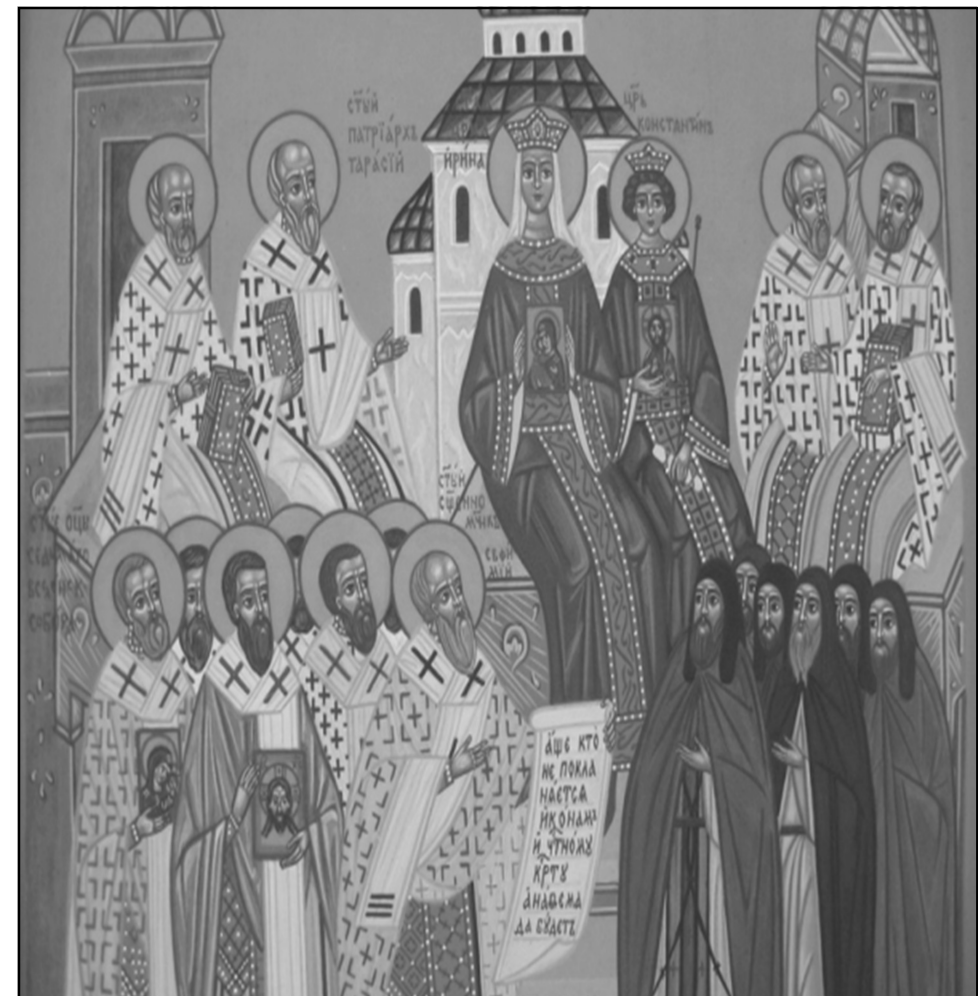


From the Front Cover

The Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council to whom we are obliged to give thanks that our churches and our homes are sanctified with holy icons; The grace of revelation from these holy objects has filled many hearts with love for God and animated many spirits that were already quite dead.

But all this might not have been, if there had not been a time in the eighth century when the Holy Fathers of the Church – holy hierarchs and monks – stood up in defense of these holy objects. The Seventh Ecumenical Council, convoked by the Empress Irene and met at Nicaea from September 24 to October 13, 787. Patriarch Tarasios presided. The council ended almost fifty years of iconoclast persecution and established the veneration of the holy icons as basic to the belief and spirituality of Christ's Church. As the Synaxarion says, "It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but, in fact, the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God." Through the Divine services and icons, Divine revelation becomes accessible to us. Through the icon, just as through Holy Scripture, we not only learn about God, but we come to know God. The icon, according to the Fathers, is also prayer. A consecrated icon is itself holy. When we pray before it, the holy words of our prayers and the visible holy image of the icon before us simultaneously transfigure us, directing even us sinners and earthly people to holiness. If you have a sacred object like an icon at home, do not forget about it. Let us turn our gaze to it daily, let us speak with it in the words of prayer or of a troparion, or let us simply stand silently, clinging to it with our soul. Then we will draw daily sanctification, life for the soul, and strength from the icon.

The conclusion of the Iconoclast dispute, the meeting of the seventh Ecumenical Council, the Triumph of Orthodoxy in 843 — these mark the end of the second period in Orthodox history, the period of the Seven Councils. These Seven Councils are of immense importance to Orthodoxy. For members of the Orthodox Church, their interest is not merely historical but contemporary; they are the concern not only of scholars and clergy, but of all the faithful. Orthodox often call themselves "the Church of the Seven Councils." By this they do not mean that the Orthodox Church has ceased to think creatively since 787. But they see in the period of the Councils the great age of theology; and, next to the Bible, it is the Seven Councils which the Orthodox Church takes as its standard and guide in seeking solutions to the new problems which arise in every generation.



The Holy Fathers of the
Seventh Ecumenical Council

The Weekly Bulletin - October 15, 2023



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.

OCTOBER IS YOUTH MONTH!

“Raising Them Right”

Reflection by +Saint Theophan the Recluse

“While accustoming a child not to do his own will, one must also train him to do good. For this, let the parents themselves furnish a fine example of good life and acquaint their children with people whose chief concerns are not pleasures and awards, but the salvation of the soul. Children love to imitate. How early they learn to copy a mother or father!”

SPECIAL OLYMPICS Awareness Day

AS NAC TEEN SOYO PREPARES TO SPONSOR THE 43RD ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CAMP, WE ASK FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND HELP IN MAKING THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE. APPROXIMATELY 300 ATHLETES AND COACHES PARTICIPATE IN OUR CAMP EACH YEAR. TEEN SOYO MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM ACROSS OUR ARCHDIOCESE TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, TO LIVE IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND TO FULFILL THE CALL TO DO ALL THINGS.

“AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR MEN.” (COL. 3:23)

Next Sunday, October 22nd, our teens will request your financial donations to enable them to sponsor the 43rd Annual Special Olympics Sports Camp, which will be held at the Antiochian Village, in August of 2024. Your donations make it possible for every athlete to attend this event free of charge and also help Teen SOYO members travel to serve as Coaches at the camp.

As an expression of gratitude for your donation to this effort, teens will be handing out bookmarks with the icon of the Communion of the Apostles.

Thank you for considering the support of this wonderful ministry that allows our children to be a witness and blessing to others!

Please make checks payable to your local Teen SOYO group with “SOAD 2023” in the memo. Donations can also be made online at www.teensoyo.org/special-olympics.



Special
Olympics



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, NAC Teen SOYO covers the cost of the camp, approximately \$75,000, through the generosity of our fellow parishioners. Through the years, we have hosted more than 8,500 athletes and coaches. Around 1,200 of our teens have had the unique experience of being a coach or volunteer at the camp.



ARCHDIOCESAN SUNDAY FOR AHOS

(Antiochian House of Studies)

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS
will take place every year on the Sunday of the Parable of the Sower.

The purpose of Archdiocesan Sunday for AHOS (Antiochian House of Studies) is to raise awareness to support the future clergy & lay leaders of our archdiocesan. We kindly ask you to bring an offering on this day.



**Sunday,
October 15, 2023**

How can I
donate?

Visit www.ahos.edu or scan the QR code.



You can also donate by check
sending directly to:

AHOS
1020 Baseline Rd
La Verne CA 91750

AHOS is a 501(c)(3). All donations are tax-deductible

Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council & Fourth Sunday of Luke

- Divine Liturgy Variables -

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.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers in Tone 8

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

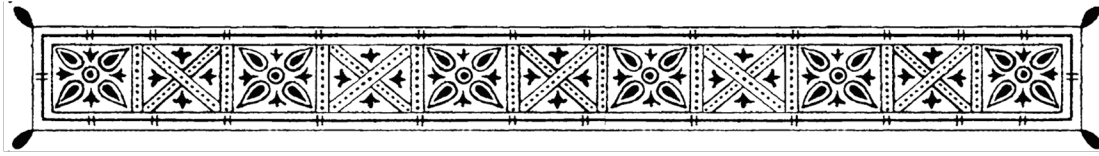
Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

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 Holy Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. [3:8-15]

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

الرسالة (لأحد الآباء القديسين)

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا .

لَأَنَّكَ عَدْلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا .

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى تَيْطُسَ .

يَا وَلَدِي تَيْطُسَ، صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ وَإِيَّاهَا أُرِيدُ أَنْ تُقَرَّرَ حَتَّى يَهْتَمَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِاللَّهِ فِي الْقِيَامِ بِالْأَعْمَالِ الْحَسَنَةِ، فَهَذِهِ هِيَ الْأَعْمَالُ الْحَسَنَةُ وَالنَّافِعَةُ. أَمَّا الْمُبَاحَثَاتُ الْهَدْيَانِيَّةُ وَالْأَنْسَابُ وَالْخُصُومَاتُ وَالْمُمَاكَاتُ النَّامُوسِيَّةُ فَاجْتَنِبْهَا، فَإِنَّهَا غَيْرُ نَافِعَةٍ وَبَاطِلَةٌ. وَرَجُلٌ الْبِدْعَةِ بَعْدَ الْإِنْذَارِ مَرَّةً وَأُخْرَى أَعْرِضْ عَنْهُ. عَالِمًا أَنَّ مَنْ هُوَ كَذَلِكَ قَدْ اعْتَسَفَ، وَهُوَ فِي الْخَطِيئَةِ يَقْضِي بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ. وَمَتَى أُرْسِلْتُ إِلَيْكَ أُرْتِمَاسٌ أَوْ تِيخِيكُسَ، فَبَادِرْ أَنْ تَأْتِيَنِي إِلَى نِيكُوبُولِسَ لِأَنِّي قَدْ عَزَمْتُ أَنْ أَشْتِيَ هُنَاكَ. أَمَّا زِينَاَسُ مُعَلِّمُ النَّامُوسِ وَأَبْلُوسُ، فَاجْتَهِدْ أَنْ تُشَيِّعَهُمَا مُتَأَهِّبِينَ لِنَلَّا يُعَوِّزَهُمَا شَيْءٌ. وَلِنَتَعَلَّمَ دُونَنَا أَنْ يَقُومُوا بِالْأَعْمَالِ الصَّالِحَةِ لِلْحَاجَاتِ الصَّرُورِيَّةِ حَتَّى لَا يَكُونُوا غَيْرَ مُثْمِرِينَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ جَمِيعُ الَّذِينَ مَعِيَ، سَلِّمُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَنَا فِي الْإِيمَانِ، النِّعْمَةُ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ. آمِينَ.



LITURGICAL SERVICES AT SAINT MARY'S FOR THE MONTHS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

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

Confessions from 6:00 to 6:30 PM

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, October 22nd

Confessions from 8:30 to 8:50 AM

Matins at 8:50 AM

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

*40 Day Trisagion (Memorial) Service for Roy Samra

WEDNESDAY, October 25th

Confessions from 6:00 to 6:30 PM

Vespertal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the
Great Martyr Demetrios at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, October 29th

Confessions from 8:30 to 8:50 AM

Matins at 8:50 AM

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, November 1st

Confessions from 6:00 to 6:30 PM

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

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



Beginning Sunday, October 15th, our church community will begin receiving donations for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Please consider bringing the following non-perishable food items: Canned Corn, Green Beans, Yams and Soups; Boxes of Stuffing Mix, Macaroni and Cheese, Instant Potatoes; Jars or Packets of Gravy. Please bring the items to the donation box in the Church Narthex. The drive will continue through November 12th.



Sunday, October 29th **Saint Mary's Banquet Hall** **Beginning at 11:30 AM**

- **Food (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. The luncheon will be complimentary for everyone.

Donations on November 5th to help offset our current project expenses of \$18,000 are most welcome.



Sunday, November 12th - 11:30 AM **Make plans to join with your Saint Mary's** **Family for fellowship and** **in thanksgiving for God's blessings.**

The Gospel (For the Fourth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

الإنجيل (للاحد الرابع من لوقا)

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر.

قال الرب هذا المثل: خرج الزارع ليُزرع زرعهُ. وفيما هو يزرع، سقط بعض على الطريق، فوطئ وأكلته طيور السماء. والبعض سقط على الصخر، فلما نبت يبس لأنه لم تكن له رطوبة. وبعض سقط بين الشوك، فنبت الشوك معه فخنقه. وبعض سقط في الأرض الصالحة، فلما نبت أثمر مائة ضعف. فسأله تلاميذه ما عسى أن يكون هذا المثل. فقال: لكم قد أعطي أن تعرفوا أسرار ملكوت الله، وأما الباقون فبأمثال، لكي لا ينظروا وهم ناظرون، ولا يفهموا وهم سامعون. وهذا هو المثل: الزرع هو كلمة الله. والذين على الطريق هم الذين يسمعون، ثم يأتي إبليس وينزع الكلمة من قلوبهم لئلا يؤمنوا فيخلصوا. والذين على الصخر هم الذين يسمعون الكلمة ويقبلونها بهرج، ولكن ليس لهم أصل، وإنما يؤمنون إلى حين، وفي وقت التجربة يرتدون. والذين سقطوا في الشوك هم الذين يسمعون ثم يذهبون فيختنقون بهموم هذه الحياة وغناها وملذاتها، فلا يأتون بثمر. وأما الذي سقط في الأرض الجيدة، فهم الذين يسمعون الكلمة فيحفظونها في قلب جيد صالح، ويثمرون بالصبر. ولما قال هذا نادى: من له أذنان للسمع فليسمع.

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

This Sunday (October 15th)

Weekly Altar Candle

- ◇ In glory of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ◇ For the health and spiritual growth of the youth of our church community.

If you would like to offer a Weekly Altar Candle or Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy, please speak with Fr. Peter.

Sunday School Classes

Sunday School Classes are held each Sunday morning. 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 Luncheon

Pizza Luncheon hosted by our Teen SOYO. Minimum donation is \$5.00 per person, with all proceeds going towards the Antiochian Village Camp Scholarship Fund.

****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 Khouryia Myriam.**

Christmas/Nativity Play Meeting

An informational meeting for our Christmas/Nativity Play will be held this Sunday from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM, in the Banquet Hall. Parents who have children between the ages of 2—18 years are encouraged to participate.

Ladies Meeting

Our Saint Mary's Ladies Society will hold their October meeting this Sunday in the Banquet Hall at approximately 11:45 AM. All of our ladies are welcome to participate.

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 Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Raouf Saballeil, Sabah, Craig Miller, Emma, Mark Georges, Lauren Moreland, George, Lama Chalhub.

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..."

Kenneth Bashour *[newly departed 10/1/23]*, 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]*.

Fr. Peter on Vacation

Fr. Peter will be away beginning Sunday evening, October 15th until Friday, October 27th. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Elia Shalhoub at (305) 812-4940. Wednesday Vespers (October 18th), Sunday Matins and Divine Liturgy (October 22nd), and Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Saint Demetrios (October 25th) will be celebrated by Fr. Elia.

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.

(Please note that the Bible Study scheduled for Tuesday, October 31st, will be held on Monday, October 30th. This is due to the high volume of traffic, parking and safety concerns around the area of the church on October 31st.)

Weekly Spiritual Discussion

Thank you to everyone who have participated in the Spiritual Discussions led by Fr. Peter on Wednesday's following the Vespers Service. The participation in the discussion grow in number each week. The topics covered the past four weeks have been: *Realizing Christ within us; Making Room for God through Prayer; Achieving Holiness; and Give us this day our Daily Bread.*

The discussions will take a two week break (October 18th and 25th) as Fr. Peter will be away, and will resume on Wednesday, November 1st.

**Vespers Divine Liturgy for the
Feast of the +Great Martyr Demetrios
Wednesday, October 25th at 6:30 PM**