

ascetic labors of the holy Forty Days Fast, in accordance with its purpose. Let us use it to contemplate the great mercy of God for people and for each person who wishes to make peace with God and unite with Him through true repentance. Our time in this earthly life is priceless; for during this time, we decide our eternal lot. May we be vouchsafed to decide our eternal lot unto our salvation, and to our joy! May our rejoicing be endless! May it be joined to the rejoicing of the holy Angels of God! May the joy of Angels and men be fulfilled and made perfect through their fulfilling the will of the Heavenly Father! For, *it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones—human beings, deprecated and humiliated by sin—should perish* (Mt. 18:14). Amen.

+Saint Ignatius Brianchaninov



“He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling.”  
1 John 2:11

**Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule:**

*Sunday Services: Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM  
Wednesday and Saturday Vespers Service at 6:30 PM*

**Confessions:**

*Saturday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM;  
Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; By appointment with Fr. Peter.*

**Sunday School Classes:**

*For all children between the ages of 3 and 12 years, each Sunday immediately following Communion.*

**Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, FL**

The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun (Pastor/Priest)

Telephones: 561. 965-5007 (Church Office) 561.632-7066 (Fr. Peter's Cellular)

Website: [www.stmaryschurchwpb.org](http://www.stmaryschurchwpb.org)

Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696

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



# Sunday Worship Guide and Bulletin

February 16, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

We are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary Orthodox Church. Today, THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM is celebrated. The service text begins on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

## DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES FOR FEBRUARY 16th

- *During the Little Entrance, the Resurrectional Apolytikion is sung. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is “O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead...” After the Little Entrance, these hymns are sung in the following order:*

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

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 FOR THE CHURCH (Dormition of the Theotokos) IN TONE ONE  
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 PRODIGAL SON IN TONE THREE

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.

### THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

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

### The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

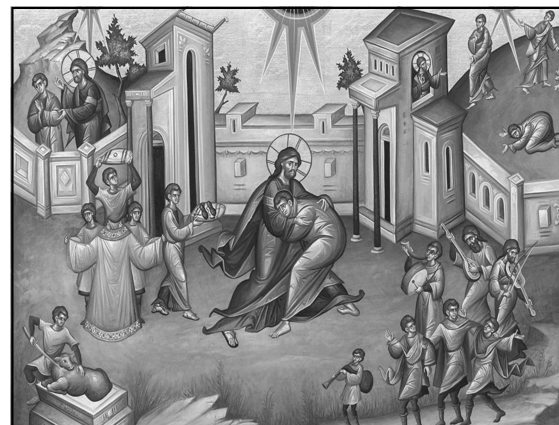
### THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And

### The Prodigal Son



We learn from the Parable of the Prodigal Son that for successful and fruitful repentance, a man needs to provide on his part: seeing his own sin, recognizing it, repenting of it, and confession of it. God sees a person who has made this pledge in heart while he is yet *a long way off*; He sees him and runs to meet him, embraces and kisses him with His grace. No sooner had the penitent pronounced his confession of his sin than the merciful Lord commanded the slaves—the servants of the altar and the

holy Angels—to clothe him in bright garments of purity, to place his ring upon his finger as a testimony of his renewed union with the Church both on earth and in heaven, and to place shoes upon his feet, so that his actions would be protected from spiritual thorns by steadfast ordinances, for that is the meaning of the shoes—Christ's commandments. To complete the action of love, a feast of love is held for the returned son, for which a fatted calf is killed. This feast signifies the Church feast to which the sinner is invited once he has made his peace with God—the spiritual, incorruptible food and drink—Christ—promised long ago to mankind, prepared through the unspeakable mercy of God for fallen man from the very moment of his fall.

The parable is a divine teaching! It is deep and exalted, regardless of the extraordinary simplicity of the human words in which God's Word deigned to be clothed! The holy Church most wisely ordained that this parable be read to all before the beginning of the coming Forty Days Fast. What more consoling news could there be for a sinner who stands trembling before the doors of repentance than this news about the Heavenly Father's infinite and unspeakable mercy for repentant sinners? This mercy is so great that it amazed the very Angels—the first-born sons of the Heavenly Father, who had never transgressed a single commandment of His. Their bright, lofty minds could not fathom the unfathomable mercy of God for fallen mankind. They needed a revelation from on High regarding this subject, and they learned from this revelation that it is meet for them to *make merry, and be glad, for their lesser brother—the human race—was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found*, through the Redeemer. *There is joy in the presence of the angels of God even over one sinner that repenteth.*

Let us make use of the time appointed by the holy Church to prepare ourselves for the

*Continued on the next page >*

### TIME TO HAVE YOUR HOME BLESSED!

Each year following the Feast of Theophany, it is the tradition of the Orthodox Church to have the priest come and bless our homes. Through the prayers and by the sprinkling of Holy Water blessed on Theophany, the priest invokes God's blessings and protection upon the home and those who live in it, consecrating to God.

To schedule a Home Blessing, you may contact Fr. Peter by doing one of the following:

- \*Telephone or Text (Fr. Peter's cellular # is 561.632-7066)
- \*Email at frpshport@gmail.com
- \*Speak to him following services or during Coffee Hour

When the Fr. Peter comes, please have as many family members present as possible. On a table include an icon and a lit candle; a list of names (living and departed) you want Fr. Peter to pray for. You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) This is also a wonderful time for you and Fr. Peter to visit. (Note: It is not expected to feed Fr. Peter unless prior arrangements are made).

Fr. Peter will continue to bless homes through February 28th.

### ALTAR SERVERS

We are looking to add Altar Servers to assist during the Divine Liturgy and feast day services. All young men of the church from the age 7 years and up are welcome to serve. Please speak to Fr. Peter or Sam Pasley for more information.

### ONLINE OFFERINGS

Online Offerings to Saint Mary's may be made by Paypal or 'Zelle' as a means of fulfilling your 2025 Annual Giving. To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to: [stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com). Should you have any questions, or need further information about giving opportunities at Saint Mary's, please speak to our Parish Council Treasurer Sam Pasley.

### HELP WANTED!

Quite often there are ministries to fulfill and unnoticed needs to be met. The following is in need of your help.

- ♦ **Greeting Team** who will warmly welcome and first time newcomers/visitors and parishioners as they enter the church. The ideal member of the **Greeting Team** is one who is familiar with the church community and can identify visitors.
- ♦ **Bookstore Ministry** is in need of volunteers on Sunday's to help with the bookstore located in the church narthex.

Those interested in volunteering to "help out," please speak with Fr. Peter.

they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

- *The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom continues as usual.*
- *After receiving Communion, please read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion' on pages 128-131 in the Red Service Book.*
- *Sunday School Classes are held each Sunday morning following Communion. Please allow the children to receive Communion first in order that classes may begin promptly.*

### CHURCHING

Church and Blessing of Paul Assaf, son of Charbel Assaf and Andrea Torbey.

### OFFERINGS

#### HOLY BREAD

- Offered for the health and well-being of Valerica, Daniela, Andrei, Rachel, Fr. Gherman, Petru, Sarah, Basil, Lucia, Maria, Ioana, Joachim.

#### ALTAR VIGIL CANDLE

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

### YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

#### 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 Zapyrniuk, Michael, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Leon & Judy Chalhoub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhoub, Raouf & Virginie Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Natalia Powell, Cheryl Lewis, Alice Yazbeck.*

For peace in the Middle East, the Ukraine and throughout the world.

For all Christians, and people suffering from violence, war, persecution, captivity, hunger, and homelessness here and 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...”*

Ethan Densley (newly departed 2/3/25), Zakia Salloum (newly departed 1/16/25), Roula Janin (1/13/25), Gloria Yedlinsky (1/1/25), Jodet Rae (8/4/24), George Souaid (7/7/24), Alice (Esper) Kelly (6/13/24), Elia Jabbour (6/6/24).

#### COFFEE HOUR

A beautiful way to celebrate an occasion, honor a loved one's memory or simply show your love for Saint Mary's is to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. It is also a great way to contribute to our parish fellowship. Coffee Hour hosts are needed for the coming months. Coffee Hours need not be extravagant, - muffins, donuts, fruits and drinks (the church will provide the coffee). Please speak with Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam for more details and to host a Coffee Hour.

Today's Coffee Hour is the 'International Luncheon.'

#### UPCOMING AT SAINT MARY'S

##### LADIES SOCIETY MEETING

Today at 11:45 PM, in the Banquet Hall.

##### PARENTS AND CHILDREN VISITING THE ZOO

Today, our Parents Group is sponsoring an outing for children and their parents to Palm Beach Zoo following next Sunday's International Luncheon . If you have not done so already, please speak to Pamela Weidmann to indicate your participation.

##### SOUL (MEATFARE) SATURDAY DIVINE LITURGY AND TRISAGION (MEMORIAL) PRAYERS

Saturday, February 22nd - 9:00 AM

If you wish to have the names of your departed loved ones remembered in prayer on Soul Saturday, please include their names on the commemoration list in the Church Narthex.

## 2025 Saint Mary's Hafli 'Mediterranean Night' Saturday, February 22nd

Doors Open at 7:30 PM (Cash Bar Cocktail Hour)

Dinner at 8:00 PM

Entertainment by:

**Amir Askander**

**Catering by Sandy James Fine Foods and Productions**

\$100 in advance; \$110.00 at the door

For tickets and information contact:

Nabil Aboukhaled 561.502-8588, or Jane Pasley 561.389-0346

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND

Forgiveness Vespers at 6:30 PM, with the  
Rite of Mutual Forgiveness

#### GREAT LENT BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 3RD

##### SPRING CATECHISM CLASSES

Monday March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7

Classes will be held in the Conference Room immediately following the  
Great Compline Service.

##### PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

April 13 - April 19th

##### PASCHA (EASTER)

April 20th

##### RECORDINGS OF WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew which concluded this past Tuesday. Our next Bible Study will be on the Book of Revelations and will commence in the fall.

To listen to the Podcast of all our Bible Studies: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kings-patriot-podcast> .