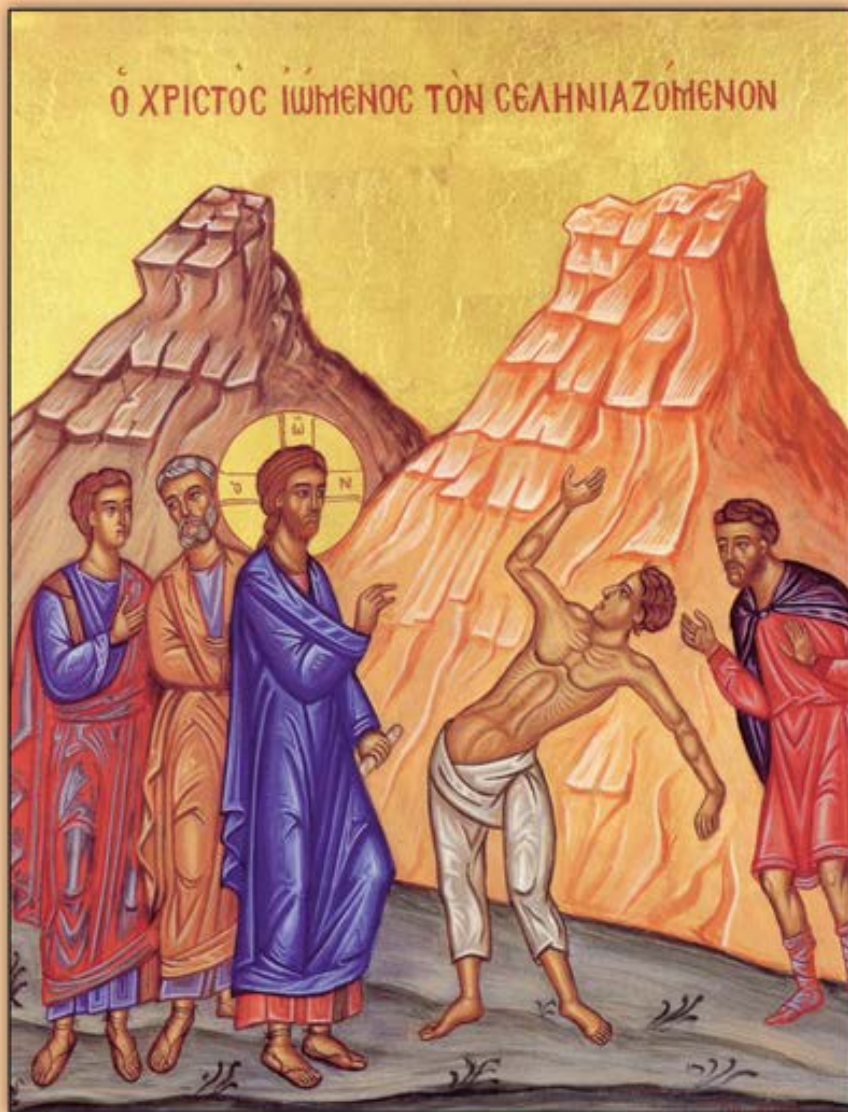


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon

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

+ COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS – Author of “The Ladder” +
(The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent)

Sunday, April 14, 2024

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

Apostles ARISTARCHOS, PUDENS & TROPHYMOS of The Seventy

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 Faithful of our St. Mary Parish Family* for the health of *all those who "have been" or "will be" affected by violence.*

PASCHAL CANDLES: Offered: in beloved memory of: **(1)** *Jesse George* by his mother, *Christine Asfar ... and ... (2)* *sister, Adele (Sayegh) Audi* by *Huda Martin & Family.*

PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE: Offered for the health of: **(1)** *Maria's Godparents, Drew & Dena,* as they celebrate their wedding anniversary; and for *Steven, Lais, Michael, Fr. Don, Cade, Preston, Toulia, Miranda, George, Leon, Susan, John, Gary, Margarita & Sotere* by *The McClatchey Family ... and ... (2)* *John & Dalal George and Family* by *Lawrence Bertino.*

SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE: Offered in beloved memory of: **(1)** *aunts, Rosemary Andrews & Catherine Adamese;* and sister-in-law, *Frances Skala* by *Gene & Barbara (Spada) Skala ... and ... (2)* *parents, Dr. Lawrence Bertino and Lottie (Corey) Bertino* by *Lawrence Bertino.*

PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE: Offered: **(1)** for the health of *Larry Bertino* by *Pam (Salem) Katrancha ... and ... (2)* in beloved memory of: **(a)** *Aunt & Godmother, Manna (Corey) Salem* on the occasion of her Earthly Birthday (April 16); **(b)** *Jean Krupa* by *Bob & Helene Stiffler* and *Lawrence Bertino* and **(c)** *Aunt Lottie (Corey) Bertino* by *Pam (Salem) Katrancha*

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY (Naha): Offered in beloved memory of *Manna (Corey) Salem* in honor of her Earthly Birthday (April 16) by her Children (*Pam, Debbie, Kevin & Chuck*), Grandchildren (*Jedd, Aaron, Sara, Aly, Corey & Emily*) and Great-Grandchildren (*Lily, Micah, MacKenzie, Tully, Madeline, Andrew, Wilder, Maris & Luke*). ***May Her Memory Be Ever Eternal!***

MEMORY ETERNAL!: Today, we will remember the following from our Parish Family who have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord" during the month of April, praying that they have been transferred from the "Church Militant" to the "Church Triumphant": *Foteen Abraham, Yamma Assad, James Audey, Adele Audi, Deewan Azar, Lottie (Corey) Bertino, Adella Curry, George R. Curry, James S. Curry, Nicholas Curry, Mary Deeb, Anna George, Jacob George, Marcus George Heider, Nancy Lee Joseph, Badia Kennan, Ann (Salem) (Yanko) Karwowski, Adele N. Milkie, Carroll Jean Rhelos, Albert Salem, Sadie A. Salem, Elizabeth Shahade, Robert E. Shahade and Annie Zack.* Please pray for them and their Families. ***May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!***

***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 -

PLEASE NOTE: *During the Sundays of Great Lent, we celebrate the "Liturgy of St. Basil the Great" (Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia), in which the priest's prayers for the Faithful are longer and more penitential, and the Anaphora Prayers (the offering of the Liturgical Gifts for consecration) are more detailed regarding our Salvation History. Also, today, Fr. Don has to prepare the Lamb for this week's Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Please be attentive during these prayers and quiet moments so that you may truly join your prayer to that of the Church. We have Service Books on the Front Pews for this Liturgy so that you may more easily & fully participate in our Worship. Thank You!*

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (John Climacus): *(T-8)*

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears, and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

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 ANNUNCIATION, GREAT LENT & AKATHIST SAT.: *(Tone 8)*

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: "Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom."

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13–20 *(Fourth Sunday of Lent – St. John Climacus)*

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:17–31 *(Fourth Sunday of Lent – St. John Climacus)*

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”)!**

MEGALYNARION (*Instead of “It Is Truly Meet...” – for St. Basil’s Liturgy*):

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation: the angelic hosts, and the race of men, O hallowed Temple and noetic paradise, glory of Virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God Who is before all the ages; for He made thy womb a throne, and thy body He made more spacious than the heavens. In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace, all creation; and it glorifieth thee.

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- THIS WEEK’S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

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

+ Monday, April 15 – GREAT COMPLINE – 6 PM.

+ Wednesday, April 17 – NINTH HOUR & TYPIKA – 5:15 PM ... Followed by the PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY – 6 PM – Please abstain from food & drink from your Noon Meal onward if you will be partaking of the Holy Eucharist at this Vespertal Liturgy ... also, please note that since our Parish Organizations consist of many of the same parishioners, all within our Parish Family are asked to help with the set-up & clean-up of the Lenten Suppers ... if you can bring a non-meat and/or non-dairy Casserole / Dish / Lenten Dessert, please do so ... and ... everyone, please join us after the Service as we break our fast together.

+ Friday, April 19 – LITTLE COMPLINE WITH THE AKATHIST HYMN (Madayeh Service) – Stases 1 – 4 – 6 PM.

+ Saturday, April 20 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, April 21 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – COMMEMORATION OF OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT – MATINS @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... Followed By Agape Fellowship.

MEMORY ETERNAL!: It is with a “bright sadness” that we announce that our Beloved **George Zdravecky** (m/t Rhoda, daughter of Fr. George & Kh. Riketta Nasser) has “Fallen-Asleep in the Lord.” 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 *Zdravecky & Nasser 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!**

Please Note: according to the Tradition of our Holy Orthodox Church, we are called during the Great Lent to place special emphasis on the Spiritual Disciplines of Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving.

We have now entered into the whole fasting period of the Great Lent. Thus, we are called to Fast from all Meat, Dairy Products, Fish (excluding shellfish), Wine & Olive Oil. The most important thing to remember about our Fasting is that we are also called to approach this Discipline in the Spirit of the Law, not the Letter of the Law. Try to do the best you can; if necessary, begin with small steps and pray for the strength to take bigger steps as you are able.

Let us also avail ourselves of the opportunities during these next few weeks for extra prayer, Liturgically in Church and from within the Closet of our Hearts; and for the sharing of our Alms, our Mercies, with our Neighbor, anyone who is in need.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): *Mary Ann Unis-Asfar* (#606); LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: *Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky* (Vista - 913); HILLTOP HEIGHTS CARE CENTER (formerly "Laurelwood Care Ctr.): *Suzanne George* (#37-W); 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; Michael & 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!**

+ + + FLOWERS FOR THE ADORATION OF THE CROSS + + +

The Beautiful Flowers for last Sunday, "The Adoration of The Precious & Holy Cross," are offered in beloved memory of parents, *Dr. Lawrence & Lottie (Corey) Bertino* and dear friends, *Edward & Marjorie Hamaty* by *Lawrence Bertino*. **May Their Memory Be Eternal!**

101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO

What You Must Know to Win . . . by Maisie Sparks (04/14)

39. God can't be second in your life.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." (EXODUS 20:3)

Easter Flowers

The Pascha Flower project allows you to donate with your special intentions while beautifying the church in celebration of the holiest time of year, our Lord's Resurrection.

You will receive your order form in church, in the mail later this week, **or** you are welcome to donate online with your special intention in our Giving Portal: stmaryaocc.org/giving.



But in order to be Christian, to be able to pronounce the words of the Creed, to say the Lord's Prayer, to participate in the Liturgy, we must at least determine—not only to have a velleity but a determination firm and clear—to live the words that we pronounce, to live our whole life on Christ's own terms. Otherwise, we are only spectators of the life, of the crucifixion, of the death of Christ. We are onlookers, interested listeners who may well be moved by one thing or another, but like the barren earth or the roadside of the parable we may well receive the seed for a moment or not receive it at all—and then, however much we proclaim our faith as an objective, intellectual truth, it does not reach us.

And this is a very important thing for us to realize and to remember because that is how we all live, more or less, except the saints...

—Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, Churchianity vs Christianity

*You are cordially invited to the Baptism of Nora Marie Shadid, daughter of Fr.
Chris & Kh. Sophia on Sunday, May 19, at the Antiochian Village.*

Please RSVP

Please join us as we celebrate the

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

OF OUR DAUGHTER

Nora Marie Shadid

SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 3:00 PM
ST. IGNATIUS CHAPEL
ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE
201 ST. IGNATIUS TRAIL, BOLIVAR, PA

Reception to follow in the camp dining hall

Please RSVP to Sophia at 617-548-1543
or smk1091@gmail.com by May 5


Greetings
ISLAND



+++ LENTEN & PASCHAL OFFERINGS +++

We have now begun our 2024 Lenten Journey! There are many items that the Church needs for all of our special services, and we ask for your participation and support. ***If you would like to offer a donation to our St. Mary Parish Family “for the health of” or “in memory of” a loved one, please fill out the form below and leave it in the Prayer Request Box in the Hallway, marked for Fr. Don’s attention.*** We thank you and pray that your Lenten Journey and Pascha will be a most Fruitful, Joyful, & Peaceful one. (John 14:27)!

Dear Fr. Don:

It would be a great joy for me (us) to offer a donation:

Wine	\$
Agape Meal	
Incense	
Candles for Procession	
Holy Week Service Books for Parishioners	
Help the Needy (Pastor’s Discretionary Fund)	

For the Health of: _____

- and/or -

In Beloved Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Donations may be made by check or online at <https://stmaryaocc.org/giving> (click on Special Offering.)

Epistle

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

"May God Be With You!"

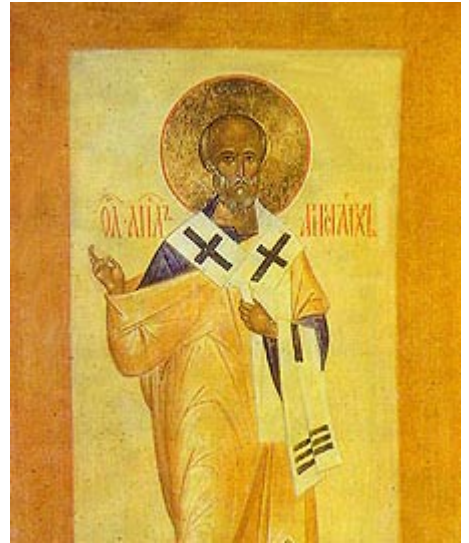
Saint of the Day – April 14, 2024

Apostle Aristarchus of the Seventy

Saint Aristarchus was one of the Seventy Apostles, whom the Lord Jesus Christ sent to proclaim the good news of the Gospel (Luke. 10:1-24).

Saint Aristarchus, a co-worker of the holy Apostle Paul, became bishop of the Syrian city of Apamea. His name is repeatedly mentioned in the Acts of the Holy Apostles (Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2) and in the Epistles of Saint Paul (Col. 4:10, Philemon 1:24). He accompanied Saint Paul on his travels (Acts 16:29), and was Bishop of Apamea, Syria.

Saint Aristarchus is commemorated on April 15 with Saints Pudens and Trophimus and on September 27 together with Saints Mark and Zenas.



Apostle Pudens of the Seventy

Saint Pudens was one of the Seventy Apostles whom the Lord Jesus Christ sent before him with the good news of the Gospel (Luke 10:1-24).

Saint Pudens is mentioned in Saint Paul's second Epistle to Timothy (2 Tim. 4:21). He occupied high position as a member of the Roman Senate. The saint received the foremost Apostles Peter and Paul in his home, where believing Christians gathered. His house was converted into a church, receiving the name "Pastorum". According to Tradition, the holy Apostle Peter himself served in it as priest.



To God be the Glory and Praise Always!

