

## From the Front Cover

The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor.

Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin.

This message struck James. He came back to his senses and said to himself: "Here is my wife who had given herself to me by the most sacred oaths, here is my mother who is abandoning me: what will God do to me, to whom I had also given my faith and whom I have shamefully abandoned? On the last day, how can I bear the sight of this supreme judge, this inexorable avenger? And even here on earth, can't his justice reach me and strike me? Full of these thoughts, he returned to his tent, found a Bible, and opened it. As he read, little by little light dawned on his soul, divine grace touched his heart, and he was suddenly changed into another man. His numb soul, as if summoned from the grave by a powerful voice, awoke: remorse stirred him and tore him apart.

His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, Saint James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death.

They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture Saint James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.



+ The Great Martyr James the Persian



# 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.

## Salvation

by Abbot Tryphon

Salvation can not be explained in legalistic terms of acquittal and justification, for salvation is much more than simply being forgiven and getting into heaven. The close tie between faith and works, when it comes to the Orthodox view of salvation, is not about being "saved" by our works, for this is impossible. Works do not save us, but when placed in the context of a relationship, works do indeed have an eternal component.

Our "works" do not supplant the place of grace and faith with God, but are part of the whole experience in our relationship with God. Saint John Chrysostom (349-407), one of the greatest of the Church Fathers, and perhaps the greatest preacher in the history of the Church, wrote, "For Scripture says that faith has saved us. Put better: Since God willed it, faith has saved us. Now in what case, tell me, does faith save without itself doing anything at all? Faith's workings themselves are a gift of God, lest anyone should boast. What then is Paul saying? Not that God has forbidden works but that he has forbidden us to be justified by works. No one, Paul says, is justified by works, precisely in order that the grace and benevolence of God may become apparent."

The one who wastes this life, and does nothing to enhance his relationship with others through his good works, will have sacrificed a loving relationship with God, Who has called us into communion with Him. This person will experience the fire on judgement day as painful, for he who has not done good works in this life, will have done nothing to promote a sound relationship with the God Who has called us into a life of transformation. It is God's intent that this life brings us into holiness, preparing us for an eternity in the presence of God's holiness. If we have not been made holy, eternity in the presence of God, will be as a burning fire.

Our works do not earn us salvation, but neither are works unimportant. According to the Fathers, works make our communion with God fuller, and more complete. Our good works help us gain God's "likeness" in this life, and bring us into a joyful communion with Christ. The more we become like Christ, the more joy we will experience. Pain and suffering are the end result of our being less of God's likeness.



*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](http://abbottryphon.com)*



## Schedule of Church Services

### 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

### Sunday, December 4th

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

Fr. Peter's Children Sermon before Communion

### Celebration of the Feast of Saint Nicholas

#### Monday, December 5th

At Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

(2525 S 25th St, Fort Pierce, FL 34981)

Great Vespers and Artoklasia at 6:00 PM

### Wednesday, December 7th

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 24th Sunday after Pentecost + The Great Martyr James the Persian

*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.*

- *During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. 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, chant these hymns in the following order:*

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone 7

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

### Apolytikion for the Great-Martyr James the Persian in Tone 4

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For, since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

### Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

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 Preparation of the Nativity of Christ in Tone 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the glad-some tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

## The Epistle

*Prokeimenon Verse: The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### الرسالة

(لِلأَخْدِ الرَّابِعِ وَالْعِشْرِينَ بَعْدَ الْعِنَصْرَةِ)

الرَّبُّ يُعْطِي قُوَّةً لِشَعْبِهِ.

قَدِّمُوا لِلرَّبِّ يَا أَبْنَاءَ اللَّهِ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِّيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَفَسَسَ. (22-14:2)

يا إِخْوَتِي، إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ سَلَامُنَا، هُوَ جَعَلَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ وَاحِدًا، وَنَقَضَ فِي جَسَدِهِ حَائِطَ السِّيَاحِ الْحَاجِزِ، أَيِ الْعِدَاوَةِ. وَأَبْطَلَ نَامُوسَ الْوَصَايَا فِي فِرَائِضِهِ، لِيَخْلُقَ الْإِثْنَيْنِ فِي نَفْسِهِ إِنْسَانًا وَاحِدًا جَدِيدًا بِإِجْرَائِهِ السَّلَامِ. وَيُصَالِحُ كِلَيْهِمَا فِي جَسَدٍ وَاحِدٍ مَعَ اللَّهِ فِي الصَّلِيبِ، بِقَتْلِهِ الْعِدَاوَةَ فِي نَفْسِهِ. فَجَاءَ وَبَشَّرَكُمْ بِالسَّلَامِ، الْبَعِيدِينَ مِنْكُمْ وَالْقَرِيبِينَ. لِأَنَّ بِهِ لَنَا كَلِمَتَا التَّوَصُّلِ إِلَى الْآبِ فِي رُوحٍ وَاحِدَةٍ. فَلَسْتُمْ غُرَبَاءَ بَعْدُ وَنُزَلَاءَ، بَلْ مُوَاطِنُو الْقَدِّيسِينَ وَأَهْلُ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ. وَقَدْ بُنِيتُمْ عَلَى أَسَاسِ الرُّسُلِ، وَالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَحَجَرِ الزَّوَاوِيَةِ هُوَ يَسُوعُ الْمَسِيحُ نَفْسُهُ الَّذِي بِهِ يُنْسَقُ الْبُنْيَانُ كُلُّهُ، فَيَنْمُو هُنَاكَ مُقَدَّسًا فِي الرَّبِّ، وَفِيهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضًا تُبْنَوْنَ مَعًا مَسْكَنًا لِلَّهِ فِي الرُّوحِ.

## 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.*

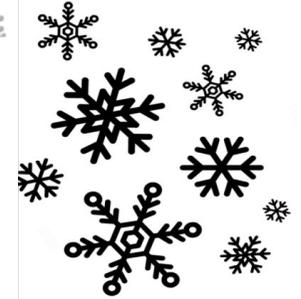
### Ukrainian Food

- ⇒ Pierogis
- ⇒ Blintzes
- ⇒ Pastries

### Arts and Crafts

- ⇒ Paintings
- ⇒ Embroidered Shirts
- ⇒ Décor

Ukrainian Concert, Dance Performances and Music



### Donations for Poinsettia Plants & Wreaths

Donations are now being accepted for Poinsettia Plants that will decorate our church for the Nativity Season.

\*12 - 10" Poinsettia Plants are needed: \$20.00 ea.

\*12 - 6" Poinsettia Plants are needed: \$10.00 ea.

\*Christmas Wreaths for the front doors of the church are needed: \$80.00

Please see Sam Pasley or Fr. Peter to donate.

Volunteers are need to assist in putting up the Christmas Trees in the church on Sunday, December 4th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please see Khouryia Myriam if you wish to volunteer.

## 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](mailto: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](http://stmaryschurchwpb.org) and let us know what you think.

## The Gospel

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

الإنجيل

(لأخذ الثالث عشر من لوقا)

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (27-18:18)  
في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع إنسانٌ مُجرباً له وقالاً: "أيها المعلم الصالح، ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبدية؟" فقال له يسوع: "لماذا تدعوني صالحاً؟ وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله. إنك تعرف الوصايا: لا تقتل. لا تسرق. لا تشهد بالزور. أكرم أباك وأمك." فقال: "كل هذا قد حفظته منذ صباي." فلما سمع يسوع ذلك، قال له: "واحدة تغوزك بعد. بع كل شيء لك ووزعه على المساكين، فيكون لك كنز في السماء، وتعال اتبعني." فلما سمع ذلك، حزن لأنه كان غنياً جداً. فلما رآه يسوع قد حزن، قال: "ما أعسر على ذوي الأموال أن يدخلوا ملكوت الله. إنه لأسهل أن يدخل الجمل في ثقب الإبرة من أن يدخل غني ملكوت الله." فقال السامعون: "فمن يستطيع إذن أن يخلص؟" فقال: "ما لا يستطيع عند الناس، مستطاع عند الله."

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

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 27th

◇ 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, Louset Aramouni.

*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)*.

- *If you would like to have names offered in prayer during the Sunday Divine Liturgy, or Feast day Divine Liturgy, please text or email their names to Fr. Peter in advance of the service.*

## Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered

By Leon & Judy Chalhub in thanksgiving for God's blessings on family and Saint Mary's 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 29th 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.

The Fall Bible Study will conclude on Tuesday, December 6th, and will resume in January.



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 began on Sunday, November 20th and will conclude on Sunday, December 18th. The Angel Tree, adorned with angels with gift requests, is placed in the Church Narthex. For more information, please speak with Kelly Pasley.

## Akathist Hymn for the Nativity

Beginning November 30th until the Feast of the Nativity, join with us in prayer each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM, as we pray the Service of the Akathist Hymn in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.