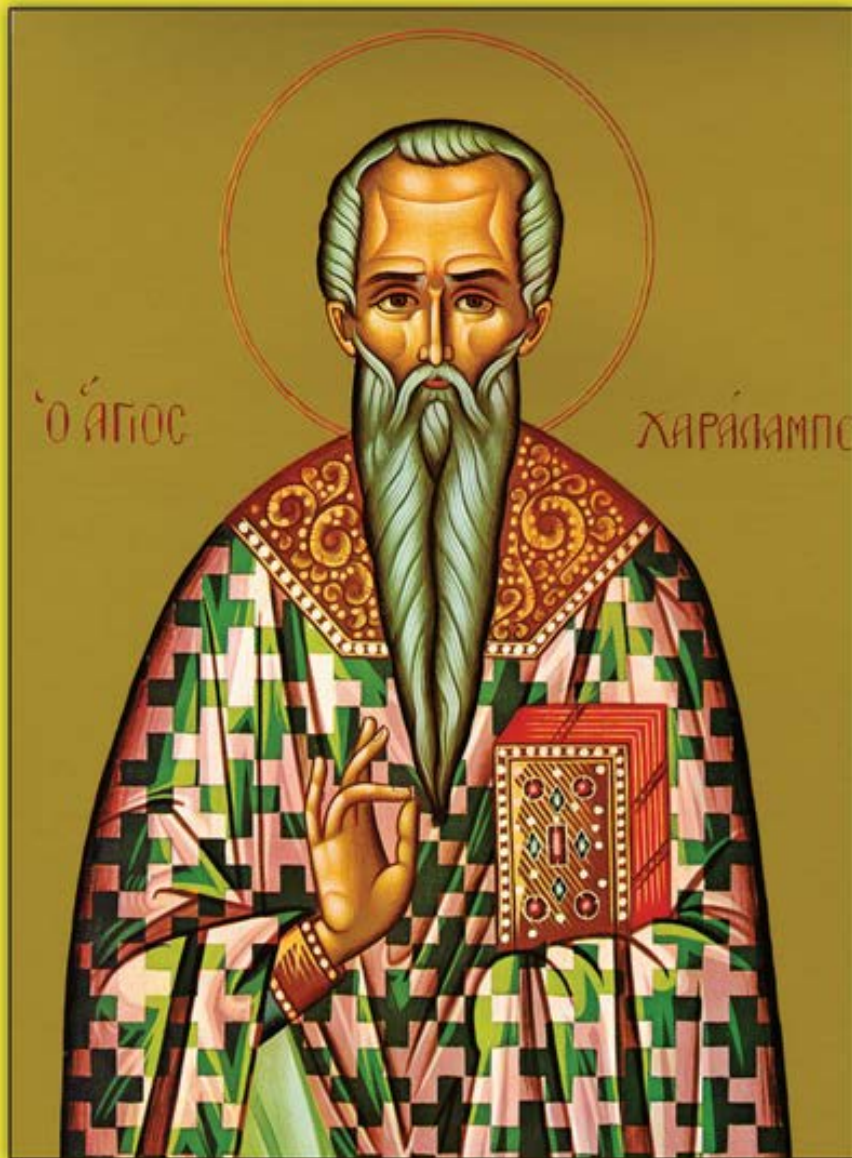


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Holy Priest-Martyr Choralampios -- February 10th

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)



111 Alberta Avenue // Johnstown, PA 15905-3002
Website: stmaryaocc.org // E-Mail: 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 – Office: 814-255-2148

THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST and THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE (“Zacchaeus”)

(After-Feast of The Presentation / Meeting of Christ in The Temple)

Sunday, February 04, 2024

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

Venerable ISIDORE of Pelusium / The Mothers of The Three Hierarchs:
EMMELIA, NONA & ANTHOUSA

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) *Joseph & Laura Slifko* for the health of the *McClatchey Family ... and ...* (2) *Lawrence Bertino* for the health & recovery of *Olga Hodge & Norman Joseph. God Grant Them Many, Many Years!*

PASCHAL CANDLES: Offered in beloved memory of *Elizabeth Spada*, in remembrance of her Earthly Birthday (February 26), by daughter *Barbara Skala*; son-in-law, *Buddy*; grandson, *Andy & his wife, Jill*; granddaughter, *Stephanie & her husband, Dennis*; and great-grandchildren, *Brendan & Erin*.

PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE: Offered for the health of *Fr. Christopher, Kh. Sophia, Luke & newborn, Nora* by *Joseph & Laura Slifko*.

SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE: Offered: for the health of *Koumbaro Drew, Simeon, Lauren, Demo, Alicia, RoseEllen, Lacy, Dea & Shane* as they celebrate their Birthdays ... and ... in beloved memory of mother, *Rev. Ruth Ann, Charlie, Gail, Despina & Kondula* and all in the *Karas and McClatchey families*.

PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE: Offered: for the health of *Sara Smith* by *Mike & Patty Devich ... and ...* in beloved memory of *Henry B. Thornton* (Cumberland, MD), who “fell-asleep in the Lord” on Jan. 28, 2022, by his wife, *Vicki & son, Brent*.

MEMORY ETERNAL!: Today, we will remember the following from our Parish Family who have “Fallen-Asleep in the Lord” during the month of February, praying that they have been transferred from the “Church Militant” to the “Church Triumphant”: *Elizabeth Abraham, Rose Mary Andrews, Donald Angus, Sr., Mary Lou (Curry) Angus, Mrs. Alice Audey, Mitchell Azar, Mae Abdalla Bitsko, Charles Corey, John Dayoob, Richard S. George, David Hockenberry, Marie (Dayoob) Hyde, Ernest Jaber, Sr., Nelly Karam, Stacey Knepper, Michael Leap, Ernest Milhem, Matilda George Paziak, Bernard Salem, Genevieve N. (Mary) Salem, Samuel A. Salem, Vivian Salem, Pearl Shaheen, Louise Milkie Young and John Zamer*. Please pray for them and their Families. ***May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal! Christ is Risen!***

<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 - "Through the intercessions of the Theotokos..."*)

"My heart hath poured forth a good word: I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe." / *Refrain.* / "Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... *Refrain.*

SECOND ANTIPHON: (*Refrain - "O Son of God, Who was borne in the arms of righteous Simeon, save us who sing unto Thee. Alleluia."*)

"Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king." / *Refrain.* / "Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under Thee." / *Refrain.* / "A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... and ... "O Only-begotten Son & Word of God ...".

THIRD ANTIPHON: (*Sung During The Little Entrance - Tone One*)

Verses: Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

<i>Troparion:</i> See "Troparion of the Presentation of Christ" Below.
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AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION: (*Tone Two*)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou Deathless and Immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power; and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ Thou Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

TROPARION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST: (*Tone One*)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

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 4:9-15 (*Thirty-Second Sunday After Pentecost*)

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10 (*Fifteenth Sunday of Luke – "Zacchaeus"*)

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")!**

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- THIS WEEK'S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

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

+ Tuesday, February 06 – BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION – @ 6:00 PM – location TBD (please text or call Fr. Don – 814 – 242 – 0084) ... see Announcement Below ... please RSVP if possible to Fr. Don or Anne in our Office (814-255-2148 OR stmaryaocc@outlook.com).

+ Saturday, February 10 – "FEAST FROM THE EAST – SUPER BOWL EDITION" ... WORK SCHEDULE – 8 AM to 2 PM ... FOOD PICKUP – 11 AM to 1 PM ... GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, February 11 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW (Hieromartyr BLAISE, Bishop of Sebastia & His Companions) ... MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... Followed by Fellowship in the Social Hall.

... and ...

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!

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: CONEMAUGH HOSPITAL – Main Campus: Irena Jaber (Ashman – 712); 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'Ettore; 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 meet this Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6 PM (location to be determined). We begin by sharing a simple potluck meal together. If you are able to bring something to share, that would be great. If you aren't able to bring a food item or beverage, no worries! Just please come & join us! 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!

"FEAST FROM THE EAST" - CAN YOU HELP US !?!

Our "Feast From The East - Super Bowl Edition" is coming this Saturday ... February 10, 2024! Can you please help us with this important Fundraiser for our St. Mary Parish Family? The Work Schedule is as follows:

Sunday, Feb. 4 - Rolling of The Grape Leaves - **After Church**

Thursday, Feb. 08 - Preparation & Organizing - **10 AM & 7 PM**

Saturday, Feb. 10 - Packing of Orders, etc. - **8 AM - 2 PM**

As Khouria Janet always says, "If everyone will just do a little, a lot will get done!" Please join us as you are able. This Food Sale helps us to do so much ... also, Monetary Donations are always welcome! **God Bless You!**

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 want to thank those who signed up for online giving!! We want to encourage others to sign up, as well.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKAC/home> or by using the QR Code – below.

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*



IT'S A GIRL! We are pleased to announce the birth of *Nora Marie Shadid*, daughter of Rev. Fr. Christopher & Khouria Sophia Shadid! Nora was born on Saturday, January 20, 2024 (3 lb. 10 oz. & 15.4 in.) at 11:53 AM. Please keep Nora, her older brother Luke Gabriel, her parents, and grandparents (Very Rev. Fr. Michael & Popadea Susan Kon and Very Rev. Fr. Donald & Khouria Janet Shadid) in your prayers, asking that God watch over them and bless them! ***May God Grant Many Years of Health, Joy, Peace (John 14:27) & Happiness to Nora and all within her Family.***

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!": On behalf of our entire Parish Family, Fr. Don would like to offer a special "Thank You!" to those who, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish Family, donated food, offered a monetary donation and/or served at "Saturday's Kitchen" last Saturday, Jan. 27. This ministry of love is a powerful witness to our Lord's teaching that when we serve those in need, we serve our

Lord Jesus Christ Himself! All those who serve in this way always feel that they have received more than they have given. "Thanks be to God!" for this opportunity and for those who are able & willing to serve in this way!

+++ 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.

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!

Unfortunately, we are having difficulty obtaining Sponsors for the Holy Bread and for 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!

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 is started in that month. **Thank You & God Bless!**

101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO

What You Must Know to Win ... by Maisie Sparks (02/04)

29. God's word can't pass away.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away but My words shall not pass away." (MATTHEW 24:35)

“The Church is the body
of Christ, and we are
called to participate in
His life.” – St. Ignatius
of Antioch

Epistle

(For the Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end, we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

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 Fifteenth Sunday of Luke—"Zacchaeus")

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

May God Be With You!

Saint of the Day – February 4, 2024

THE VENERABLE ISIDORE OF PELUSIUM

Isidore was an Egyptian by birth, the son of a prominent family, and the kinsman of the Alexandrian Patriarchs Theophilus and Cyril. Having studied all the secular disciplines, he renounced worldly riches and glory, and for the love of Christ, he devoted himself completely to the spiritual life. He was a great and ardent defender and interpreter of the Orthodox Faith. According to the historian Nicephorus, St. Isidore wrote more than ten thousand letters to various individuals. In these, he reproached some, counseled others, and comforted and instructed still others. In one letter St. Isidore wrote: "It is more important to teach by a life of doing good than to preach in eloquent terms." In another, he said: "If one desires that his virtues appear great, let him consider them small, and they will surely manifest themselves as great." The first and basic rule for St. Isidore was this: "First do and then teach, according to the example of our Lord Jesus." At the time of the persecution of St. John Chrysostom, when the entire population was divided into two camps--one for him and one against him--St. Isidore, this great pillar of Orthodoxy, sided with St. John Chrysostom. He wrote to Patriarch Theophilus that Chrysostom was a great light of the Church, and begged him to avoid rancor toward him. Isidore lived long and accomplished much, glorifying Christ God with his life and his writings. Isidore took up habitation in the Kingdom of Christ in about the year 436 A.D.

REFLECTION

Impose upon yourself some form of penance [Epitimija] for the sins of others. If you have judged or punished someone, impose upon yourself a form of penance. You should also suffer voluntarily for the sins of sinners. This is pleasing to God. This mystery was known by the saints, who condemned themselves for the sins of others. Even non-Christian peoples perceived this mystery. There exists this custom in China: When an executioner beheads a criminal who is sentenced to death, he then approaches the judge and informs him that the verdict was carried out. The judge reimburses him with a silver coin because he has executed a criminal, and then he orders that he be given forty lashes for having killed a man. Christian saints profoundly understood the mystery of sin and human injustice. For the saints, every human sin has a history as long as the distance from Adam to us.

To God be the Glory and Praise Always!

