

Christ is in our midst! He is and shall be!

Happy Labor Day Weekend! God bless America!

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos 2022

Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross 2022

Beloved brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, God-fearing Monastics, and all my Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ our True God:

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be shaken;
God shall help her right early in the morning.

As we begin the new ecclesiastical year, the first two Great Feasts approach us quickly. On September 8th, we celebrate the birth of the Mother of God (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos), and on September 14th we celebrate the finding of the true Cross on which Jesus was crucified by St. Helen in Jerusalem in 326 AD, as well as its recovery in 627 AD (Exaltation of the Holy Cross).

St. Photios the Great, in his Homily on the Nativity of our Most-Holy Lady, the Mother of God, writes, "The present feast honoring the birth of the Virgin Mother of God easily carries off the glittering prize of seniority against every competitor... for without the Virgin's feast none of those that sprang out would appear... The Virgin's feast, in fulfilling the function of the root, the source, the foundation...takes on with good reason the ornament of all those other feasts, and it is conspicuous with many great boons, and is recognized as the day of universal salvation."

Indeed, without the birth of the Virgin Mary to Sts. Joachim and Anna, there would be no incarnation, no redemption, no resurrection, no ascension, no salvation. She is as integral to the work of God in the world, as the venerable and life-giving Cross. For it was only of her that we can rightly hymn,

"Here will I dwell, for I have chosen her. The Most High hath hallowed His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, wonderful in righteousness." (Third Antiphon for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos).

St. Photios continues, "The Lord's throne (Mary) is being prepared on earth, earthly things are sanctified, the heavenly hosts are mingled with us, and the wicked one, who first deceived us, has his power crushed, as his wiles and devices rot away." In the megalynarion of the Feast of the Holy Cross, we hymn, "O Theotokos, thou art a mystical paradise, which being untilled hath blossomed forth Christ, by Whom the life-bringing Tree of the Cross was planted in the earth. In worshipping Him now through its elevation, thee do we magnify."

The image of the 'life-giving Tree of the Cross' draws our minds back to the Tree of Life which was planted in the middle of Garden of Eden, and forward, in the vision of the New Jerusalem, in which we once again find the Tree of Life bearing twelve fruits, one each month, and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:1-2). The Holy Fathers remind us that the Tree of Life is our great God and Savior Jesus Christ who gives everlasting life, and who brings healing to the curse of sin and freedom from the bonds of death and the devil through His precious and life-giving cross. Therefore, "we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

As we celebrate the Feasts of the Nativity of the Theotokos and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us embrace the purity of the Virgin and the power of the Cross as our vision for life and godliness. Let us lay down the carnal and temporal pleasures of this life, which fade so quickly, to embrace the One who is our salvation through the triumph of the Holy Cross.

May you find great joy in this new ecclesiastical year as you orient your life more fully in the feasts and fasts of the Church, and through them, to draw near to Christ and His Saints. Blessed Feasts!

Yours in Christ,
Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS (Joseph)
Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Oakland, Charleston, and the Mid-Atlantic

Just one week to our "Memorial Meal" - September 11, 2022.

It's our first 'normal' post-Covid community activity.

It's time to volunteer for the work that needs to be done.

(It's not as time/work intensive as past events.)

So step forward and say 'yes' when asked to join the work effort.

Thank you to everyone who helped make grape leaves last Thursday.

You rolled 1,280!

(More details on this event may be found in the long-term calendar far below.)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

The Ukraine Crisis

<https://iocc.org/blog/category/where-we-serve/ukraine>

Ukrainian Relief Dinner - Sunday, September 25, 2022

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Oakland

Tickets now available from Raymounda.

All the canvas bags have been picked up to participate in the **School Kit Program** to benefit children in Ukraine.
Thank you! (Please return filled bags immediately.)
(In 2014 we filled 25 bags. This year we have distributed 80!)

Church School continues this Sunday, September 4.
The book 101 Orthodox Saints has been gifted to each of our students.
Parents, please train your children to bring to Church School and bring this book back home with them each week.
(Next week, September 11, there will be no Church School as we receive our guests for the "9/11 Memorial Meal.")

Remember that children and their teachers depart for their classrooms right after they receive Holy Communion.

There will be no snacks provided - BYOSnacks or join in Fellowship Hour when class is over.

It is never too late to register a student.

We are always recruiting volunteers in support of our Church School Program.

Speak with Kh. Melanie about either of those matters or anything else pertaining to Church School.

(Please remember that active participation in our Church School Program is required for a child to receive a St. Michael's scholarship to Antiochian Village.)

dial **988** --- *Suicide & Crisis Lifeline* --- **988** dial

We're trying to locate a cobalt blue, ginger jar flower vase, last seen in the church. Let Fr. John know if you have a clue to where it is.

*"Off the Wall" = 3 minutes and 3 thoughts
on a Saint(s) in communion with us
"on the walls" of our church.*

This will happen at the end of the sermon.

Post-Sermon, our children will remain in the front pews until they receive Holy Communion and are dismissed to Church School.

Schedule of Services and Church Events

(Check this calendar for Usher, Fellowship Hour and lock-up schedules.)

Secretary Debbie will be in the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

SUNDAY, September 4

Ushers - Sara Armanious, Gust Flizanes, Wayne Macuga, Michele Murray, Joe Gazal)

8:45 AM - ORTHROS

10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY *(may we strive to arrive early)*

"Off the Wall" - St. Kassiani the Hymnographer (9/7)

- Church School follows Holy Communion

- Fellowship Hour (weekly coordinator - Raymounda Chaho)

- Thanks to Violet Kharma and Ruwaidah Munirji for hosting today.

(Lock-up - Donald Yoder - (we lock all but the church entry double-doors by 10:15))

MONDAY, September 5

9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY - Zacharias and Elizabeth

TUESDAY, September 6

9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY - Miracle of the Archangel Michael

WEDNESDAY, September 7

4:45 PM - FESTAL ORTHROS - Nativity of the Theotokos

6:00 PM - DIVINE LITURGY - Nativity of the Theotokos

FRIDAY, September 9

9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY - Joachim and Anna

SATURDAY, September 10

6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

SUNDAY, September 11

Ushers - Sara Armanious, Gust Flizanes, Wayne Macuga, Michele Murray, Elias Memari)

8:45 AM - ORTHROS

10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY *(may we strive to arrive early)*

"Off the Wall" - Nativity of the Theotokos; Joachim & Anna

- **NO** Church School today

- Fellowship Hour (weekly coordinator - Raymounda Chaho)

12:00 PM to 4 PM - 9/11 Memorial Meal. *(If you would read names at the Memorial, come into the church between 12 and 4.)*

(Lock-up - Christina Armanious - (we lock all but the church entry double-doors by 10:15))

*Confessions are heard when scheduled on calendar,
by appointment in church, or by visit.
Call Fr. John at (724) 244-1228.*

AT DIVINE LITURGY, among others, we will be praying for... (bold=recently added)

...ADEL & SARA Armanious, Mat. SOPHIE Daniels, THOMAS Abraham, MARY Andrews, CHRISTIAN & NICHOLAS Bell (Melanie's sons), MARGARITA (Peggy) Bolha, BRADY Byers, GREGORY Cervo, HELEN Ciavarra (*Valerie Flizanes' mother*), JILLIAN Crowe, JAMES Dayoob, VERA Dydiw, MICHAEL Evans, MICHAEL Hamwey, RONALD and JOANNE Hasnauer, CAROLYN Hill, BONNIE Koury, SAMUEL Koury, KARIM Khalil, CJ Kudlik, IDA Langer, NATHANIEL McNicol, HEATHER, KARIN & DALE Personett, SAM Nataros (*Jennifer Sacksen's brother*), FRANK Porembka, NICOLE Rosado, NICK Senuta, JACK Copeland (*father of Kh. Melanie, Melinda Copeland, Stephanie Heydorn*), BERNADETTE Brietinger (*wife of friend of Jeff Stewart*), ANTHONY

& JILLIAN Crowe, baby JOSEPH PAUL Cervo and parents JOSEPH & ANGELINA; ROB Newton, DINA Papas, PAULETTE & THOMAS Sproch, LEO Szymkowiak, PAULETTE Weiss, LEILA Zakhary, CINDY & ROBERT Stupak (*cancer and Parkinson's; Janet Mochak's sister and bro-in-law*)... that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation.

...birthday celebrants --- THOMAS Abraham (9/4), WILLIAM Eger (9/5), CARL Miller (9/5), LUKE Miller (9/6), ABRAHAM Nseir (9/6), LISA Evangelist (9/7), ELIAS Memari (9/8), MEGAN Senuta (9/9), ROBERT Gunther (9/10), LANA Lindauer (9/10). God grant them many years!

...wedding anniversary celebrants --- DONALD and NANCY Yoder (9/4), ELIZABETH (Elias) and RALPH Ferrell (9/5), SHAYNA and ANTHONY Kostka (9/5), VICKY and STEPHEN Summers (9/6), THOMAS and MARY Andrews (9/7), JAMES and CATHY Varsamis (9/8), NICHOLAS and MARY Senuta (9/10). God grant them many years!

...baptism/chrismation celebrants --- KRISTIN Mochak (9/4), KATELYN Hill (9/4). God grant them many years!

MANY YEARS and WELCOME BACK to mom LAUREN, baby JORDAN, dad TIMOTHY and big brother BENJAMIN Armanious on mom's and baby's Churching this morning. God bless all of the Armanious and Shaheen family on this day!

WE WILL REMEMBER THE DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD... Metropolitan PHILIP, Bishop ANTOUN, Archimandrite GEORGE, Protopresbyter GEORGE Livanos, Kh. STEFANIE Yazge. May their memories be eternal.

PRAYERS OF OBLATION ARE OFFERED...

...in memory of newly departed Metropolitan KALLISTOS Ware (+8/24).

...in memory of Archpriest JOHN Reeves (+8/22) by Constance Volchko.

...in memory of MARY Joseph by Dolly Maruschock.

...in memory of RACHEL Ferguson by the Armanious family.

...in memory of CATHERINE Romanus by Gus and Valerie Flizanes.

...in memory of JOHN Mansour by Rich and Harriet Mirilovich.

...in memory of FRED Charles by Jeffrey and Donna Slyman;

Chad, Nikki and Aldo Slyman; Joel and Katelyn Slyman;

Rebecca Slyman.

...in memory of HELEN Porembka by Rich and Harriet Mirilovich.

...in memory of DIANA Roberts by Dina Papas.

...in memory of IRENE Papas by Dina Papas.

...in memory of BETTY Joseph (+8/24) by Dina Papas.

...in memory of MICHAEL Miller (8/25) by Dina Papas.

...in memory of ANNA Kudlik by CJ Kudlik.

...in memory of parents MARIETTE and GEORGE Charabaty
by Zina Maalouff.

...in memory of DAVID A. Mirilovich (Flt 427) by Rich and Harriet Mirilovich.

...for the health of JUSTIN Mirilovich by Rich and Harriet Mirilovich.

...by Michaelene McWhinney for God's protection and blessings on her son-in-law, RUSSELL DeMaily, as he travels to Ukraine with the Medical Corps from Massachusetts General Hospital to work in trauma units there.

...for the health of SOFIA, ALEKSANDER, TATIANA, RYAN, YEKATERINA, DANIIL, ALEKSEY, TAMARA, ELEONORA and CHAD

by Tatiana Lucas.
...in memory of REBA, IVAN, MARIE, HAZE, LYUDMILA, EGVENIY,
SERAFIMA, HERBERT, YAKOV, VADIM, TATIANA, VASILEY
by Tatiana Lucas.

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, MEMORIAL PRAYERS WILL BE PRAYED

for the following people who departed this life in Septembers past ---
--- **DEMETRIUS** Keller (9/2/2011), **AMELIA** Mansour (9/3/1997),
NAFILEY Monsour (9/3/1990), **MARIAN** Rantovich (9/3/2005),
DEBRA DelVittoGamble (9/4/2020), **JOAN** Plishka (9/7/2021),
NORMAN McWhinney (9/8/2017), **DAVID A.** Mirilovich (9/8/1994).
JOSEPH Rebitch (9/8/2020), **DONALD** Wilson (9/8/1994)
RUTH Solomon (9/10/1998), **MICHAEL** Farrah (9/13/1999),
RUTH Matovich (9/14/1999), **PAUL** Mauer (9/17/2014),
WILLIAM J. Smolcic (9/20/2015), **THEODORE** Manos (9/21/1998),
JOSEPH McGonigle (9/21/2013), **MARY** Mirilovich (9/22/2002),
ELIZABETH Nosal (9/23/2021), **DEREK** Yoder (9/23/2020),
MANNY Stoupis (9/25/14), **SHIRLEY** Eakin (9/24/2020),
EMMA Anton (9/27/2002), **JOHN B.** Wagner (9/27/15),
STEPHANIE Schultz (9/28/96), **SOPHIE** Belch (9/29/2000).

To add to the memorial list, call (724) 834-1311 and leave the name and date.

Raymounda coordinates the 2022 Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule. Call or text Raymounda - (412) 558-5877 - and leave your NAME, NUMBER and DATE(s) you'd like to reserve. *Realizing that hosting a Fellowship Hour may be financially difficult for some of us, let that not be a reason for feeling unable to support our weekly Sunday post-Divine Liturgy time with each other. Everyone is always encouraged to step up and into the kitchen to find out how they can help!*

THINGS TO REMEMBER and THINGS WE NEED...

...WE WILL BE INSTALLING A SECURITY SYSTEM (cameras, etc.) in the near future. *If anyone has an 'extra' tablet or iPad or a computer monitor that they would donate (3 years old or newer), those items could reduce our expense.*

...CALEB'S CUPBOARD (our 'memorial hallway' collection bin for people in need) is still an active ministry of our church.

...PHONE CALLERS. Pete Papas is reviving our Phone Tree Team for emergent information to be passed along to those who are not regular users of email. See Pete to be part of the calling team or to add your name to the roster of those who'd like to be called.

...BREAD BAKERS AND WHEAT MAKERS. Leave your name and number on the church voicemail (724-834-1311) and we will contact you regarding the details of what you'd have to know and do.

...USHERS. See Fr. John or Gust Flizanes to sign up to serve.

...IDEAS for Fund-raising (and people to act on their ideas). For support, direction and coordination regarding your ideas, speak with Elias Memari (724-244-3055) or Stephanie Heydorn (724-216-7866). **Thank you to Elias and Stephanie for their willingness to be Fund-Raising Co-Coordinators.** They will take on the task of helping to break inertia and give momentum to the return of active fund-raising events to our financial and budgetary plan.

...INFORM THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN whenever we might be intending to use the kitchen, to make sure no one else has scheduled to use it.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ALL THE TIME...

...BE ON TIME for church; **BE QUIET** in church, except when singing ; -)

...WHEN IT'S TIME FOR COMMUNION - Watch for direction from an usher when to proceed up the center aisle:

- 1) Church School/Children go first so they can get to class;
- 2) two center sections follow the children, then the "wing" sections;
- 3) rear section of sitters and standers.

...REMEMBER TO CROSS YOUR ARMS, right over left on your chest, and keep them crossed from the time you get in line until you reach to pick up a piece of the antidoron, the post-Communion holy bread. (This helps avoid any 'bump' accidents at the chalice. This is one time we refrain from blessing ourselves. **Say your name** as you come to stand before the priest.

...BEFORE IT'S TIME FOR COMMUNION - Be aware that regular Confession is understood to be a prerequisite act of our receiving the Precious and Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Besides fasting from eating or drinking anything on the day will Commune, our spiritual preparation is completed with prayer and *periodic participation in the Sacrament of Confession (at least during the Advent and Paschal fasts).*

LONG TERM CALENDAR (UPCOMING DATES to Remember)

- **Saturday, Sept. 10, 7 am -** Final "Paths of Righteousness" Hike
Call or text Pete Papas (724-558-1246) to RSVP or ask questions

- **Sunday, September 11, 12 pm to 4 pm -**

St. Michael's "We Remember..."

Memorial Service with name-by-name remembrance

Memorial Meal - 1) grilled lamb-ke-bab, green beans & rice - \$20

2) Frozen ethnic foods will also be available to purchase ---

grape leaves, kibbee, meat pies, spanakopita, pastitsio, etc.

3) and a Gyro Stand - \$8

All proceeds to benefit Sage's Army, Blackburn Center and South Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Pick up "Meal" flyers for posting, outside the church entrance.

- **Sunday, September 16-19** - Adult Camp at Antiochian Village
<https://avcamp.org/other-programs/adult-camp/>
- **Sunday, September 18** - Antiochian Women's Meeting
- **Sunday, September 25** - IOCC "Ukrainian Relief" Dinner
Prayer Service - 4:00 PM Dinner - 5:00 PM
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Pittsburgh
Raymounda has tickets (we received a block of 20)
- **Stewardship Days** - October and November
- **Thursday, Nov 10 - Sun, Nov 13** - Ancient Faith Women's Retreat
at Antiochian Village

REGISTER NOW!

Info/Registration at <https://store.ancientfaith.com/2022-afwr>

- **Sunday, December 4** - Annual General Parish Meeting
-

- Parish Council Members -

(year designates final year of term)

Sara Armanious '23 (*Chair*), **Christine** Mansour '22 (*Vice-Chair*),
Samar Khalil '23 (*Treasurer*), **Joyce** Eger '23 (*Recording Secretary*),
Carolyn Hill '22 (*Corresponding Secretary*), **Raymounda** Chaho '24, **Andrew** Cuff
'24, **Christina** Armanious '24, **Michaelene** McWhinney '22, **Tom** Sproch '23, **Lisa** Stewart
'24, **Donald** Yoder '22.

UKRAINIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10 - 11 to 7:00 PM

Eat in, Take-out. MC/VISA accepted

Phone orders on event day - 412-276-9718

Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

220 Mansfield Blvd., Carnegie, PA 15106

Info - 412-527-5359

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org