

but through sufferings, pains, daily and nightly contemplation, and spiritual communication with the higher world of the Divine. Her soul took up its habitation in that higher world in the year 350 A.D. Among other things, St. Synclitica was known to say: "If it is the season for fasting, do not dismiss fasting, claiming illness, for behold, even those who do not fast succumb to the same illness." She further said: "As a treasure, when uncovered, is quickly seized, so it is with virtue: when it is made public it becomes eclipsed and is lost."

- Taken from the Prologue of Ohrid for January 5th



"all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

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 5, 2025

Celebration of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Whether you are a parishioner or a visitor, we are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary Orthodox Church. Today, THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT is celebrated. The service text begins on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews. The 'Anaphora Prayers' usually found on pages 111—119 in the Red Service Book, can be found on pages 134-143.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

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

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? (*Refrain*)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

Refrain. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (*Refrain*)

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

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

◇ During the Little Entrance, the Third Antiphon and Apolytikion for the Nativity are sung. Following the entrance, these hymns are sung.

- During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of Theophany is sung. After the entrance, the following hymns are sung:

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

- The Apolytikion of the church is not sung today.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (Sung in place of "Holy God")

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

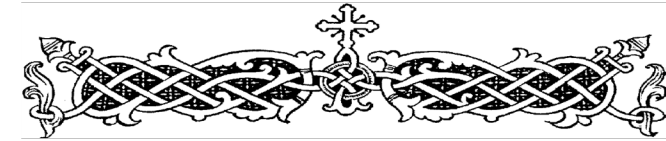
THE EPISTLE

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.



+The Hieromartyr (Priest-Martyr) Theopemptos, Bishop of Nicomedia and the +Martyr Theonas

When Diocletian began his persecution of the Christians, Theopemptos, Bishop of Nicomedia, was among the first to suffer martyrdom for Christ. Theopemptos was brought before the emperor, who threatened him with the punishment of death if he did not deny Christ. To that threat, the courageous bishop responded to the emperor: "It stands written: *Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul* (Matthew 10:28). O Emperor, you have authority over my body; do with it as you please." Theopemptos was severely beaten, starved and tortured in various ways. Finally, the emperor summoned a certain magician, Theonas by name, to outwit this godly man through magic. Theonas dissolved the most potent poison in water and gave it to Theopemptos to drink. Theopemptos traced the sign of the Cross over the glass and drank the poison. On seeing that the poison had no effect on Theopemptos, Theonas turned to the emperor and shouted: "I too am a Christian, and I bow down before the Crucified One." Both were sentenced to death in the year 298 A.D.; Theopemptos was beheaded and Theonas was buried alive. They suffered honorably and became citizens of the Kingdom of Christ.

+THE HOLY PROPHET MICAH THE FIRST

Micah [Micaiah] was a contemporary of the Prophet Elijah. He foretold the death of the pernicious King Ahab in battle against the Assyrians (I Kings 22; II Chronicles 18). Micah prophesied orally and did not put anything into writing. He is to be distinguished from the other Prophet Micah (August 14), who prophesied the birth of the Lord in Bethlehem and authored one of the prophetic books.

+THE VENERABLE MOTHER SYNCLETICA

Syncletica was of Macedonian descent. She was educated in Alexandria. As a wealthy and distinguished maiden she had many suitors, but she rejected them all and fled from her parents' home to a convent. In great self-restraint, vigil and prayer, Syncletica lived to her eightieth year. Her counsels to the nuns have always been considered true spiritual pearls, for this righteous one did not attain the heights of wisdom through books.

PAN ORTHODOX EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Saturday, January 11th—Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church
(110 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach)
Matins at 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.
Diving for the Cross in the Intercoastal Water following the service.

ONLINE OFFERINGS

Online Offerings to Saint Mary's may be made by Paypal or 'Zelle' as a means of fulfilling your 2024 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.

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 that is 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

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues with the following variables:*

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THEOPHANY IN TONE EIGHT

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alleluia.

- *After Communion, instead of singing "We have seen the true light," sing the Festal Apolytikion: "When Thou, O Lord."*
- *After receiving Communion, please read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion' on pages 128-131 in the Red Service Book.*

TRISAGION (MEMORIAL) SERVICE

Offered for the repose of Panagiotis (Peter) Ziros (1 Year), by his wife Rita and the Ziros Family. Memory Eternal!

THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER

In celebration of the Feast of the Theophany of Christ, the traditional Blessing of Water will take place at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS BREAK FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

There will be no Sunday School classes today. Classes will resume on Sunday January 12th.

Fr. Peter's Monthly Children's Sermon will be offered next Sunday (January 12th) in conjunction with the resumption of Sunday School Classes.

OFFERINGS

HOLY BREAD

- ◇ Offered in memory of Panagiotis (Peter) Ziros by his wife Rita Ziros and the Ziros Family.
- ◇ 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.

ONE WEEK VIGIL CANDLES

- ◇ In memory of Ralph Haselmann Jr, offered by his sisters Crystal Senour and Camille Waser, and his parents Ralph & Kathy Haslemann.
- ◇ In memory of Deputy Ralph Waller, Deputy Ignacio Diaz, Corporal Luis Paez (November 2024); Cortney Payne (December 24, 2024), offered by Darlene Samra.

If you would like to offer a *Weekly Altar Candle, Holy Bread or Altar Wine* for a Divine Liturgy, a minimum donation of \$10.00 (Altar Candle), \$30.00 (Holy Bread), \$20.00 (Altar Wine) is requested. You may also make a monthly or annual Holy Bread and Altar Wine offering. Please speak with Fr. Peter.

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 & Virginia Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Natalia Powell, Joan Bradshaw, Zakia Salloum.

For the Shut-ins of our Church Community: Zakia Salloum.

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...”

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).

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.

This Sunday's Coffee Hour is hosted by Rita Ziros in memory of her husband Panagiotis Ziros.

UPCOMING AT SAINT MARY'S

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY (EPIPHANY)

Sunday, January 5th

- Matins at 8:50 AM / Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
- Great Sanctification (Blessing) of the Water following the Divine Liturgy

Fr. Peter will begin the traditional 'Blessing of Homes' on Monday, January 6th, and continue through February 28th. Please contact Fr. Peter to have your home blessed.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, January 7th: 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>

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES RESUME JANUARY 12TH

BLESSING OF THE CARS

Sunday, January 12th

Fr. Peter will bless cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, scooters, etc., following the Divine Liturgy.