

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. Giving thanks to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

- Taken from the Synaxarion for February 2nd.



“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

Romans 8:35

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

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 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our
Lord Jesus Christ

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 2ND

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the king. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe.

Refrain. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Grace is poured into thy lips: therefore, God hath blessed thee forever. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. Bend Thy bow, and proceed prosperously, and be king.

Refrain. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast borne in the arms of righteous Simeon; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Thine arrows are sharp, O mighty One, in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the peoples fall under Thee. (*Refrain*)

A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation.

- During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ is sung. Following the entrance, then the following hymns.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

- *the Apolytikion of the feast of the temple is not sung.*

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as it meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

THE EPISTLE

Prokeimenon Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)

Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord Jesus Christ



The Meeting of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is described in the third Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the Divine Child was brought to the Temple at Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple for forty days. At the end of the time of her purification, the mother went to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb, two turtledoves, or pigeons to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity. Out of humility, however, she fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he beheld the promised Messiah. By divine inspiration, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Child Jesus to fulfill the Law. Saint Simeon received the divine Child in his arms (for this reason he is known as the "God-Receiver"), and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). Saint Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was an 84-year-old widow, Saint Anna the Prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day." She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the Divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons by the holy bishops Methodios of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilokhios of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the 6th Century. >>>

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.

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

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (2:22-40)

In those days, the parents of Jesus brought Him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel." And His father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

MEGALYNARION OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE THREE

O Theotokos, thou hope of all Christians; keep and shelter and preserve them that set their hope in thee.

In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful contemplate a prefiguring: Every male child that openeth the womb is holy unto God. Therefore, do we magnify the first-born Word, the Son of the Father Who is without beginning, the first-born Child of a Mother who hath not known wedlock.

COMMUNION HYMN OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

- Fr. Peter will offer his monthly ‘Children’s Sermon’ prior to Communion. All children are invited to come to the front of the church and participate.
- 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.
- After receiving Communion, please read the ‘Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion’ on pages 128 131 in the Red Service Book.

BLESSING OF NEW CATECHUMENS

Immediately following the reading of the Gospel, Fr. Peter will bless new Catechumens who are preparing to enter into the Holy Orthodox Faith through Baptism and Chrismation this coming Holy Saturday.

OFFERINGS

HOLY BREAD

- Offered by Dr. Alan & Carol Sara and family in memory of Olga & Samaan Sara (2 years).
- Offered for the health and well-being of Valerica, Daniela, Andrei, Rachel, Fr. Gherman, Petru, Sarah, Basil, Lucia, Maria, Ioana, Joachim.
- Offered by the Zein Family in memory of Melissa Carleen, Roula Janin, Elizabeth Abdelhad and Amal Zein.
- Offered by Joan Shwayri, in memory of Ernest Shwayri, Nicole & Rebecca Shwayri.

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 Zaparyniuk, Michael, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Raouf & Virginie Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Natalia Powell, Jean Arcos.

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...”

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

MEMORY ETERNAL!

Funeral and Burial arrangements for Zakia Salloum are as follows. Monday, February 3rd: Visitation 9:30—10:00 AM, followed by a Funeral Service. Burial at Hillcrest Cemetery (Parker Avenue) immediately following. Memory Eternal!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Ryan & Kendall George and family on the Baptism and Chrismation of their daughter Amelia Hanna George, on Saturday, January 25th. May God grant he many years!

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 hosted by Dr. Alan & Carol Sara and family in memory of Olga & Samaan Sara.

UPCOMING AT SAINT MARY’S

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, February 4th: 6:30 - 8:00 PM, in the Banquet Hall.

We will continue the study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome to attend. Please bring your bibles. To listen to the Podcast of all our Bible Studies: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kings-patriot-podcast>

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.