

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD  
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



*Icon of the Descent into Hades*

# 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

*“Go to Church ... Say Your Prayers ... Don’t Forget God!”* (+Fr. Tom Hopko’s Mom)

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+ + + **GREAT & HOLY PASCHA** + + +  
(The Resurrection of Our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ)

Sunday, May 05, 2024

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

*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 (Wed., Fri. & the prescribed Fasts), 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*.

**PASCHAL CANDLES:** Offered in beloved memory of: **(1)** *Anthony Berrich, Jr.* by *Tony & Marianne Spada and Family ... and ... (2)* *Jesse George* by his mother, *Christine Asfar*.

**PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE:** Offered for the health of *Judy, John, Fey, Richard, Zoe & Fr. Justin*, as they celebrate their birthdays; and in beloved memory of *Fr. Elias*, by *The McClatchey Family*.

**SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE:** Offered: **(1)** in beloved memory of Parents, Grand & Great-Grandparents, *John & Elizabeth (Andrews) Spada*, who were married on May 5, 1940, by their Children (*Barbara Skala and Family [husband, Buddy, son & wife, Andy & Jill, daughter & husband, Stephanie & Dennis, and their children, Brendan & Erin]* and *Tony & Marianne Spada and Family*) ... **and ... (2)** for the health of *Elias, Rebecca, Marissa, Michael, Noah & Themselves* by *Albert & Mary Jo Ghantous*.

**PRAYERS OF LITURGICAL REMEMBRANCE**

Offered in beloved memory of *William Joseph* (May 5 / +17 Yrs.) and *Josephine Abraham* (May 11 / +74 Yrs.) by *The Joseph Family*.

**MEMORY ETERNAL!:** Today, we will remember the following from our Parish Family who have "Fallen-Asleep in the Lord" during the month of May, praying that they have been transferred from the "Church Militant" to the "Church Triumphant": *Alex Abraham, Josephine Abraham, Philip S. Albert, Jacob Andrews, Alex Atty, Alex Audi, James Audi, Samuel Azar, Rose Caras, Sadie Cury, Alexander Curry, Khouria Vivian Curry, Andrew Ellich Sr., Helen Mary (Najjar) Fisher, Robert T. George, Sally B. George, Elizabeth (Salem) Ghantous, Elizabeth Heider, James Hutchinson, Abraham Hyder, Harry Jaber, Mary A. Jaber, Sandra Joseph, William G. Joseph, William Joseph, Mary Alvanette (Shahade) Kennan, Olga Klink, Afduke Makdad, Edward G. Makdad, Isaac Makdad, John Makdad, Mary Melillo, Anna Najjar, Louise (Cury) Ostaszewski, John (Duke) Salem, Paulina (Belko) Salem, Mary (Andrews) Shahade, Marie (Salem) Stralko and Amanda (Azar) Washabaugh*. 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 -**

**FIRST ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: "Thru the intercessions of the Theotokos..."*)

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises." / *Refrain.* / "Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... **and** ... *Refrain.*

**SECOND ANTIPHON:** (*Refrain: "Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, as we sing to Thee: Alleluia."*)

"May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us." / *Refrain.* / "That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy Salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee." / *Refrain.* / "May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... **and** ... "O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God ...".

**THIRD ANTIPHON:** (*Verses & Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone One*)

"Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; and let those that hate Him flee from before His face." / *Refrain - "Christ Is Risen!"* / "As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire." / *Refrain.* / "So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad." / *Refrain.* / "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein." / *Refrain.*

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN OF PASCHA:**

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:**

**TROPARION OF PASCHA:** (*Tone Five*)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! **(Once)**

**HYPAKOE OF PASCHA:** (*Tone Four*)

When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel: Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abideth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saveth the race of man.

**KONTAKION OF PASCHA:** (*Tone Eight*)

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to

the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

**THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (Instead of "Holy God, Holy Mighty ..."):**

"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ! Alleluia!" (Thrice)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

"Have put on Christ. Alleluia!"

The Deacon or Priest then exclaims: "With Strength!" ("Dynamis!")

"As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Alleluia!"

**EPISTLE:** Acts 1:1-8 (*Holy Pascha*)

**HOLY GOSPEL:** John 1:1-17 (*Holy Pascha*)

Concerning the "Kiss of Peace," prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a handshake, saying: "**Christ is Risen!**"...the response being: **Truly He is Risen!**" 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 FOR PASCHA** (*Instead Of "It Is Truly Meet..."*): (Tone One)

*The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.*

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

**KOINONIKON** (*Communion Hymn*):

"Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia!"

**INSTEAD OF "We Have Seen The True Light...":**

"Christ Is Risen...!" - (Once) - See "Troparion Of Pascha" Above.

**INSTEAD OF "Blessed Be The Name Of The Lord...":**

"Christ Is Risen...!" - (Thrice) - See "Troparion Of Pascha" Above.

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## **- THIS WEEK'S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -**

*Church Office: Tuesday – Friday ... 9 AM – 2 PM.*

**+ Saturday, May 11** – BRIGHT SATURDAY – Great Vespers – 5 PM.

**+ Sunday, May 12** – THOMAS SUNDAY – MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... followed by Agape Fellowship.

**Please Note That As Is Our Tradition, The Royal Doors (The Beautiful Gate) & The Deacon's Doors Are to Remain Open Throughout Bright Week And Are Not Closed Until next Saturday's Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday ...**

**(Verse 10 of The Stichera on Psalm 140:**

*"Into the gathering of the Disciples, while the doors were shut, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, Thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with a holy spirit, commanding them to tarry and not depart from Jerusalem until they were vested with power from above. Wherefore, O our Light, Resurrection and Peace, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thee.")*

**Also, Note That There Is To Be No Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays From Pascha Until The Feast of The Ascension (Thursday, June 13) by Decree of The Holy Synod of The Church of Antioch (1997).**

**Lastly, Note That From Pascha to The Sunday of Pentecost (June 23) The Troparion, "O Heavenly King..." Is Not Sung ... and ... From Pascha to its Leave-Taking, Instead of: "Holy God..." "O Come, Let Us Worship & Fall Down..." in Matins, The Hours and Vespers; and "Glory to God in The Highest" Before the Matins Psalms; and, "We Have Seen The True Light..." in The Divine Liturgy, We Sing "Christ is Risen From The Dead..."**

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

## *Epistle*

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!  
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)**

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

## *Gospel*

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*May God Be With You!*

**A MESSAGE FROM FR. DON:** Khouria Janet, Fr. Christopher, Khouria Sophia, Luke Gabriel, Nora Marie, Dr. Stephen, Zayna, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, support & gifts during this Great Lent & Paschal Season. May God truly grant you His Joy & Peace (John 14:27) as we greet each other with:



Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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*Celebrating Holy and Great Pascha*

Brethren, how fine a thing it is to move from festival to festival, from prayer to prayer, from holy day to holy day. The time is now at hand when we enter on a new beginning: the proclamation of the blessed Passover, in which the Lord was sacrificed. We feed as on the food of life, we constantly refresh our souls with His precious blood, as from a fountain. Yet we are always thirsting, burning to be satisfied. But He Himself is present for those who thirst and in His goodness invites them to the feast day. Our Savior repeats His words: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

He quenched the thirst not only of those who came to him then. Whenever anyone seeks him He is freely admitted to the presence of the Savior. The grace of the feast is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the holy Scriptures, like the one who is called blessed in the holy psalm: Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel

of the wicked, or stood where sinners stand, or sat in the seat of the scornful, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Moreover, my friends, the God who first established this feast for us allows us to celebrate it each year. He who gave up His Son to death for our salvation, from the same motive gives us this feast, which is commemorated every year. This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast, as He brings us together to form one assembly, uniting us all in spirit in every place, allowing us to pray together and to offer common thanksgiving, as is our duty on the feast. Such is the wonder of His love: He gathers to this feast those who are far apart, and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other.

*St. Athanasius the Great*

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