

SUNDAY OF THE CANAANITE WOMAN



Icon of the Canaanite Woman

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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST and THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

(The Sunday of The Canaanite Woman)

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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

LEO The Great, Pope of Rome /
AGAPITOS The Confessor, Bishop of Synnada in Phrygia, and His Companions

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 *Lisa Catanese* for the health of brother, *Bobby*, as he celebrates his Birthday and grandson, *Theodore*, as he celebrates his Name Day. ***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 & All Within The Karas & McClatchey Families Who Have Fallen-Asleep in The Lord* by *The McClatchey 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 -

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

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION: (*Tone Four*)
Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen granting the world great mercy.

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 THEOTOKOS: (*Tone Six*)
O, Undisputed Intercessor of Christians, the Mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, although we be sinners.

Come to us with aid in time who cry unto thee in Faith, for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1
(Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost)

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28
(Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew – Canaanite Woman)

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

+ Saturday, February 24 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, February 25 – SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & THE PUBLICAN ... MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... Followed by Fellowship in the Social Hall.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): *Mary Ann Unis-Asfar (#606); 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, Donald McMillan; Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovansek 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 ***Irena F. (Fulicea) Jaber*** “Fell-Asleep in the Lord” on Sunday, February 4, 2024. We pray that our Lord will grant her 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 Fulicea & Jaber Families, and us, as we all mourn her Passing with the Hope of Christ in our Hearts (1 Thessalonians 4:13). ***May Her Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!***

TWO SPECIAL “THANK YOUs!”: On behalf of our entire Parish Family, Fr. Don would like to offer a special “Thank You!” to **(1)** one and all who supported last weekend’s “Feast From The East” ... all who bought orders, sold orders, set-up, prepared, cooked, packaged, filled orders, cleaned-up, etc. ... this Fundraiser helps us to meet our expenses each year since our parishioner stewardship is not enough ... **and ... (2)** those who, on behalf of our St. Mary Parish Family, donated food, offered a monetary donation and/or served at “Saturday’s Kitchen” on 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.

We thank you one & all ... ***God Bless You & Your Loved Ones!***

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 are meeting on Tuesdays at 6 PM, at Bill & Eliesha Cacciotti’s Home. We begin by sharing a simple potluck meal. If you can bring something to share, that will be great. If you can’t 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!

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.***

Epistle

(For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

*O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel

(For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

May God Be With You!

101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO

What You Must Know to Win . . . by Maisie Sparks (02/18)

31. God's sheep can't be plucked from His hands.

*"And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish,
neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (JOHN 10:28)*

+++ CONFESSIO N SCHEDULE +++

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

Saint of the Day – February 18, 2024

SAINT LEO I, POPE OF ROME

Leo was born in Italy to devout parents. He first served as archdeacon under Pope Sixtus III, and following the death of Sixtus he was elevated against his will to the throne of the Pope of Rome. When Attila, with his Huns, drew near to Rome and was prepared to destroy and burn the city, Leo came out before him in his episcopal vestments. He subdued the wrath of the leader of the Huns and averted the destruction of Rome. Attila allowed himself to be counseled by this holy man, but was also frightened by a vision of the Apostles Peter and Paul, who stood alongside Leo and threatened him with flaming swords. Not only did St. Leo save Rome, but he also contributed much to save Orthodoxy from the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus. This heresy consisted in the merging of the divine and human natures of Christ into one and, consequently, the denial of the two wills in the person of the Lord Savior. Because of this, the Fourth Ecumenical Council [Chalcedon, 451 A.D.] was convened, at which time the epistle of St. Leo was read. St. Leo had written this epistle and placed it on the tomb of St. Peter, who corrected it. Before his death, Leo spent forty days in fasting and prayer at the tomb of St. Peter, beseeching him to tell him whether his sins were forgiven. The Apostle Peter appeared to him and said that all of his sins were forgiven except sins committed in the ordination of priests (whence it is evident how grave a sin it is to ordain one who is unworthy). The saint again fell to prayer until he was told that even those sins were forgiven. He peacefully gave up his soul to the Lord. St. Leo reposed in the year 461 A.D.

To God be the Glory and Praise Always!

+ + SPECIAL PETITION FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST + +

O God, You are our refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1) Hear our heartfelt supplication on behalf of the people of the country of Ukraine. Protect those in danger with your holy angels and grant them courage. Turn back all manner of attacks. May hostility fade away. Let Your peace descend upon the whole land, so that the shedding of blood in warfare, violence, terrorism, tyranny, and all manner of strife may come to a swift end. Enlighten all civil authorities around the world with the wisdom to diligently work for reconciliation. O Lord of hosts, we have no other help but You in times of distress: quickly hear us now and have mercy!

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

Did you know 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. **If you have any questions, please call our Secretary, Anne ... 814-255-2148. Thank You & God Bless!**

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Healing and Mercy

In our gospel reading today, a Canaanite woman (a non-Jew) approached Jesus to ask for help. She referred to Jesus as the Son of David (who is considered by the Jews as the great King of Israel even to this day) and acknowledged Jesus as a master and healer.

The Canaanite woman asked Jesus to have mercy on her and her daughter who was sick and tormented by the demon. Even if she wasn't being heard initially, her efforts paid off and Jesus was able to give her his attention and help.

Illnesses may not always be personal but also social. Sickness in our family, community, country, and in our world. When one experiences moral or spiritual illness, it means the person is detached from his/her humanity and God is far from him/ her. In this case, God is the only cure.

He is the truth and the only way to genuine faith, hope, justice, and peace. The Canaanite woman had a strong faith in God. She was convinced that she can only find real mercy and complete healing only through Jesus.

In the gospel reading, Jesus had remarked that salvation is for the family of Israel. The Canaanites were not mentioned by him. Still, the Canaanite woman insisted that salvation can still be received. To receive God's mercy even if it just portion of it may be given by Jesus.

Jesus was overwhelmed by the faith of the woman; it is great faith from a non- Israelite.

Let us ask God to give us the faith of the Canaanite woman so we can also partake in God's saving love.

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com