

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Raising Lazarus from the Dead

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 OUR VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT+
(The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent)**

Sunday, April 21, 2024

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

Hieromartyr JANUARIOS, Bishop of Benevento & Companions /
Martyr ALEXANDRA The Queen & 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 *Fr. Don Shadid* for the health, strength, endurance & peace (John 14:27) for *All Within Our St. Mary Parish Family* as we prepare to enter into Holy Week & The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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: in beloved memory of *Aunt & Godmother, Manna (Corey) Salem* on the occasion of her *Earthly Birthday (April 16)* by *Lawrence Bertino*; and for the health of *Norman Joseph* by *Aunt Mollie (Kanan) Feeney (Boston, MA)*.

***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 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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (St. Mary of Egypt): *(T-Eight)*
Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

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: Hebrews 9:11–14 *(Fifth Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt)*

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:32–45 *(Fifth Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt)*

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)

**+A Separate Holy Week Service Schedule Has Been Distributed To All Parishioners+
Please note that all evening services, except for Holy Saturday, now begin at 6 PM.**

+ Monday, April 22 – GREAT COMPLINE – 6 PM.

+ Wednesday, April 24 – 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 Vespereal 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 26 – LITTLE COMPLINE with THE CANON OF ST. LAZARUS – 6 PM.

+ Saturday, April 27 – SATURDAY OF THE RAISING OF LAZARUS THE RIGHTEOUS – MATINS @ 9 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 10 AM ... and ... GREAT VESPERS FOR PALM SUNDAY – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, April 28 – THE GLORIOUS & BRILLIANT FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday) – MATINS @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... followed by Agape Fellowship ... and ... BRIDEGROOM MATINS FOR HOLY MONDAY – 6 PM.

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!***

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; Jane Salem and Sara Shahade.* ***May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and / or in Need!***



+++ 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.)

*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

Epistle

*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 Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him, and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

May God Be With You!

Saint of the Day – April 21, 2024

THE HIEROMARTYR [PRIESTLY-MARTYR] JANUARIUS AND OTHERS WITH HIM

This saint was the Bishop of Benevento in Italy. At the time of the persecution under Maximian, Januarius was brought before the court and tortured in various ways, which he blamelessly and patiently endured. When they cast him into the fire, the fire was cooled by an invisible dew, and the martyr stood unharmed amidst the flames, singing praises to God. Then they scrapped his body with iron brushes until the bones showed white, which the martyr innocently and patiently endured. His deacon, Festus, and his reader, Desiderius, witnessed the suffering of the martyr and wept for their spiritual father. Then they too were bound and, together with Bishop Januarius, were brought to the city of Pozzuoli [Puteoli, near Naples] and cast into prison.



The Pozzuoli deacons Proculus and Sussos and two Christian laymen, Eutychius and Acutius, were in this same prison for the sake of Christ. The next day all seven of them were thrown to wild beasts, but the wild beasts did not touch them. They were all beheaded, and the Christians of the city of Naples secretly carried the body of St. Januarius to their city and buried it honorably in church. To the present day, numerous miracles have occurred at the grave of this saint. Among the many miracles, one is particularly remembered: A poor widow, whose only son had died, removed the icon of St. Januarius from the church and placed it on the body of her dead son, sobbing and praying to the saint, and her son returned to life. St. Januarius suffered honorably in the year 305 A.D

To God be the Glory and Praise Always!

101 THINGS GOD CAN'T DO

What You Must Know to Win . . . by Maisie Sparks (04/21)

40. God can't leave you comfortless.

"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (JOHN 14:18)

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

The Beautiful Flowers for "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!**

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***** 2024 CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT *****

Monday: 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Tuesday & Thursday: By Appointment

Friday: 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Saturday: 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM if Great Vespers Scheduled

Please Note: No Confessions on Wednesdays.

If you are not able to come for Confession during the times listed above, please call Fr. Don at 814-242-0084 and he will set up an appointment for you. Also, if you come for Confession right before a Divine Service, please join us for our corporate prayer if you are able. Thank You.

**Due To Fr.'s Commitment to Matins,
Confession Will Not Be Offered on Sunday Mornings.**

Note: All Parishioners Are Asked To Have Their Confessions Heard by Lazarus Saturday, April 27, 2024 ... (Exception ... Those Out of Town).

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Conventional Wisdom and the Lord's

Listen, friend, it's a dog-eat-dog world out there. You've got to do it to them before they do it to you.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Always remember the golden rule: those who have the gold, make the rules.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Remember: Never get mad. Get even.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Take my advice, kid – Don't make waves. You've got to go along to get along. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Charity is fine, but business is business. Always, always, always buy low and sell high.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

The drug users and the city scum – they deserve what happens to them. We work hard for what we've got – nobody is doing us any favors. Let them do the same. It can be done. Hey, look: You got to take care of your own.

But it cannot be like that with you ...

Jesus' admonition is almost a pleading: If you really understand Me and what I am about, if you really want to be My disciple, if you really seek to be worthy of My name, then you must see the world differently and respond to its challenges with a very different set of values. The world may try to justify vengeance rather than forgiveness, to glorify self-preservation over selflessness, to insist on preserving the system and convention for the sake of compassion and justice.

But it cannot be like that with you.

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