

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS



*Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril -- January 18th*

# 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

## "LEAVE-TAKING OF" & "SUNDAY AFTER" THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, January 14, 2024

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

Holy Fathers slain at Sinai & Raithu / Virgin-Martyr Agnes

**Happy New Year! God Grant Our St. Mary Parish Family "Many Years!"**

*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, 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* in beloved memory of cousin, *Susan Shahade ... and ...* (2) *Larry Bertino* in beloved memory of mother, *Lottie (Corey) Bertino* & dearest friend, *Marjorie (Audi) Hamaty* (with a special remembrance of their Earthly Birthdays [Lottie – Jan. 15 & Margie – Jan. 25]). ***May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!***

**PASCHAL CANDLES:** Offered in beloved memory of husband & grandfather, *Ray* & son, brother & uncle, *Eddie* (with a special remembrance of their Earthly Birthdays [Ray – Jan. 6 & Eddie – Jan. 4]), by *Huda Martin & Family*.

**PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE:** Offered for the health of *Marissa (Ghantous) Votruba*, as she celebrates her Birthday (Jan. 30), by parents, *Albert & Mary Jo*, and brother, *Elias* & his wife, *Rebecca*.

**SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE:** Offered for the health of themselves (*Jay*, as he celebrates his Birthday [Jan. 4] & Feast/Name Day [Jan. 7] and *Nitsa*, as she celebrates her Feast/Name Day [Jan. 8]) and friends (*Dn. Marek & all within the Simon Family* and *Bridget* as they celebrate their Birthdays) by *Jay & Nitsa McClatchey*.

**PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE:** Offered in beloved memory of *Mary (Andrews) Shahade* (with a special remembrance of her Earthly Birthday [Jan. 5]) by *Lawrence Bertino*.

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

**FIRST ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: “Through the intercessions of the Theotokos...”*)  
“When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.” / *Refrain.* / “The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back?” / *Refrain.* / “Glory & Now” ... and ... *Refrain.*

**SECOND ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: “Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee: Alleluia.”*) “I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.” / *Refrain.* / “The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord.” / *Refrain.* / “Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy.” / “Glory & Now” ... and ... “O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...”

**THIRD ANTIPHON:** (*Verses & Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone Four*)  
Verses: “O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth

forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

*Troparion: See "Troparion of the Theophany of Christ" below.*

### **THE ENTRANCE HYMN OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY**

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

### **AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

#### **TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION:** *(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.

#### **TROPARION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST:** *(Tone One)*

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the River Jordan, the worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness unto Thee, naming Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of that word. O Christ our God, Who hath manifested Thyself and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

#### **TROPARION OF THE DORMITION:** *(Patron Feast Day - Tone One)*

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

#### **KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST:** *(Tone Four)*

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, O Lord, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

**EPISTLE:** Ephesians 4:1-13 *(Sunday After Theophany)*

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:12-17 *(Sunday After Theophany)*

Concerning the "Kiss of Peace," prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a bow of the head and your hands across your chest, 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 OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY** (*Instead of "It Is Truly Meet..." Tone Two*): *Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse. O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we invite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.*

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

"The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alleluia!"

**INSTEAD OF "We Have Seen The True Light...":**

See "Troparion Of The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ" Above.

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

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

**+ Saturday, January 20 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.**

**+ Sunday, January 21 – TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE (Commemoration of Venerable MAXIMOS The Confessor) ... MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... Followed by Fellowship in the Social Hall.**

*May our Lord Bless all within our St. Mary Parish Family with a Healthy, Joyous & Peaceful (John 14:27) New Year!*

**... and ...**

**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'Etorre; Patty Devich; Joanne George; John & Dalal George; Olga Hodge; Denise Khorey-Harriman; Matthew Makdad; Huda Martin and Sara Shahade. **May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and/or in Need!**

**MEMORY ETERNAL!** It is with a "bright sadness" that we announce that our Beloved **Edward Jaber** "Fell-Asleep in the Lord" on January 8. We pray that our Lord will grant him Rest in His Heavenly Kingdom where all of His Blessed Saints do Repose, and we ask Him to grant His Mercy & Peace (John 14:27) to the *Jaber & Sanderson Families* and us as we all mourn their Passing with the Hope of Christ in our Hearts (1 Thessalonians 4:13). **May His Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!**

## EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors,, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

## GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

*May God Be With You!*

**House Blessings Begin! ... NEW! NEW! NEW! ... If you would like your Home Blessed this year, please call the Church Office and ask to be put on the House Blessing List for 2024 ... Thank You! The Church Secretary, Anne, or Fr. Don, will then contact you to schedule a time for the Blessing of your Home!**

**FINAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS:** Our office received the following Christmas Flower Offering after the Bulletins were run off on Friday, December 22, 2023.

*"Offered in beloved memory of son, Jesse Joseph George by his mom, Christine Asfar."*

We regret that we were not able to include this offering in our Christmas 2023 Bulletin.

# *Saint of the Day – January 14, 2024*

## **VIRGIN MARTYR AGNES OF ROME**



The holy Virgin Martyr Agnes was born in Rome during the third century. Her parents were Christians and they raised her in the Christian Faith. From her youth she devoted herself to God, and dedicated herself to a life of virginity, refusing all other suitors.

When she refused to enter into marriage with the son of the city official Symphronius, one of his associates revealed to him that Agnes was a Christian. The wicked Eparch decided to subject the holy virgin to shame and he ordered that she be stripped and sent to a brothel for disdain of the pagan gods. But the Lord would not permit the saint to suffer shame. As soon as she was disrobed, long thick hair grew from her head covering her body. An angel was also appointed to guard her. Standing at the door of the brothel, he shone with a heavenly light that blinded anyone who came near her.

## **THE VENERABLE MARTYRS: THE FATHERS OF SINAI AND RAITHU**

These holy martyrs were slain by the Saracens--the fathers of Sinai in the fourth century, and the fathers of Raithu in the fifth century. Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments had been given to Moses, was also the site of another miracle. Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the murder of the forty holy Fathers at Sinai. He tells of how the Saracens attacked the monastery and would have killed them all, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them.

*To God be the Glory and Praise Always!*

### **WANTED: Your Help!**

**WHY: "Feast From The East"**

**WHEN: Saturday, February 10, 2024**

**NEEDED:** (a) **Men, Women ... anyone who is willing to Help!**  
(b) **Monetary Donations!**  
(c) **Arabic or Greek Pastries (i.e. Kanafe, Baklava, Ma'Moul, etc.).**

**DOING WHAT:** (a) **Sun., Jan. 21 – Rolling Meat Grapeleaves – 11:15 am**  
(b) **Sun., Feb. 4 – Rolling Meatless Grapeleaves – 11:15 am**  
(c) **Thurs., Feb. 8 – 10 AM to 7 PM – setting up, making Potato Kibbee, Hoomus, packaging food, etc.**  
(d) **Sat., Feb. 10 – 8 AM to 2 PM – making Kibbee, filling Orders, distributing Orders, selling x-tras, etc**

*Please see Janet Shadid if you can help and/or donate towards this Fundraiser for our Parish Family!*



