

Parish Announcements

- **Church Office Closed:** The office will be closed this week due to the archdiocesan convention. Your prayers are asked that the church meetings and business conducted there be pleasing to God.
- **Upcoming Services for Transfiguration:** The Great Feast of the Transfiguration will be celebrated as follows:
 - **Aug. 5 (Mon.)** – Vigil (6 PM)
 - **Aug. 6 (Tues.)** – Liturgy (8:30 AM)
- **The WORD Magazine:** The archdiocese is attempting to update the subscription database for its publication and offer readers a choice between digital and printed copies. If you are currently receiving *The WORD* or would like to sign up for it, please visit <https://forms.gle/Kt7MRGZKH2CmNbAWA> and specify your preference. The magazine may also be viewed online at <http://antiochian.org/>.
- **Update from the Hoppes (Our Sponsored Missionary Family in Albania):** As part of their ongoing ministry in Albania, the Hoppes have been working to support parish development, train seminarians, further children's religious education, and more. An article with details on their recent work is available at <https://mailchi.mp/cfcaca3ba0f7/news-from-the-hoppes-in-albania-1233893?e=6d1e4593cb> and on our parish bulletin board.
- **Women's Trip to St. Nina's Monastery:** The women's group at St. George's (Upper Darby) is coordinating a day trip to St. Nina's Monastery in Union Bridge, MD on October 12. If interested, please RSVP by September 8.

Ways to Get Involved

- **DERD Syrian Relief Program:** For details on contributing to relief efforts, see <http://antiochian.org/syrian-relief-program-introducing-derd>.
- **West Chester Food Cupboard:** Please donate any nonperishable food and personal care items. They may be placed in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!



Sunday, July 21, 2019

HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarchy

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Daniel Meyer

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment

*For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in 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.

Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion for Ordinary Sundays in Tone Two

O undisputed Intercessor of Christians, o Mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though 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.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen Yiannis B.; Catechumen Amelia B.; Catechumen Laurie W.; Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen David S.; Elizabeth G. (heart); Jeanne K. (cancer); Deborah (Fr. Daniel's mother); Donna (Fr. Daniel's aunt, cancer); Kathy A. (more radiation treatment); Tina D. (recovering from surgery); Joe (Sarah B.'s uncle, recovering from surgery); Seraphim B.; Jeff K. (recovering from knee surgery); Marlan A. (spine); Alexandra C.; Sue (Yiannis B.'s aunt, undergoing chemotherapy); Tom (Yiannis B.'s uncle); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

DEPARTED:

Kris (Barry P.'s brother)
Bonnie (Jeanne K.'s friend)
Those killed in recent natural disasters
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (10:1-10)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that it may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that everyone who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says: Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into Heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

Did you know ...

Victory over the passions is accomplished through God's power. Our feeble powers are not enough for this. We need to be humbly aware of this and with humility attract God's mercy and help to ourselves.

St. Nikon of Optina