You and God Bless You & Your Loved Ones!**



Epistle

(The Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ)

*Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.
The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)*

Priest: Let us attend.

Reader: *Let all the earth worship Thee and sing to Thee. Shout with
Joy to God, all the earth.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians (4:4-7)

Priest: Let us attend.

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Gospel

(The Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

May God Be With You!