

From the Front Cover

In the *Proto-Evangelium of James*, we find early Christian reflection on the life and meaning of the Theotokos. We learn that Mary was conceived miraculously to a barren Joachim and Anna. We come face to face, as well, with the tradition that Joachim and Anna take Mary to the temple in order to consecrate her to the service of the Lord. (This kind of parental offering has clear antecedents in Jewish piety. Consider, for example, Elkanah's and Hannah's presentation of Samuel before the High Priest in thanksgiving for the divine opening Hannah's womb in I Samuel 1.) What is truly surprising in this story is that Mary is female—which under the Jewish Law exiled her from the inner sanctums of temple worship. Nonetheless, moving prophetically, the High Priest Zacharias overturns these proscriptions and escorts her through the various courts of the temple and directly into the Holy of Holies where she remains for a number of years. This three-year-old child, the old priest forsores, will contain the uncontainable. She is the hope of Israel and, indeed, of the whole world. Zacharias is the first to discern that both the temple and the Ark of the Covenant are but shadows pointing to a total fulfillment in the Theotokos who—as a new Holy of Holies—contains God Himself made flesh! He realizes, in total amazement, that she is the climax of Jewish history: that through her all the world will be blessed and that she will bear Him who will unite God with Man, unite Man with God, and thus save the world!

Theology at its most fundamental level is about our prayerful reflection on the Faith. And so this feast becomes a genuine feast of theology for us. It is our chance once again to ponder the goodness of the Father under the Old Covenant and His mercies toward us under the New. We remember His careful preparation of His people [the Jews] for the Coming of His Son—of which Mary is the carefully-nurtured fruit—and His extension of grace through the coming of His Spirit to all mankind. As we survey the Father's awesome economy of salvation, we cannot forget the role of a humble woman named Mary who herself became the temple of the Lord. Her life reminds us of our supreme calling: to follow her in becoming the temple, the ark, the bearer of the very glory of God. This is the Feast and this is the Gospel. May we keep it with joy!



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



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*

His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch

The Right Reverend Nicholas, *Bishop for Diocese of Miami and the Southeast*

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 Website: 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.

****SPECIAL NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST****

On November 15, with God's help, the Church entered into the forty-day Nativity Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. The Nativity Fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 through December 19 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with allowance for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is December 20 through 24 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed.

Theosis

by Abbot Tryphon

The Meaning of Salvation in the Ancient Church

According to Protopresbyter George Metallinos, Dean of the Athens University School of Theology, "For we Orthodox the unique and absolute goal of life in Christ is theosis, our union with God, so that man – through his participation in God's uncreated energy – may become "by the Grace of God" that which God is by nature (without beginning and without end). This is what "salvation" means, in Christianity."

As Christians we know that salvation is an ongoing process that, as believers, we are called to cooperate in. We are instructed to "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The Apostle Paul made clear the necessity of human cooperation when he told us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 2:1–13)".

Our salvation is a process by which we become more and more like Christ. Our faith is a free gift from God, not dependent upon anything we can do, but this life long process of salvation requires that we cooperate with God's grace, that we might be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and made holy. If we are to spend eternity with God, transformation must take place.

The sole purpose of the Church is the salvation of every human person, whereby we are united to Christ, and transformed by Him in all holiness, and prepared for eternal life. Through the Church we hear the Good News, that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, and that he rose from the dead, and because of this we have eternal life. This work of salvation is a gradual, life-long process by which Christians become more and more like Christ. Our salvation begins the moment we commit ourselves to Christ, and within the abounding grace of the Holy Spirit, we are ever drawn closer in communion with God.

Theosis goes far beyond the simple restoration of people to their state before the Fall. Because Christ united the human and divine natures in his person, it is now possible for us to experience closer fellowship with God than Adam and Eve initially experienced in the Garden of Eden.



The Very. Rev. Abbot Tryphon is Igumen of All-Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. This and other articles may be found on his website abbottryphon.com



Schedule of Church Services

Sunday, November 20

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

Wednesday, November 23rd

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

Feast of Saint Catherine the Great Martyr

~ Services held at Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church ~
(110 Southern Blvd., WPB)

Thursday, November 24th

Great Vespers and Artoklasia at 7:00 PM

Friday, November 25th

Matins at 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

Sunday, November 27th

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

Wednesday, November 30th

Akathist Hymn (Service) for the Nativity at 6:30 PM

Fr. Peter is available for Confession:

- *By appointment;*
- *Prior to Sunday Matins (8:30 to 8:50 AM);*
- *Prior to Wednesday Vespers and Feast Day Services (6:00 to 6:30PM).*

Upcoming Choir Rehearsal

Sunday November 27th, at 9:15 AM. Additional rehearsals will be held in December.

Divine Liturgy Variables for the Transfer of the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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.

The First Antiphon

** Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised: in the city of our God and in His holy mountain. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

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

** God is known in her palaces for a refuge. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God. (*Refrain*)

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

The Second Antiphon

** The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Refrain. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

** This is the gate of the Lord, the righteous shall enter in thereat. (*Refrain*)

** Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. (*Refrain*)

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

The Third Antiphon

Even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favor. The King's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. Virgins shall be brought to the King after her: her companions shall be brought unto Thee.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of the Entrance of the Theotokos is chanted. Then, 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 chanted in the following order:*

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone 6

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 Entrance of the Theotokos in Tone 8

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

- *The Apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple is not sung today due to the feast.*

Kontakion for the Entrance of the Theotokos in Tone 4

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

The Epistle

Prokeimenon Verse: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. He hath regarded the lowliness of His servant.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

Brethren, the first tabernacle had ordinances of the divine services and an earthly sanctuary. For the first tabernacle was prepared, in which were the candlestick, and the table, and the bread of the offering, which is called the Sanctuary. And behind the second veil stood the tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies; having a golden altar of incense, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, which contained a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the two tablets of the covenant; and above it the two Cherubim of glory overshadowing the Ark's lid; of these things, we cannot now speak in particular. Now these things having been thus prepared, the priests go in continually into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the divine services; but into the second the high priest enters alone, once in the year, not without blood, which he offers for himself, and for the ignorances of the people.

الرسالة (إعياد دخول السيدة)

تُعْظِمُ نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ، وَتَبْتَهِجُ رُوحِي بِاللَّهِ مُخْلِصِي،
لَأَنَّهُ نَظَرَ إِلَى تَوَاضَعِ أُمَّتِهِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (7-1:9)

Sip and Paint This Sunday

'Sip and Paint' is coming to Saint Mary's on Sunday, November 20th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, in the Banquet Hall. Hosted by the Saint Mary's Ladies Society, participants will have an opportunity to paint and create a masterpiece! There will be light refreshments, and don't forget to BYOW (bring your own wine—or refreshments of choice). For those interested in participating, please speak with Carol Sara or Jane Pasley to RSVP. Cost is \$35.00 per person.

Keep Ukraine Warm!

Ukrainian Food, Arts and Concert

Sunday, December 4th, 11:30 AM

Saint Mary's Banquet Hall

All proceeds will go towards providing warm clothes to Ukrainian Children.

Your Hosts:



Ukrainian Food

- ⇒ Pierogis
- ⇒ Blintzes
- ⇒ Pastries

Arts and Crafts

- ⇒ Paintings
- ⇒ Embroidered Shirts
- ⇒ Décor

Ukrainian Concert, Dance Performances and Music



Repair and Improvement Campaign Update

\$25,000 \$50,000 \$75,000 \$100,000

Amount
Received

As of November 13th, 2022:
\$51,154

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

In order to reach our goal of \$100,000, your donations are still needed, no matter the amount. For more information on how you may donate to our campaign, please speak with Mark Samra or Sam Pasley.

Online Donations

The church offers Zelle as an online means of fulfilling your 'Annual Pledge' as well as make a donation to the 'Repair and Improvement Campaign.'

To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to:
stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com.

In addition, you may use the online services of Paypal, and the Envelopes on the table in the Church Narthex in fulfilling your pledge, or to make an offering.

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

Church Directory Information

We are updating our Church Directory to better minister to our Saint Mary's Community. If you have not done so already, please take a minute or two to complete a Church Directory Information Form. Forms are on the table in the Church Narthex. The forms may be returned to Jane Pasley, Shannon Pasley or Fr. Peter.

Our Church Website

Have you viewed our new Church Website? Go to stmaryschurchwpb.org and let us know what you think.

القارئ: يا إخوة، إنَّ العهدَ الأولَ كانتْ له أيضاً فرائضُ العبادةِ والقدُّسِ العالميِّ. لأنَّهُ نُصِبَ المسكينُ الأولُ الذي يُقالُ له القدُّسُ، وكانتْ فيه المنارةُ والمائدةُ وخُبْزُ النَّدِيمَةِ. وكان وراءَ الحجابِ الثاني، المسكينُ الذي يُقالُ له قدُّسُ الأقداسِ. وفيه مُستوقَّدُ البخورِ مِنَ الذهبِ وتابوتُ العهدِ المُعَشَى بالذهبِ مِنْ كُلِّ جِهَةٍ، فيه قِسْطُ المَنِّ مِنَ الذهبِ، وعَصَا هارونَ التي أفرختْ ولوحا العهدِ. ومِنَ فوقِهِ كاروبا المَجْدِ المُظَلَّلانِ الغطاءِ. وليسَ هُنا مقامُ الكلامِ في ذلكَ تفصيلاً. وحيثُ كانَ ذلكَ مُهيأً هكذا، فالكَهَنَةُ يَدْخُلونَ إلى المسكينِ الأولِ كُلِّ حينٍ فيُيْمُونُ الخِدْمَةَ. وأما الثاني، فإنَّما يَدْخُلُهُ رئيسُ الكهنةِ وَحدهُ مرَّةً في السَّنَةِ، ليسَ بلا دمٍ يُقَرَّبُهُ عَنْ نَفْسِهِ وَعَنْ جِهالاتِ الشَّعبِ.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:38-42; 11:27-28)

At that time, Jesus entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As He said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the breasts that Thou didst suck!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

الإنجيل (بعيد دخول السيدة)

فصلٌ شريفٌ مِنْ بَشارةِ القديسِ لوقا الإنجيليِّ البشيرِ والتلميذِ الطاهرِ. (28-27:10:42-38:10) في ذلكَ الزمانِ دَخَلَ يسوعُ قَرْيَةً، فَقَبِلَتْهُ امْرَأَةٌ اسْمُهَا مَرْثَا فِي بَيْتِهَا، وكانتْ لِهَذِهِ أُخْتُ تُسَمَّى مَرْيَمَ. فَجَلَسَتْ هَذِهِ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْ يسوعَ تَسْمَعُ كلامَهُ. وكانتْ مَرْثَا مُرتَبِكَةً في خِدْمَةِ كَثِيرَةٍ، فَوَقَّفتْ وَقَالَتْ: يا رَبِّ، أما يَغْنِيكَ أَنَّ أُخْتِي قَدْ تَرَكَتْني أَخْدُمُ وَحْدِي؟ فَقُلْ لَهَا أَنْ تُسَاعِدْني. فَأَجابَ يسوعُ وَقَالَ لَهَا: مَرْثَا، مَرْثَا، إِنَّكَ مُهْتَمَّةٌ وَمُضْطَرِبَةٌ في أمورٍ كَثِيرَةٍ، وإِنَّمَا الحاجةُ إلى واحدٍ. فَأخْتارتِ مَرْيَمَ النصبِ الصالحِ الذي لا يُنزعُ مِنْها. وفيما هُوَ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِهَذَا، رَفَعَتْ امْرَأَةٌ مِنَ الجَمْعِ صَوْتَهَا وَقَالَتْ لَهُ: طوبى لِلْبَطْنِ الذي حَمَلَكَ والتدبُّينِ اللَّذَيْنِ رَضَعْتَهُما. فقالَ لَهَا: بلْ طوبى لِلَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ كَلِمَةَ اللَّهِ وَيَحْفَظُونَهَا.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues with the following variables:*

Megalynarion of the Entrance in Tone 4 *(Sung in place of 'It is truly meet...')*
The Angels beholding the entrance of the all-pure one were overtaken by surprise; how hath the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies?

Since thou art a living temple of God, O Theotokos, no impure hand shall touch thee. But the lips of believers, let them ceaselessly laud thee, crying unto thee joyfully with the voice of the angels: Verily, O undefiled Virgin, thou art more exalted than all creatures.

The Communion Hymn for the Entrance in Tone 8

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

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

Liturgical Offerings

Weekly Altar Candle offered for the week of November 20th

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

- *If you wish to offer Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy, or a Weekly Altar Candle for the health of or memory of a love one, please speak with Fr. Peter.*

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, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Jenna Welch, Shane Brown, Raouf Saballeil, Jennifer Joseph Zicky, Marie-Therese Habib, Sabah, Magda Danese.

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

Metropolitan Boulos & Archbishop Youhanna, for their release from captivity and safe return.

For all persecuted Christians and all people suffering from violence, war, 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..."

Economos Antony Gabriel *(newly departed 11/2/22)*, George Freije *(newly departed 10/26/22)*, Ernest Shwayri *(9/29/22)*, Basil Dalack *(9/1/22)*, Sarah Nabhan *(9/5/22)*, Thomas Eissey *(5/4/22)*, Margo Fankhauser *(5/3/22)*, Archpriest Nicholas Neyman *(12/12/21)*.

Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered

By Leon & Judy Chalhub for the health, well-being and salvation of family.

- *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.*

Sunday School and Teen Classes

Classes are held each Sunday morning following Communion, and last approximately 30 minutes.

Weekly Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will be Tuesday, November 22nd from 6:45 PM to 7:45 PM, in the Conference Room. We are blessed to have Jim Gavrilos to once again lead our weekly study.

The topic: 'The Acts of the Apostles'

Everyone is welcome to attend. The only requirement is that you bring your Bible, and a desire to learn about the Word of God.



Once again, our Saint Mary's Ladies Society has partnered with South Olive Elementary School for the annual Angel Tree donation drive to provide gifts to children in need this coming Christmas. This program will take place from November 20th through December 18th. The Angel Tree, adorned with angels with gift requests, will be placed in the Church Narthex. For more information, please speak with Kelly Pasley.