

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Gregory, Saint John, Saint Basil -- January 30th

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 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 – Office: 814-255-2148

THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST and THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

(Commemoration of Our Righteous Father EPHRAIM The Syrian)

Sunday, January 28, 2024

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

Venerable PALLADIOS of Antioch / Venerable THEODOSIOS of Totma

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 *Karen & Mary Frances Joseph* for the health of brother, *Norman Joseph*; and by *Joseph & Laura Slifko* for the health of the *McClatchey Family*. **God Grant Them Many, Many Years!**

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 for the health of: *Jean Wolfhope* by *Kathie Povich / Olga Hodge* by *Tom & Pam Keklak / Peter Ferre*, as he celebrates his 65th Birthday today, by *Fr. Don & The Faithful of our St. Mary Parish Family ... and ...*

Offered in beloved memory of: *Aunt, Lottie Bertino*, in remembrance of her Earthly Birthday (January 15) by *Pam (Salem) Katrancha*.

***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 -

THIRD ANTIPHON: (*Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone One*)
See “Troparion of The Resurrection” Below.

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION: (*Tone One*)
While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world; for which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; Glory to Thy Kingdom; Glory to Thy Providence, O Thou Who alone art the Lover of mankind!

TROPARION OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN: *(Tone Three)*

Out of Paradise, a river floweth, flooding all the earth with joy unending, cheering souls with compunction and saving fear: Ephraim, the wine bowl of gladness inspired of God, from all eternity chosen to light the Church with his sacred hymns, his sermons, his shining canticles, whereby he filleth faithful souls with godliness.

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 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST: *(Tone One)*

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon’s arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 1:15-17 *(Thirty-First Sunday After Pentecost)*

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 18:35-43 *(Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)*

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!”)**!

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- THIS WEEK’S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

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

+ Tuesday, January 30 – BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION – @ 6:00 PM – Home of Bill & Eliesha Cacciotti (see Announcement Below) – please RSVP if possible, to Fr. Don or Anne in our Office (814-255-2148 OR stmaryaocc@outlook.com).

+ Thursday, February 01 – EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION / MEETING OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE – MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 4:45 PM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 6:00 PM.

+ Friday, February 02 – THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION / MEETING OF OUR LORD & SAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE – “Happy Feast Day!” to our St. Mary Parish Family!

+ Saturday, February 03 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, February 04 – THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE (After-Feast of The Presentation / Meeting of Christ in The Temple) ... 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: AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): Mary Ann Unis-Asfar (#606); BETHLEN HOME SKILLED NURSING & REHAB. CTR.: Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovansek (#407 - 66 Carey School Rd. / Ligonier, PA 15658); LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: George Zdravecky (Health Care #302) & Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky (Vista - 913); HILLTOP HEIGHTS CARE CENTER (formerly "Laurelwood Care Ctr.): Suzanne George (#37-W) & George Haidar (#30); 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; 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!**

BIBLE STUDY / DISCUSSION

If you have never been to a Bible Study (or even if you have ...) ... Great! You are invited to get acquainted with Jesus through a study/discussion of the Gospel of John. All are welcome to come and learn, discuss, ask, or just listen. We will begin this Tuesday, January 30, at 6 PM, at Bill & Eliesha Cacciotti's home. Refreshments will be served as well! If you would like more information, please see Fr. Don. Also, RSVP to Fr. Don or Anne in the Church Office (814-255-2148 ... OR ... stmaryaocc@outlook.com. Thank Youuu ... we hope to see you!

101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO

What You Must Know to Win ... by Maisie Sparks (01/28)

28. God can't be silenced.

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him." (PSALM 50:3)

YOU ARE NEEDED

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., Feb. 4 – Rolling Meatless Grapeleaves – 11:15 am**
- (b) Thurs., Feb. 8 – 10 AM to 7 PM – setting up, Making Potato Kibbee, Hoomus, packaging food, etc.**
- (c) 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.

HOLY OBLATION & AGAPE (FELLOWSHIP) SPONSORS NEEDED FOR 2024!

The prayerful work of offering the Holy Bread for our Divine Liturgy, and the Refreshments for our "Fellowship Hour / Time of Agape (Love)" are sacred opportunities for us to participate in the Liturgical Prayer of the Church and we should all participate when we are able.

In the Holy Oblation, we bring forth our simple gifts of bread, wine & water to God, with our prayers that He will return them to us as the Body & Blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ! The Agape (Love) Refreshments are our offering of sustenance & sharing of God's Gifts of Food & Drink as we break our Fast together in Christian Love. Each & every Sunday is a "little Pascha" for us, thus, as we do on Pascha, we are called to break bread together in Christian Love ... the Meal of Agape!

Currently, we are having difficulty obtaining Sponsors for the Holy Bread and the Agape Fellowship after the Divine Liturgy. It is our Orthodox tradition that each parishioner, as a member of our St. Mary Parish Family, participates in these ministries.

When we pass the Sign-Up Sheet around in the Sanctuary, or at any time, you may sign-up for this wonderful ministry/opportunity. The Sign-Up Sheets are on clipboards which are located outside of the Priest's Office on the Pamphlet Table.

Thank you for your cooperation ... God Bless!

And...

MONTHLY CANDLES: The 2024 Monthly Candle Prayer Sheets are in The Brochure Rack outside of Fr. Don's Office window in the Hallway. There are 3 Monthly Candles here at our St. Mary Parish: (1) **Paschal Candles** (2 large decorated Candles on each side of Holy Doors); (2) **Proskamedia Candle** (burns on the Altar near the Tabernacle 24/7) & (3) **Seven-Branched Candle** (on top of Tabernacle) ... requested Donation ... \$20 per Candle per Month. Please note that there can be more than 1 sponsor per candle per month.

Also, unless a candle is sponsored for more than 1 month, sponsorship expires at the end of the month, no matter when it starts in that month. **Thank You & God Bless!**

As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another as
good stewards of the
manifold grace
of God.



1 Peter 4:10

Epistle

(For the Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost)

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

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:15-17)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. To the King of Ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel

(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

May God Be With You!

+++ 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.

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!

Saint of the Day – January 28, 2024

THE VENERABLE EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

Ephraim was born in Syria of poor parents during the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great. He spent his youth rather tempestuously, but suddenly a change took place in his soul, and he began to burn with love for the Lord Jesus. Ephraim was a disciple of St. James Nisibis (January 13). Due to the great grace of God, wisdom flowed from his tongue like a stream of honey, and ceaseless tears flowed from his eyes. Industrious as a bee, Ephraim continually wrote books, orally taught the monks in the monastery and the people in the town of Edessa, and dedicated himself to prayer and contemplation. Numerous are his books and beautiful are his prayers, the most famous of which is his prayer recited during the season of Great Lent: "O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, ambition and idle talking give me not; but rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love bestow upon me, Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen." When they wanted to appoint him a bishop by force, he pretended to be insane and began to race through the city of Edessa, dragging his garment behind him. Seeing this, the people left him in peace. Ephraim was a contemporary and friend of St. Basil the Great. St. Ephraim is especially considered to be the apostle of repentance. Even today, his works soften many hearts hardened by sin and return them to Christ. He reposed in extreme old age in the year 378 A.D.

Dear Members of St. Mary,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new online giving platform, Vanco. **This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online**, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKAC/home>
or place your phone camera over the QR Code which will take you directly to the website.

The link is available on our website as well as in the weekly email.

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings,
+ *Fr. Don*



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+++ **ST. MARY PARISH PRAYER CARD PROGRAM** +++

Did you know that we have a "Prayer Card Program" here at our St. Mary Parish? Your Prayer Intentions will be offered during the Saturday Vespers & Sunday Divine Liturgy "for the health of" or "in memory of" a Loved One and a beautiful Icon Card will be sent to the person or Family. All you need to do is call the Church Office or fill out an "Order Form" (on the Table below the Brochure Rack outside of Offices). Then we will take care of the rest! IT IS THAT SIMPLE!

The suggested donation is \$10/card. Larger donations are greatly appreciated.

This is an excellent way to show a loved one that you are: (1) thinking of them and remembering them in prayer on their birthday, during holidays,, or any special occasion ... OR ... (2) remembering their departed loved one(s) in prayer. **Any questions, please call our Secretary, Anne ... 814-255-2148. Thank You & God Bless!**

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Sunday of Zaccheus

Lord, your mercy is great indeed for all who receive it with sincerity of heart. We rejoice today with Zacchaeus, the poor little rich man whose house was blessed and sanctified by your entrance and presence. Listening to this Holy Gospel, we understand that even though he had a certain amount of material wealth and earthly riches, he himself knew that there was something missing and that indeed, he was poor.

But he could only have known this because he responded to your invitation, gently but insistently, calling to his heart. His heart must have be a heart of flesh, warm and giving, for he says that he gives "one half of his possessions to the poor" and will "restore fourfold ifhe has defrauded anyone." This Zacchaeus

is not a cold calculating man, but a man in search of that "something missing" in his life. Even though he did not know what it was, he did know in his heart that somehow Jesus might have the answer for him. Jesus, your answer came in a manner that far exceeded his expectations. For he came to realize in the instant You said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately ... " that You, O Lord, were the only "true riches."

Lord, as the time of the Great Fast swiftly approaches, give us the desire of Zacchaeus to see You: the desire that will go to any lengths and do anything to get just a glimpse of You. Lord, it is more than just a glimpse that You give to those who "seek You with all their heart."