

“And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26

Church Bulletin

September 12, 2021

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of
North America*

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

V. Rev. Fr. Ananias Hakimeh

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Archdiocese Website: www.antiochian.org

Diocese Website: www.antiochianladiocese.org

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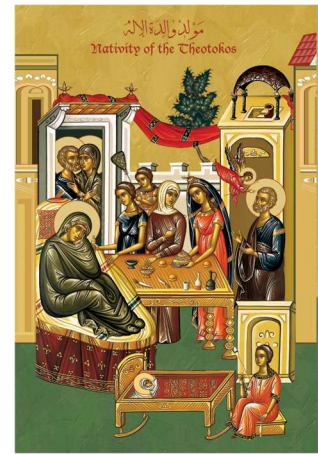
Tel: (949)829-3353

Sunday Orthros – 8:45 AM

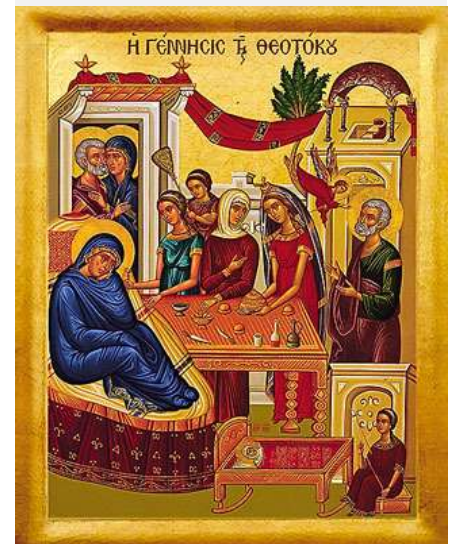
Sunday Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Weekday Evening Services – 6:30 PM

***The Feast of the
Nativity of the
Theotokos***



**Be mindful O Lord of our
Father Metropolitan JOSEPH**



September 12, 2021

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady

the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin

Mary

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest

Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls” (2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I Have Cried”, Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

Parish News

❖ This Sunday we are going to celebrate the 40 days memorial service of our brother

Fares Salem

May God Rest his soul

Online Meetings (Zoom) Weekly Schedule:

Wednesday	Spiritual Night -
Thursday	Ladies Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday	Weekday Service 6.30 pm
Biweekly Thursday	Youth Meeting -

† Ladies meeting discusses the living of our faith's topics (Thursday 6:30 pm).

† Kids Homily will be delivered on the first Sunday monthly.

† Wednesdays services are at 6:30pm.

† Abouna is open to minister the sacrament of confession for everyone on Wednesdays after the service.

† Treasurer Report for the month of July, 2021:

Income: \$11,719.00 / Expense: \$8,216.21 / Monthly Net: \$3,502.79

† Saba & Shirley's Building fund: \$0.00

2021 PARISH COUNCIL
OSCAR KHOURY - CHAIR
JAMES WADE - VICE-CHAIR
FOUAD HADWEH – TREASURER
NELLIE HADWEH
IDA SALEM
IBRAHIM JARROUJ

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

LADIES SOCIETY

CHOIR

SOYO

YOUNG ADULTS

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

BUILDING COMMITTEE

MISSIONS COMMITTEE