

## From the Front Cover

The Gospel for this Sunday is prescribed for the 14th Sunday of Luke chapter 18:35-43, which tells of the blind beggar Bartimaeus, who laying by the road near Jericho hears a commotion of people as they were passing by. Bartimaeus asks what is happening to which the people say, Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. He then cries out, "Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me!", after which the people tell him to be quiet. He then cries out even louder: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus hearing his plea stops and asks that Bartimaeus be brought to him. He then asks Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind beggar answers Jesus saying, "that I may receive my sight." Jesus then says, "receive your sight, your faith has made you well" - After which, he followed Jesus, glorifying God!

The Fathers of the Church in their writings point out that although physically blind, the eyes of his soul were illumined by God's Grace because he had believed what he had heard from others about Jesus. The saints also lift up the blind beggar man Bartimaeus as an example of earnest and humble prayer. Each time we come to Christ in prayer, the Fathers teach us to come to Him as blind beggars and cry to Him, as Bartimaeus did, to receive new light day by day, glorifying God.

This Gospel lesson urges us to go to God in prayer and earnestly and persistently bring our physical and spiritual needs before Him.

It may be true we do not always receive what we ask for, but we must leave room for God to act in our lives according to His perfect will for us. Nevertheless, we do receive, a physical or spiritual healing, an unexpected solution to a personal problem, a new opportunity for reconciliation with someone, a renewed strength to face a distressful situation or some other blessing that we need. For Jesus' unfailing promise is that, "everyone who asks will receive, and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to him who knocks" (Matthew 7:8)



Jesus Christ healing the Blind Man near Jericho

# Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach

*A Parish of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast of the  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*

The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun, *Priest /Pastor*

Church Address: 1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
(561) 965-5007 (Church Office) (561) 632-7066 (Fr. Peter's Cellular)

Email: [stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net) Website: [stmaryschurchwpb.org](http://stmaryschurchwpb.org)

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, by appointment  
Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696

## Welcome!

Whether you are a parishioner or a visitor, we are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary's. As a friendly reminder, please observe the following upon entering the church for prayer.

- If you arrive after the services begin, try to enter the Church quietly and observe what is happening. Try not to interrupt the service by your entrance.
- Please silence your cellular telephones.
- Please place your offerings in the basket on the table in the Church Narthex (Entrance), or the Offering Tray when passed.
- You are invited join us in the Banquet Hall for coffee and refreshments following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.



"Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

1 Peter 5: 6-7



## Church Services at Saint Mary

- ♦ Sunday: Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
- ♦ Wednesday: Vespers at 6:30 PM
- ♦ Confessions: Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM; Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; or by appointment with Fr. Peter

## Tuesday, December 19th

Feast of Saint Ignatius of Antioch  
Vespersal Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM



## Schedule of Services for the Feast of the Nativity

### Friday, December 22nd

Great and Royal Hours for the Nativity at 9:00 AM

### Sunday, December 24th

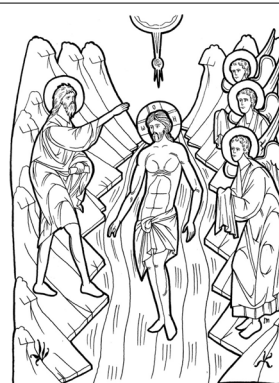
*(Morning – Sunday before the Nativity)*

Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

*(Christmas Eve - Feast of the Nativity of our Lord)*

Festal Matins at 6:45PM; Festal Divine Liturgy at 8:00 PM

*No Church Services on Christmas Day*



## Schedule of Services for Theophany

### Friday, January 5th

Great and Royal Hours for Theophany at 9:00 AM

### Saturday, January 6th

Festal Orthros at 8:45 AM

Festal Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Great Sanctification of Waters follow the Divine Liturgy

*Blessing of Homes begin Sunday, January 7th*

## The Mystery that is the Church

by Abbot Tryphon

### *The Corporate Nature of the Church is Essential to our Salvation*



It is impossible to live as a Christian without the Church because there is a certain emptiness in journeying into the Heart of God without fellow believers. If we hope to grow spiritually we must take advantage of the Mysteries that are found only within the Church. Without the Mystery of Penance, and the absolution of our sins by Christ through His Church, we have no hope of transformation and holiness.

Without the corporate life of the Church, our sins keep us captive. Without the Mystery of Christ's Body and Blood, received during the celebration of the Church's Divine Liturgy, the healing of the soul remains undone, and salvation is next to impossible.

The descent, the appearance, and the divine presence of the resurrected Christ in the Eucharist is central to every celebration of the Divine Liturgy. As believers, the partaking of Communion is actually that moment when we are encountering the living person of the Lord who enters the congregation as "King of the universe borne invisibly over their spears by the angelic hosts." This Eucharistic celebration is so central to the life of a Christian that it is the necessary component to even being a Christian.

*The Very. Rev. Abbot Tryphon is Igumen of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. This and other articles may be found on his website [abbottryphon.com](http://abbottryphon.com)*

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost & Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

+The Holy Prophet Zephaniah;

+Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos and Mamas;

+Venerable Theodoulos, Eparch of Constantinople;

+Venerable Theodoulos of Cyprus

### Divine Liturgy Variables for December 3rd

*The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated on this day. The service text may be found beginning on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews.*

- Sung during and immediately following the Entrance of the Gospels

#### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

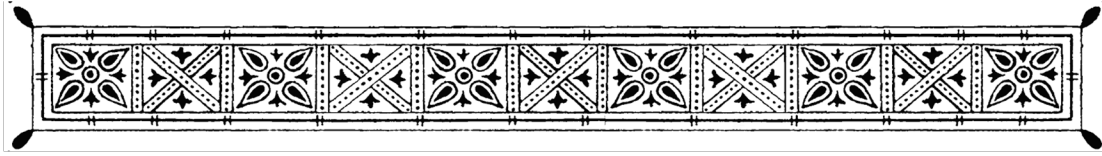
#### Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

#### Kontakion for the Preparation of the Nativity of Christ in Tone 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.





## THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

### The Epistle (For the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Verse: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (5:8-19)**

Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true—and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### الرسالة

### (لِلْأَحَدِ السَّادِسِ وَالْعَشْرِينَ بَعْدَ الْعَنْصَرَةِ)

لَتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتَكَ عَلَيْنَا، ابْتَهِجُوا أَيُّهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.

يا إخوة، أَسْلُكُوا كَأَوْلَادٍ لِلنُّورِ (فَإِنَّ ثَمَرَ الرُّوحِ هُوَ فِي كُلِّ صِلَاحٍ وَبِرٍّ وَحَقٍّ) مُخْتَبِرِينَ مَا هُوَ مَرْضِيٌّ لَدَى الرَّبِّ. وَلَا تَشْتَرِكُوا فِي أَعْمَالِ الظُّلْمَةِ غَيْرِ الْمُثْمَرَةِ بَلْ بِالْأُخْرَى وَبِخَوِ عَلَيْهَا. فَإِنَّ الْأَفْعَالَ الَّتِي يَفْعَلُونَهَا سِرًّا يَقْبُحُ ذِكْرُهَا أَيْضًا. لَكِنَّ كُلَّ مَا يُوَبِّخُ عَلَيْهِ يُعْلَنُ بِالنُّورِ. فَإِنَّ كُلَّ مَا يُعْلَنُ هُوَ نُورٌ. وَلِذَلِكَ يَقُولُ اسْتَيْقِظْ أَيُّهَا النَّائِمُ وَقُمْ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأُمُوتِ فَيُضِيءَ لَكَ الْمَسِيحُ. فَانظُرُوا إِنَّ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا بِحَذَرٍ لَا كَجُهْلَاءَ بَلْ كَحُكَمَاءَ. مَفْتَدِينَ الْوَقْتَ فَإِنَّ الْأَيَّامَ شَرِيرَةٌ. فَلِذَلِكَ لَا تَكُونُوا أَغْبِيَاءَ بَلْ أَفْهَمُوا مَا مَشِيئَةُ الرَّبِّ. وَلَا تَسْكُرُوا بِالْخَمْرِ الَّتِي فِيهَا الدَّعَارَةُ بَلْ امْتَلَأُوا بِالرُّوحِ. مَكَلِّمِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا بِمَزَامِيرَ وَتَسَابِيحَ وَأَغَانِي رُوحِيَّةٍ مُرْتَمِينَ وَمُرْتَلِينَ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ لِلرَّبِّ.

### Saint Barbara Celebration

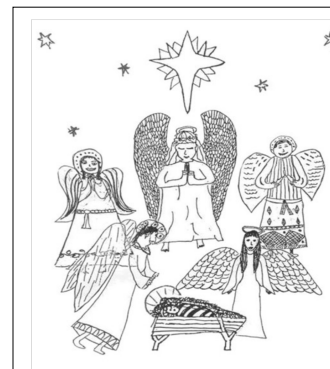
The Feast of Saint Barbara, or Eid il-Burbara or (Arabic: عيد البربارة), is celebrated on December 4th. The Great Martyr Barbara suffered persecution in the early 4th Century. While fleeing from her persecutors, Saint Barbara would disguise herself as many different characters to elude her captors. She ran through freshly planted wheat fields, which grew instantly to cover her path. This miracle is celebrated symbolically by planting wheat seeds in cotton wool on her feast day. The

seeds germinate and grow up to around six inches in time for Christmas, when the shoots are used to decorate the Nativity scene usually placed below the Christmas Tree.

On Sunday, December 3rd, Saint Mary's will celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara in the hall following the Divine Liturgy.

- ♦ Children and Adults may wear costumes (please use good taste: nothing scary, ghoulish, be original – homemade costumes are the best).
- ♦ Traditional foods will be available; 'Burbara,' a bowl of boiled wheat grains, pomegranate seeds, raisins, anise, and sugar; 'Awamat,' sweet fried dough.
- ♦ Treats and 'Christmas Movie' for the children.
- ♦ An early visit from Santa.

Pass the word and join us for this traditional celebration of the life of the Great Martyr Barbara.



### Christmas Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 17th

*In the church immediately following the Divine Liturgy*

*Presented by  
Our Sunday School Children, with assistance  
from our Choir and Parents.*



### Ladies Christmas Dinner

The Ladies Society Christmas Dinner will be at Grande Bella Cucina (4580 Donald Ross Rd, Palm Beach Gardens., on Friday, December 15th, at 6:30 PM. The dinner will include a choice of: Fish of the Day, Shrimp Scampi, Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmesan, Lasagna (Bolognese or Veggie); Salad; Dessert; a glass of Wine or Soda. The cost is \$33.00 (includes taxes and gratuity). To reserve a spot, please see Carol Sara.

### Thank You!

This Thanksgiving, our church community provided 30+ boxes of non perishable food items, and gifts cards to the YMCA 'Harmony House,' who working together with the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, care for abused women and their children. Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed in their donations and helped in assembling the Thanksgiving Boxes.

### Online Donations

Thank you for your continued donations to your Saint Mary's Church. In addition to giving by Sunday Offering Envelopes, or by mail, the church offers Zelle as an online means of fulfilling your '**Annual Pledge.**' To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to: [stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com).

In addition to making donations toward your annual pledge to the church, you may also donate towards our ongoing church facilities renovations, and various ministries.

Paypal continues as an option for those who wish to donate online.

For questions and information, please speak with our Parish Council Treasurer Sam Pasley.



### Volunteers Are Needed!

On Sunday, December 3rd, the Christmas Trees that adorn our church for the Nativity Season will be put up and decorated following the Divine Liturgy.

If you wish to volunteer, please se Khouryia Myriam.

### The Gospel (For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

#### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

### الإنجيل (للاحد الرابع عشر من لوقا)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ .

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ بِالْقُرْبِ مِنْ أَرِيخَا، كَانَ أَعْمَى جَالِسًا عَلَى الطَّرِيقِ يَسْتَعْطِي. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْجَمْعَ فَرَجَرَهُ «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!» فَأُخْبِرَ بَأَنَّ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيَّ عَابِرٌ. فَصَرَخَ قَائِلًا: «مَا هَذَا؟» مُجْتَازًا سَأَلَ: مَاذَا «الْمُتَقَدِّمُونَ لَيْسُكَتْ، فَارْدَادَ صُرَاخًا: «يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ، ارْحَمْنِي!» فَوَقَّفَ يَسُوعُ وَأَمَرَ أَنْ يُقَدَّمَ إِلَيْهِ. فَلَمَّا قَرُبَ سَأَلَهُ: وَفِي الْحَالِ أَبْصَرَ، . «أَبْصِرْ. إِيْمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَّصَكَ» قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «يَارَبُّ أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!» فَقَالَ: «شَرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟ وَتَبِعَهُ وَهُوَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ. وَجَمِيعُ الشَّعْبِ إِذْ رَأَوْا سَبَّحُوا اللَّهَ.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

*After receiving Communion, please read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving After Holy Communion' on pages 128-131 in the Red Service Book in the pews.*

## The Nativity Fast

From November 15th until December 24th, the Orthodox Church observes the Nativity Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this period, we are called to do our best to fast, increase our daily prayers, and remember those in need in our almsgiving.

## This Sunday (December 3rd)

### Weekly Altar Candle

◊ In glory of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*If you would like to offer a Weekly Altar Candle, or Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy, please speak with Fr. Peter.*

### Fr. Peter's Children's Sermon

Prior to Communion, Fr. Peter will offer his monthly Children's Sermon. All children are invited to come to the front of the church to participate.

### Sunday School Classes

Sunday School Classes following Communion.

### Christmas/Nativity Play Practice

Practice for this year's Christmas Nativity Play will be today following the Divine Liturgy. This, and all practices will be held in the church. This year's pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th.

### Saint Barbara Celebration

During Coffee Hall. Please read the enclosed information in this bulletin.

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

### For the Living

*"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5: 14*

*For the Good Health of the Servants of God:* Archpriest Michael & Matushka Annette Zaparyniuk, Michael, Archpriest Maximos Saikaley, Priest Andrew Short, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhoub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhoub, Raouf Saballeil, Sabah, Craig Miller, Emma, George, Lama Chalhoub, George.

*For the Shut-ins of our Church Community:* Gloria Yedlinsky, Lidia Pawlcuk, Zakia Salloum.

For peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine.

For all Christians and people suffering from violence, war, persecution, captivity, hunger, and homelessness throughout this world.

*For those serving in our armed forces here and abroad:* Christopher Smith, Jonathan Shportun, Alexios Gavrilos.

### For the Departed

*"With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest O Lord to the souls of Thy servants..."*

Gail Camileri (6/26/23), Angie Smith (6/23/23), Archdeacon Joseph Harb (3/8/23).

## Seven Day Prayer Candles

*\*\*When offering a Seven Day Prayer Candle, please list only the names that you are praying for, and are asking the church community to pray for. Please do not include greetings, birthday and anniversary wishes, etc.*



## Weekly Spiritual Discussion

Thank you to everyone who have participated in the Spiritual Discussions led by Fr. Peter on Wednesday's following the Vespers Service. The participation in the discussion grow in number each week. The topics covered the past several weeks have been: *Realizing Christ within us; Making Room for God through Prayer; Achieving Holiness; Give us this Day our Daily Bread; The Understanding of Sin; Where Does Sin Come From?; Recovery from Sin; Overcoming Habitual Sins.*