

## Parish Announcements

- **Service Schedule:** Vespers for the Prophet Daniel will be held at 6 PM this evening.
- **Christmas Services:** The following services will be celebrated in honor of the Great Feast of the Nativity:
  - December 24 – Royal Hours of Nativity (8 AM), Vespers Liturgy (10 AM)
  - December 25 – Festal Orthros (8:25 AM), Festal Liturgy (9:30 AM)
- **Church Decoration:** Our church beautification for the Nativity and Theophany will include poinsettias this year. If able to do so, we would like each family to consider bringing one poinsettia to be placed before the iconostasis. The church will be decorated on December 23 after services; volunteers are welcome.
- **Orthodoxy 101:** The final class in the current series will meet this Saturday (December 22) at 4 PM.
- **Advent Fast:** The fast is divided into two periods: From November 15-December 19, the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, or olive oil) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, with katalysis (allowance) for wine and olive oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays. During the period of the Forefast (December 20-24), the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday-Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday.
- **Church Calendars:** Calendars for 2019 are now available in the narthex.

## 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:** We are now collecting **canned fruit, boxed pasta, and spaghetti sauce**. Please place your donations in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!



# 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 Hierarch**

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 the Forefathers in Tone Two

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory, for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed – wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

### 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 of Preparation of Christ's Nativity in Tone Three

The Virgin cometh today to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, O earth, at the message; with the angels and shepherds give glory to Him Who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He Who is from eternity God.

## Prayer Requests

### LIVING:

Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Amira S., Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen Patrick B.; Catechumen David S.; Bp. Athanasius of Kenya (very ill); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Jeanne K. (tests); Erik (Joanna S.'s family); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Kathy A. (lung cancer); Marlan A.; Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Patty Y. (recovering from accident); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

### DEPARTED:

Aural (Jane S.'s aunt)  
Eleanor (Joanna S.'s family)  
Catherine  
Richard (Mitri D.'s family)  
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



Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

## Today's Scripture Readings

### THE EPISTLE

*The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians (3:4-11)*

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24)*

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

## Did you know ...

When your faith in the Lord, either during your life and prosperity, or in the time of sickness and at the moment of quitting this life, grows weak... then look with the mental eyes of your heart upon the companies of our forefathers, the patriarchs, prophets, and righteous ones: St. Simeon, who took the Lord up in his arms, Job, Anna the Prophetess, and others; the Apostles, prelates, venerable Fathers, martyrs, the disinterested, the righteous, and all the saints.

See how, both during their earthly life and at the time of their departure from this life, they unceasingly looked to God and died in the hope of the resurrection and of the life eternal, and strive to imitate them. These living examples, which are so numerous, are capable to strengthen the wavering faith of every Christian in the Lord and in the future life.



St. John of Kronstadt

