

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



*Icon of the Prodigal Son*

# 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 PRODIGAL SON + + +

Sunday, March 03, 2024

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

Martyrs EUTROPIOS, KLEONIKOS & BASILIKOS of Amasea /  
Hieromartyr THEODORETOS of Antioch

*March is “Antiochian Women Month!”*

*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 the Krinock Family for the health of son, *Gregory*.  
***God Grant Him Many, Many Years!***

**PASCHAL CANDLES:** Offered: **(1)** in beloved memory of *Joshua Mack* by The Mack Family; **(2)** for the health of *Don McMillan* by his wife, *Kathy ... and ... (3)* *Jesse George* by his mother, *Christine Asfar*.

**PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE:** Offered for the health of: **(1)** *Maria* as she celebrates her Birthday (March 2) and her Feast Day (March 25) and *Ivan, Miranda, Paul, Grace, Fotia, Alexa, Andrea, Becky, Connie & Arianna* by The McClatchey Family ... **and ... (2)** *Elias Ghantous* as he celebrates his Birthday (March 16) by parents, *Albert & Mary Jo*, sister, *Marissa & husband, Mike* and wife, *Rebecca*.

**SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE:** Offered: **(1)** for the health of *Albert & Mary Jo Ghantous* by Children & their Families ... **and ... (2)** in beloved memory of parents & grandparents, *Edward (+33 Yrs.) & Julia (Audi) Mack (+26 Yrs.)* by *Butch & Renee (Mack) D’Ettorre* and Family.

**PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE:** Offered for the health of: **(1)** *Infant, Nora Marie Shadid* by *Vicki & Brent Thornton*; **(2)** *Donald McMillan* by *Kathie Povich...* **and ... (3)** *Olga Hodge* by *Norman, Susan, Isaac & Simon Joseph*.

**MEMORY ETERNAL!** Today, we will remember the following from our Parish Family who have “Fallen-Asleep in the Lord” during the month of March, praying that they have been transferred from the “Church Militant” to the “Church Triumphant”: *Stella Abraham, Catherine Adamese, George Andrews, Donald Angus, Jr., Very Rev. Fr. Alexander Atty, George Audey, Abraham Audi, Assud Azar, Stanley Azar, George Bitsko, Anthony T. Curry, Selma Curry, Catherine Dom, June (Milkie) Fiscus, Amelia George, Arthur L. George, Catherine George, Charles George, Sr., Alexander J. Heider, David Heider, John G. "Abe" Heider, Kelli (Hockenberry) Hines, Jacker, Helen F. (Liszczak) Joseph, John Kennan, Hanna (John) Khuri, Edward Mack, Sr., Joshua Mack, Michael Michnya, Agnes (Zamer) Milhem, Sadie Saleeba, Habeeb Farrah Salem, Jacob (Jay) George Salem, Jr., Jacob H. Salem, Katherine Salem, Mrs. Mary Salem, Samuel Shahade, Sara Shaheen, Elizabeth (Andrews) Spada and Catherine (Audey) Speranza*. Please pray for them and their Families. ***May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!***

<p style="text-align: center;"><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 -**

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

**AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

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

When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby, Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world; O Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord 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 PRODIGAL SON:** *(Tone Three)*

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

**EPISTLE:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20    **HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 15:11-32  
*(Sunday of The Prodigal Son)*

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, March 05** – POTLUCK SUPPER, BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION – 6:00 PM – Location To Be Determined – if you are not on our “text string,” please call Fr. Don (814-242-0084) or Anne (814-255-2148) for further information & this week’s location.

**+ Saturday, March 09** – NO GREAT VESPERS.

**+ Sunday, March 10** – SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEATFARE) ... 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. 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 His Memory Be Ever Eternal ... Christ is Risen!**

**+++ BIBLE STUDY / DISCUSSION +++**

***You are invited to jump in...*** All are welcome to come and learn, discuss, ask, or just listen. We are meeting on Tuesdays at 6 PM ... location to be determined. We begin by sharing a simple potluck meal. If you can bring something to share, that will be great. If you aren’t able to bring a food item or beverage, no worries! Just please come & join us! **If you are not on our “text string,” please call Fr. Don (814-242-0084) or Anne (814-255-2148) for further information & this week’s location.** Thank Youuu ... we hope to see you!

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## **101 THINGS GOD CAN’T DO**

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

33. God can’t think like you.

*“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (ISAIAH 55:8-9)*

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# Epistle

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

*O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.*

## **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)**

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

# Gospel

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

## **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost,

and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

*May God Be With You!*

## *Saint of the Day – March 3, 2024*

### **THE HOLY MARTYRS EUTROPIUS, CLEONICUS AND BASILISCUS**

They were companions of St. Theodore the Tyro. When the righteous Theodore had gloriously reposed, they remained behind in prison. For a long time they were not sentenced, due to the replacement of the emperor's governor in the city of Amasea. When the new governor arrived, more inhuman than his predecessor, he ordered that these three be brought before him. All three were youths. Eutropius and Cleonicus were brothers, and Basiliscus was a kinsman of St. Theodore. All three were like blood brothers in their fraternal love. As such, they said before the governor: "As the Holy Trinity is undivided, so also are we undivided in our faith and inseparable in our love." In vain was all the flattery on the part of the governor, and in vain were his attempts to bribe Eutropius. First of all, the governor invited Eutropius to dine with him. Eutropius refused, quoting from the Psalms: *Blessed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked* (Psalm 1:1). After that, the governor offered him a large amount of money--150 litres of silver--which Eutropius also refused, reminding the governor that because of silver Judas lost his soul. After all attempts at interrogation and torture had failed, the first two were sentenced to be crucified, and Basiliscus was sentenced to be beheaded. And so it was, two brothers were crucified on two crosses, for which they gave thanks to Christ that He had made them worthy of the same death to which He Himself submitted. The third, Basiliscus, was beheaded. They all entered the Kingdom of Joy where St. Theodore, their commander, awaited them, having been glorified before them by Christ the Lord and Victor. They suffered honorably in the year 308 A.D.

*To God be the Glory and Praise Always!*

**+ 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.

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

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*Who Art in Heaven*

These words I think have a very deep meaning. They remind us of the homeland we have abandoned, of the citizenship we have lost. In the parable of the young man who left his father's house, went off the rails and was reduced to living with pigs, the Word of God shows us human wretchedness. That young man did not find his one-time happiness again until he had realized his moral degradation, had looked into his own heart and had pronounced the words of confession. These words almost agree with the Lord's Prayer, because the prodigal son says: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." [Luke 15:21] He would not confess himself to be a sinner against

heaven if he were not convinced that the homeland he had left at the time of his going astray were not in actual fact heaven.

By this confession of his he makes himself worthy once again to stand in the presence of his father who runs towards him, embraces him, and kisses him. The conclusion is this. To return to heaven there is only one route and that is to admit one's sinfulness and seek to avoid it. To make the decision to avoid it is already to be perfecting one's likeness to God.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa  
On the Lord's Prayer*

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