

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE



*Icon of the Publican and Pharisee*

# 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](#))



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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](mailto:abeenad1@gmail.com) – Office: 814-255-2148

+ + + SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE & PUBLICAN + + +

Sunday, February 25, 2024

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

TARASIOS The Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople /  
Hieromartyr MARKELLOS, Bishop of Apamea in Syria

*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 Ed & Nancy Makdad for the health of All Within The Makdad Family. **God Grant Them Many, Many Years!**

**PASCHAL CANDLES:** Offered in beloved memory of: **(1)** 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 ... **and ... (2)** Jesse George by his mother, Christine Asfar.

**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.

**TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY (Naha):** Offered in beloved memory of brother, uncle & father, David Hockenberry (+1Yr.) by Danny Hockenberry and All Within The Hockenberry Family. **May David's Memory Be 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 -**

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

**AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

**TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION:** (*Tone Five*)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit; born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death and to raise the dead by His glorious 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 PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN:** *(Tone Four)*

Let us flee the Pharisee’s conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican’s humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 18:10-14

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)*

**Please Note ... this Week, the Week of the Pharisee & The Publican is Fast-Free.**

**+ Tuesday, February 27 – POTLUCK SUPPER, BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION – @ 6:00 PM – Location To Be Determined – please call Fr. Don or Anne in the Office for the most current information (see Announcement Below for more detailed information) – please RSVP if possible, to Fr. Don or Anne in our Office (814-255-2148 ... OR ... stmaryaocc@outlook.com).**

**+ Saturday, March 02 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.**

**+ Sunday, February 03 – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON ... 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 **Peter G. Caras** “Fell-Asleep in the Lord” on Sunday, February 28, 2022. Peter is the son of the late George & Rose (Abraham) Caras and grew up as part of our St. Mary Parish Family. 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 Caras & Abraham Families, and us, as we all mourn his Passing with the Hope of Christ in our Hearts (1 Thessalonians 4:13). **May Her Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!**

### **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 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](mailto:stmaryaocc@outlook.com)). Thank Youuu ... we hope to see you!

### **DONATIONS OF FOOD FOR SATURDAY'S/SUNDAY'S KITCHEN! THE GIVING OF ALMS ... A CHRIST-LIKE COMPASSION ...**

Our Lord tells us that when we serve those “in need,” we serve Him! Our Parish Family has been helping to provide & serve Weekend Meals at The Family Kitchen downtown at 231 Bedford Street for years. Please get out your calendars ... **the date for our next “Saturday or Sunday Kitchen Ministry” is Sun., March 10. Due to the Pandemic, meals are offered as “Sidewalk Take-Outs.”** However, we do need your **Food Donations**. If you can help, please see the Clipboard on the Front Pew, or Khouria Janet, and please bring your Food Items to the Church by 1:30 PM on Friday, March 8.

We have also been asked to make a **Donation of \$350.00** each time to help defer the expenses of each meal (the food, the cook, the kitchen supervisor, insurance, etc.). Please make your Donation payable to “St. Mary Orthodox Church,” earmark it “Saturday's Kitchen” and drop it in the Prayer Box in the Office Foyer. **Thank You & God Bless!**

## *Epistle*

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

*Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## *Gospel*

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

*May God Be With You!*

**++ CONFSSION 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.

# *Saint of the Day – February 25, 2024*

## **SAINT TARASIVS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

His predecessor, Patriarch Paul, secretly relinquished the throne, entered a monastery, and received the schema [The Great Angelic Habit]. Irene and Constantine VI reigned at the time. By Paul's counsel, Tarasius, who was then a senator and royal advisor, was chosen to be patriarch in the year 783 A.D. He was quickly raised through the ecclesiastical ranks and consecrated as patriarch. A man of great learning and great zeal in the Orthodox Faith, Tarasius reluctantly accepted this rank in order to help Orthodoxy in the struggle against heresies, especially against iconoclasm. During his reign the Seventh Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 787 A.D.] was convened. There iconoclasm was condemned, and the veneration of holy icons was confirmed and restored. Tarasius was very charitable toward orphans and the poor, creating shelters and distributing food to them. Toward the powerful, Tarasius was decisive in his defense of faith and morals. When Emperor Constantine banished Maria, his lawful wife, and took a kinswoman to live with him, he sought a blessing for marriage from the patriarch. Tarasius not only refused him a blessing but first counseled him, then reproached him, and finally forbade him to receive Holy Communion. Before his death, many saw how Tarasius replied to the demons, saying: "I am not guilty of this sin; neither am I guilty of that sin," until his weakened tongue could not longer speak. He then began to defend himself with his hands, driving away the demons. When he reposed, his face lit up like the sun. This truly great hierarch died in the year 806 A.D. He governed the Church for twenty-two years and four months.

*To God be the Glory and Praise Always!*

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### **101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO**

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

31. God can't be imperfect.

*"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect." (MATTHEW 5:48)*

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