

From the Front Cover

The Holy Apostle Ananias of the Seventy (October 1), was the first Bishop of Damascus. While serving there, the Lord ordered him to restore the sight of Saul, the former persecutor of Christians, then baptize him (Acts 9:10-19, 22:12). Saul would go on to become the great preacher and Apostle Paul. In addition to this, St Ananias boldly and openly confessed Christianity before the Jews and the pagans of Damascus, despite great danger.

The following from the Acts of the Apostles, is the interaction between Ananias and Saul (Paul)

"Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Anani'as. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Anani'as." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying, and he has seen a man named Anani' as come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Anani'as answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon thy name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Anani'as departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized, and took food and was strengthened." Acts 9: 10-19

From Damascus St. Ananias went to preach at Eleutheropolis, where he healed many of their infirmities. However, Lucian, the prefect of the city, tried to persuade the holy one to offer sacrifice to idols. But because of Ananias' staunch and solid confession of Christ, Lucian ordered that he be tortured. Nevertheless, harsh torments did not sway the Witness of Truth. Then the torturers led him out beyond the city, where they stoned him. In the midst of this, the Saint prayed for those who put him to death. His relics were later transferred to Constantinople.



The Baptism of Saul (Apostle Paul) by the Holy Apostle Ananias of the Seventy



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*

The Most Reverend Metropolitan Saba, *Primate*

The Right Reverend Nicholas, *Auxiliary 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.

Small Deeds Have Worth

by +Saint Moses of Optina

If at some time you show mercy to someone, mercy will be shown to you.

If you show compassion to one who is suffering (and of course, this is not a great deed) you will be numbered among the martyrs.

If you forgive one who has insulted you, then not only will all your sins be forgiven, but you will be a child of the Heavenly Father.

If you pray from all your heart for salvation - even a little - you will be saved.

If you are sorrowful for your sins, or you weep, or sigh, your sigh will not be hidden from Him and, as St. John Chrysostom says, "If you only lament for your sins, then He will receive this for your salvation."

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Prot. no.: 334/2023

TO BE READ FROM THE PULPIT

October 2023

Beloved Clergy and Faithful of our Archdiocese:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that you all enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing summer and are working hard as we begin a new ecclesiastical year. 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of our Antiochian Archdiocese. While St. Raphael of Brooklyn established our presence here in 1895 as the Syro-Arab Mission of the Russian Orthodox Church, 1923 is when we became incorporated as an archdiocese of the Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East. These ties were reaffirmed this past summer between our clergy and laity and the Mother Church by the archpastoral visit of our father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X.

With that in mind, we bring to your attention that October in the Antiochian Archdiocese is "Youth Month and Seminary Month". This year we have 25 official seminarians studying in five seminaries, including our own Antiochian House of Studies. Most of our students will serve this Archdiocese as priests in the future. They will baptize the catechumens, raise up the youth in the Faith, educate the faithful, comfort the sorrowful, visit the sick, restore the penitent, and heal the broken-hearted. Supporting our future clergy and the institutions that are providing their education and formation is vital to the spiritual health of the parishes and ministries of our Church.

As Christian values are constantly challenged and mocked, and truth becomes more and more relative in our contemporary society, we must do our best to educate our clergy to teach and defend the faith once and for all delivered to the saints. To that end, we ask for your generous donations today to support our seminarians and the institutions that educate them.

May the Lord continue to bless all your efforts in His name and those theological schools that train our future clergy for this high calling.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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Prayer

by Abbot Tryphon

The Cure for Our Disordered State



Man is living in a perpetual state of disorder, far from the ordered life God intended for him. The cure for this disordered state is to be found in prayer. It is in the foundation of prayer that we seek out the healing that will restore us to the image that God intended at the moment of creation. Prayer is the yearning of the soul towards the image of its prototype. When we are purified by God's grace, it is an attraction of like to like. We are deified by contact with the Creator, returned to an ordered state, and made whole.

We can achieve nothing by our own efforts alone; yet if we commit ourselves to a prayer rule, and stick with it, the Lord will reward us with an abundance of grace, and we will be restored to the ordered life we were intended to enjoy. Just as it takes two men, cooperating with one another, to move a broken down old car to the side of the road for repairs, so too much we cooperate with God, if we are to be made whole.

Someone once complained to me that he wasn't sure there was anything to this "God thing", sharing he had real doubts as to whether any of the Church's teachings were true. I pointed out that he was hardly cooperating with the cure for his illness, since his church attendance was erratic, and his prayer life non-existent.

You do not take a woman out for dinner, refuse to engage her in conversation, and expect her to accept an invitation for another date. Likewise, if we want to learn about the things of God, we will show up for services, read books on Orthodoxy, and otherwise avail ourselves to the healing that takes place within the Church. A relationship with God, like in any human relationship, depends on our own commitment, for a relationship is dependent on both parties' active participation.

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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost & Second Sunday of Luke
+Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first Bishop of Damascus
& +Righteous Father Romanos the Melodist

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.

- Divine Liturgy Variables -

Resurrectional Apolytikon in Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Apostle Ananias of the Seventy in Tone 3

O Holy Apostle Ananias, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

Apolytikion of the Righteous Father Romanos in Tone 8

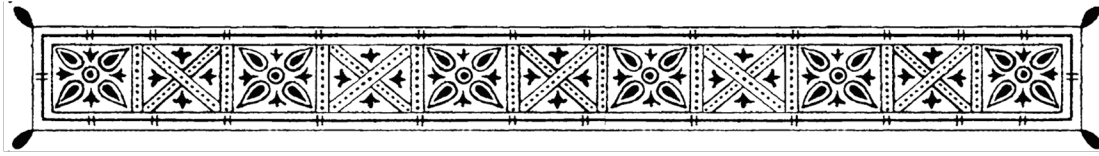
Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O father Romanos; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

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 Ordinary Sundays in Tone 2

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.



THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

The Epistle (For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them," says the Lord, "and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

الرسالة

(لِلأَحَدِ السَّابِعِ عَشَرَ بَعْدَ الْعَنْصَرَةِ)

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا.

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُوذَا. إِسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ الثَّانِيَةِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُورِنْثُوسَ.

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَنْتُمْ هَيْكَلُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، كَمَا قَالَ اللَّهُ، "إِنِّي سَأَسْكُنُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَسِيرُ فِيهِمْ، وَأَكُونُ لَهُمْ إِلَهًا وَهُمْ يَكُونُونَ لِي شَعْبًا. فَلِذَلِكَ اخْرُجُوا مِنْ بَيْنِهِمْ وَاعْتَزَلُوا" يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ "وَلَا تَمَسُّوا نَجَسًا. فَأَقْبَلَكُمْ وَأَكُونُ أَبًا وَتَكُونُوا أَنْتُمْ لِي بَنِينَ وَبَنَاتٍ، يَقُولُ الرَّبُّ الْقَدِيرُ." وَإِذْ لَنَا هَذِهِ الْمَوَاعِدُ، أَيُّهَا الْأَحِبَّاءُ، فَلْنُطَهِّرْ أَنْفُسَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ آدَنَاسِ الْجَسَدِ وَالرُّوحِ، وَنُكَمِّلِ الْقِدَاسَةَ بِمَخَافَةِ اللَّهِ.



LITURGICAL SERVICES AT SAINT MARY'S FOR OCTOBER

SUNDAY, October 1st

Confessions from 8:30 to 8:50 AM

Matins at 8:50 AM

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

**Fr. Peter's Children's Sermon*

***1 Year Trisagion Service for Ernest Shwayri*

WEDNESDAY, October 4th

Confessions from 6:00 to 6:30 PM

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, October 8th

Confessions from 8:30 to 8:50 AM

Matins at 8:50 AM

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, October 11th

Confessions from 6:00 to 6:30 PM

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, October 15th

Confessions from 8:30 to 8:50 AM

Matins at 8:50 AM

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, October 18th

No Vespers Service

♦ *Fr. Peter is also available for Confessions by appointment.*

Tuesday Bible Study

Weekly Bible Study is held each Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Conference Room. Led by Jim Gavrilos, the Fall Bible Study will focus on the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to participate. Please bring your bibles.

Weekly Spiritual Discussion

Following each Wednesday Vespers Service, Fr. Peter will host a spiritual discussion concerning our spiritual life and the Orthodox faith. The discussions will be held in the church and be approximately 15 to 20 minutes in duration.

Online Donations

Thank you for your continued donations to your Saint Mary's Church. In addition to tradition means of giving (Sunday Offering Envelopes or by mail), the church offers Zelle as an online means of fulfilling your 'Annual Pledge.' To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to:

stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com.

In addition, you may use the online services of Paypal.

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

Work Continues at Saint Mary's

- ◇ Over the past several weeks, the tiles and carpeting in the church have replaced. Porcelain tiles and new baseboards have been placed in the Church Narthex, Solea and Altar. New carpeting has been installed in the Sanctuary and Sacristy.
- ◇ Three new 'split units' have replaced aging existing ones, with three to four new units needed in the near future.
- ◇ Painting and repair to the covered walkway between the church and hall, as well as installation of new lighting is in the final stages of completion.

The total cost of this project is \$30,000, with over \$10,000 in donations received to date. Additional donations are needed to cover the balance of the total cost. Any donation is greatly appreciated. Please see Mark Samra or Sam Pasley to offer your donation to this project.

Thank you to Mark Samra for overseeing these projects; the Parish Council; as well as the many volunteers who offered their time with the various aspects of these projects.

The Gospel (For the Second Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. [6:31-36]

The Lord said: "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

الإنجيل (لأحد الثاني من لوقا)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.
قَالَ الرَّبُّ: كَمَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَفْعَلَ النَّاسُ بِكُمْ، كَذَلِكَ أَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ بِهِمْ. فَإِنَّكُمْ إِنْ أَحْبَبْتُمُ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مِنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً يُحِبُّونَ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَهُمْ. وَإِذَا أَحْسَنْتُمْ إِلَى الَّذِينَ يُحْسِنُونَ إِلَيْكُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مِنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً هَكَذَا يَصْنَعُونَ. وَإِنْ أَقْرَضْتُمُ الَّذِينَ تَرْجُونَ أَنْ تَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ، فَأَيَّةُ مِنَّةٍ لَكُمْ؟ فَإِنَّ الْخَطَاةَ أَيْضاً يَقْرِضُونَ الْخَطَاةَ لِكَيْ يَسْتَوْفُوا مِنْهُمْ الْمِثْلَ. وَلَكِنْ، أَحِبُّوا أَعْدَاءَكُمْ، وَأَحْسِنُوا وَأَقْرِضُوا غَيْرَ مُؤَمِّلِينَ شَيْئاً، فَيَكُونَ أَجْرُكُمْ كَثِيراً، وَتَكُونُوا بَنِي الْعَلِيِّ. فَإِنَّهُ مُنْعِمٌ عَلَى غَيْرِ الشَّاكِرِينَ وَالْأَشْرَارِ. فَكُونُوا رُحَمَاءَ كَمَا أَنَّ أَبَاكُمْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ.

****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.

This Sunday (October 1st)

1 Year Trisagion (Memorial) Prayers

For the repose of the servant of God, Dr. Ernest Shwayri. Offered by his wife Joan Shwayri and family. +Memory Eternal!

Holy Bread Offered

By Joan Shwayri and family in loving memory of Dr. Ernest Shwayri.

Altar Candle

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

Fr. Peter' Children's Sermon

Prior to Communion, Fr. Peter will offer his monthly 'Children's Sermon.' All children are encouraged to come to the front of the church and participate.

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School Classes began on Sunday, September 10th, and will continue each Sunday morning until May.

As last year, Sunday School Classes will begin following Communion, and will last approximately 30 minutes. This year we will have three classes: Ages 4-6; 7-10; Pre Teen and Teen Class.

Coffee Hour

Is hosted by Joan Shwayri in memory of her husband Ernest Shwayri.

***Sunday Coffee Hour hosts are needed for the fall months. If you would like to host a Sunday Coffee Hour, please speak to Jane Pasley or Khourya Myriam.*

October is Youth Month

Each year our Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese sets aside the month of October as 'Youth Month.' During the month of October our teens and youth will be assisting in the Divine Liturgy by reading the epistle and ushering.

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, Archpriest Maximos Saikaley, Priest Andrew Short, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhoub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhoub, Raouf Saballeil, Sabah, Craig Miller, Emma, Mark Georges, Lauren Moreland, George, Lama Chalhoub.

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

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

Roy Samra (newly departed 9/13/23), Gail Camileri (6/26/23), Angie Smith (6/23/23), Archdeacon Joseph Harb (3/8/23), George Freije (10/26/22), Ernest Shwayri (9/29/22).



Sunday, October 29th

Saint Mary's Banquet Hall

Beginning at 11:30 AM

- **Food (Hot Dogs, Hamburgers Fries, etc.), Drinks, and Various Desserts;**
- **Games and Activities everyone!**

- Appreciation Sunday Lunch -

Sunday, November 5th - 11:30 AM

The Parish Council would like to express their appreciation for everyone who have contributed and volunteered their time over the past year towards the ongoing projects and ministries at Saint Mary's.

To say thank you, a lunch prepared by Sandy James Catering will be offered on Sunday, November 5th, following the Divine Liturgy.

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 12th

Make plans to join with your Saint Mary's Family for fellowship and thanksgiving for our many blessings.