

disturbed by many visitors. Saint Simeon withdrew to Mount Sinai, where formerly the Prophet Moses received a revelation from God.

By divine Providence, the holy ascetic returned to Aman after a short stay on Sinai and founded two monasteries: one at the top of the mountain, the other at its base. As head of these monasteries, Saint Simeon guided the monks, warning them about the wiles of the Enemy of mankind, and he taught them how to struggle against temptations. He inspired and encouraged them in ascetic deeds, rousing them to think of their salvation. Because of the holiness of his life Saint Simeon received from God the gift of wonder-working. After the many labors of his ascetic life, Saint Simeon departed to God around the year 390.

- Taken from the Synaxarion of January 26th



“The Lord said, “I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10: 9

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

January 26, 2025

Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost and
Fifteen Sunday of Luke ('Zacchaeus')

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 JANUARY 26th

- *During the Little Entrance, the Resurrectional Apolytikion is sung. After the Little Entrance, these hymns are sung in the following order:*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

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 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 OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is 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

(For the Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost)

Prokeimenon Verse: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifteenth Sunday of Luke - "Zacchaeus")

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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



+Venerable Xenophon, his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Arcadius and John, of Constantinople

Saint Xenophon, his wife Maria, and their sons Arcadius and John, were noted citizens of Constantinople and lived in the fifth century. Despite their riches and position, they distinguished themselves by their simplicity of soul and goodness of heart. Wishing to give their sons John and Arcadius a more complete education, they sent them off to the Phoenician city of Beirut.

By divine Providence the ship on which both brothers sailed was wrecked. The waves tossed the brothers ashore at different places. Grieved at being separated, the brothers dedicated themselves to God and became monks. For a long time the parents had no news of their children and presumed them to be dead.

Xenophon, however, already quite old, maintained a firm hope in the Lord and consoled his wife Maria, telling her not to be sad, but to believe that the Lord watched over their children. After several years the couple made a pilgrimage to the holy places, and at Jerusalem they met their sons, living in asceticism at different monasteries. The joyful parents gave thanks to the Lord for reuniting the family.

Sts Xenophon and Maria went to separate monasteries and dedicated themselves to God. The monks Arcadius and John, having taken leave of their parents, went out into the wilderness, where after long ascetic toil they were glorified by gifts of wonderworking and discernment. Sts Xenophon and Maria, laboring in silence and strict fasting, also received from God the gift of wonderworking.

+Saint Simeon "the Ancient" of Mount Sinai

Saint Simeon the Elder was so named in order to distinguish him from Saint Simeon the Stylite. He practiced asceticism in Syria in the fifth century, and in his childhood years went out into the Syrian wilderness and lived in a cave in complete solitude.

Unceasing prayer, meditation, and contemplation of God were his constant occupation. The ascetic ate only the grass which grew about his cave. When people began to come to him to receive guidance, he wished to preserve his silence, so he left his cave and settled on one of the mountains of the Aman range. But here also his solitude was >>>

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.

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.



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



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.

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. 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.

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, Joan Bradshaw.

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!

Prayers and sympathies to the family and friends of Zakia Salloum on her falling asleep in the Lord on Thursday, January 16th. Funeral arrangements are pending. +Memory Eternal!

Prayers and sympathies to the Samra Family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Ray Samra on Monday, January 20th, in Worcester, MA. +Memory Eternal!

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.

Coffee Hour today is hosted by the Parish Council as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

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.

UPCOMING AT SAINT MARY'S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TODAY, January 26th - 11:45 AM

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, January 28th: 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>

DOMSE WINTER CLERGY MEETING AND DIOCESE RETREAT

Tuesday, January 28 - Saturday, February 1st

Hosted by Saint Elias Orthodox Church - Atlanta, GA

**Fr. Peter will be attending the meetings in Atlanta from Tuesday, January 28th, until Friday, January 31st.

No Vespers Service on Wednesday, January 29th

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST INTO THE TEMPLE

Sunday, February 2nd

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

- Blessing of the new Catechumens
- Fr. Peter's monthly 'Children's Sermon' prior to Communion.

SPRING CATECHISM CLASSES

Each Monday Evening beginning March 3rd through April 7th
Classes will be held immediately following the Great Compline Services.



ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration for 2025 Antiochian Village Summer Camp is now open!

For information and to register your child, please go to avcamp.org

All Sessions fill up quickly!

The Antiochian Village Summer Camp is open to all children and teens from the ages of 9 to 17 years.

**Again this year, a limited number of camp scholarships through Saint Mary's will be available. Please speak to Fr. Peter for more information.