ST MARY'S ASSUMPTION ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

Epistle Reading : St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1
Gospel Reading : Luke 5:1-11

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Fr. Mark Doku, Priest
Choir Director, Reader Lazi Danga
Pastoral Asst., Reader Pavlo Kurganov
Reader Jon Anderson
Reader John Sedares
Sunday School Director, Sandy Dionis

PARISH COUNCIL

Mark Dionis, President
Mark Johns, Vice President
Robert Laska, Treasurer
Brizida Danga, Council Secretary
Adela Tego
Dimitri Saffron
Reader John Sedares

WORSHIP

Saturday, September 26— NO Great Vespers

Sunday, September 27— First Sunday of Luke, Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Wednesday, September 30 — NO Paraklesis

Saturday, October 3— Great Vespers 5:00 pm

BAPTISMS

Nakollari/ Nguyen Baptism

Congratulations to Kristi Nakollari and Harry Nguyen whose child Rowan Augustine Nguyen was baptized on September 19. Sponsors are Aleksa & Stefan Nakillari.

Congratulations to Megan Callahan and Andrew Latino whose child Shea Riley Beverly Callahan was baptized on September 20. The sponsor is Paul Latino.

TRUSTING THE CALL: GOSPEL READING LUKE 5:1–11

September 27

Christ calls Simon Peter to cast his nets into deep waters, transforming ordinary daily labor into a divine mission. Divine mercy meets us in our everyday work, offering hope and refuge to the weary, the stranger, and all who seek sanctuary. This spirit of trust and dedication flourishes in our parish through the steadfast devotion, daily care, and leadership that our parishioners bring to our community. By answering Christ's call together, we cast wide our nets of love and bring His healing presence to a world in need.
-Courtesy Vestal Publishing

LIVESTREAM LINK FOR SUNDAY
will be emailed to our members

PRAYER FOR THE ORDINATION OF A SUBDEACON

Lord, our God, Who through the one and same Holy Spirit distribute gifts of grace to each one whom You have chosen; Who have given to the Church different orders; and have established different degrees of ministry therein for the service of Your holy, pure Mysteries; and Who through Your ineffable foreknowledge have ordained this Your servant (Name of candidate) worthy to serve in Your holy Church. Preserve him, Lord, uncondemned in all things.

Grant that he may love the beauty of Your house, standing before the doors of Your holy temple, and lighting the lamps of the dwelling place of Your glory. Plant him in Your holy Church like a fruitful olive tree bringing forth the fruits of righteousness. Make him Your perfect servant at the time of Your Second Coming, that he may receive the reward of those who are pleasing in Your sight.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and always, and to the ages of ages, Amen.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly of the Albanian Archdiocese in America will take place at St. George Albanian Orthodox Cathedral on Friday, September 25 and Saturday September 26. The representatives to the Annual Assembly from our parish are Parish Council Chair, Mark Dionis and elected delegates Tom Christo and Lazi Danga. Rdr. John Sedares is an Observer. The Annual Assembly addresses the financial and spiritual life of the Archdiocese and the parishes within our Archdiocese. This year, we are pleased to welcome representatives from the Albanian Orthodox Communities of Dallas, Texas, Washington, DC and Toronto, Canada. May God guide us in the administration of our Archdiocese!

On Saturday, prior to the Divine Liturgy, God willing, the Readers John Sedares and Jon Anderson from our parish will be ordained Sub-Deacons by the hand of His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim. We are grateful to God for this and we are glad to see our community thriving through many and various ministries! Many Years!

MEMORIAL

October 4
40 days - Shirley Pero
Grure and coffee hour are provided in loving memory by family.

Memory Eternal!

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:16-18; 7:1)

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (5:1-11)

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

CONTACT

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Office of Pastoral Life

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Fr. Mark will be away from Tuesday, September 28 and returning Friday evening, October 2. He will be attending the 2026 Pastoral Retreat hosted by the Office of Pastoral Life of the Orthodox Church in America. The retreat will take place in Mundelein, Chicago where he will join 4 of our Archdiocese priests who will also be attending. Nearly 100 priests throughout the country will gather together for a time of prayer, reflection and pastoral renewal. We are grateful to the Albanian Archdiocese for funding the retreat registration fee and transportation for the clergy of our Archdiocese.

Bible study will begin again on Wednesday, October 7. More information on the topic for discussion will be coming soon!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

VOLUNTEER TO HELP FEED THE STARVING CHILDREN

St. Mary's Sunday School Children and youth Group are invited to help

Date: **Friday October 9, 2026**

Where: St. George's Orthodox Cathedral
30 Anna Street Worcester

Time: **Friday 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

Volunteer age requirements

Please follow this student-to-adult ratio when registering to volunteer:

- For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed in our packing area **(sorry, no exceptions)**
- **Grades K-2:** 1 student to 1 adult*
- **Grades 3-6:** 3 students to 1 adult
- **Grades 7-12:** 4 students to 1 adult

Participate in a one-day event at our Sister Church St. George's Cathedral. Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands by packing nutritious meals for hungry children around the world.

I will make a reservation to volunteer for us as a group.

Please let me know if you would like to participate by October 5th

smcchurchschool@gmail.com

God's Work Our Hands

Volunteer Opportunity: Assistant Treasurer Needed

Are you good with numbers and looking for a meaningful way to serve our parish? We are seeking a trustworthy, detail-oriented volunteer to serve as our Assistant Treasurer. This vital stewardship role works directly with our Parish Treasurer to manage financial operations, count collections, and record donations using QuickBooks. Absolute confidentiality is a must. If you have experience with basic accounting or a willingness to learn, please consider offering your talents to support our community.

To learn more or express interest:
Please reach out directly to the parish priest or any member of the parish council.

4th Annual
Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 12, 2026
at 7:00 P.M.

Mark your calendars for our
4th Annual Christmas Concert on
Saturday, December 12, 2026,
at 7:00 P.M.!

Join us for a wonderful
evening filled with beautiful
Christmas music performed by
our St. Mary's Choir.
Be sure to invite your
loved ones to share in the
joy of the season.

St. Mary's Albanian Orthodox Church

SEMINARY? ME?

Whether you're considering attending seminary or have never visited one, you are invited this December! His Grace, Bishop Nikodhim, will be traveling to both St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's seminaries, and he invites you to consider coming along.

Get on the List

HOLY TRINITY
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

DATE: September 01, 2026

TO: Central Massachuse6s Orthodox Clergy & Parish Council Presidents

FROM: Sam Bitar, President
Eastern Orthodox Management Corporation

RE: **Notice of Annual Meeting of the General Assembly**

In accordance with the bylaws of the Eastern Orthodox Management Corporation (EOMC), which oversees Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and requires a 30-day advance notice, the 2026 Annual Meeting of the General Assembly is scheduled as follows: **Tuesday, October 06, 2026 at 7:00 PM.**

The meeting of the General Assembly will be held both at Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and via Zoom. To join via Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82290164801.
The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to hear reports and proposals presented by the Board of Directors, including a discussion of the Corporation's strategic plan and annual goals, and to review our organization's financial and operational performance for the previous year. In addition, the General Assembly shall nominate individuals to serve on the Corporation's Board of Directors.
All members of parishes located in Central Massachusetts and under the jurisdiction of a canonical Orthodox Church are warmly invited to attend the meeting. While broad attendance is encouraged, voting privileges are reserved for clergy of member parishes, and up to three (3) lay delegates per member parish, elected or appointed in accordance with each parish's established procedures. To help us prepare for the General Assembly, **we kindly ask each parish to submit the names and contact information of their elected delegates (up to three) to Sam Bitar no later than Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5:00 PM**

To ensure a smooth and timely start, we kindly ask all attendees to check in or log in by 6:55 PM. This allows us to address any technical issues in advance and begin promptly, as we have a full agenda to cover and want to be mindful of everyone's time. If you have specific questions you would like addressed during the meeting, please feel free to send them ahead of time to Sam Bitar at bitarsm@gmail.com.

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this information with your parish community. Please include it in all upcoming mailings, newsletters, and bulletins at your earliest convenience. We also kindly ask that you avoid scheduling conflicting parish events on the evening of the General Assembly.
Thank you for your continued support of our programs and facility. We look forward to seeing you on the 6!