

From the Front Cover

Reflection on the Righteous Mother Pelagia of Antioch

Pelagia the sinner repented,
And with knowledge of the true Faith, illumined her soul.
The world beckoned her, the world enticed her, but she hearkened not.
Her conscience was awakened, her soul began to shine.
How much effort she applied, how many struggles
She endured, wrestling with her sinful body-
Itself like a decaying apple.
So much effort, so much suffering she invested,
Until she deified her unhappy soul through faith.
In the heavens, God's sun shone,
But Pelagia's soul shone more.
Repentance-God has left us repentance.
By repentance, Pelagia was glorified.

Oh, if only we would invest as much effort in our souls as we invest in our bodies!
Oh, if only we could become as desirous of adorning ourselves with virtue before
God and His glorious angels, as we do with the vain, transitory, external displays of
appearances! At first, both Pelagia and Thais were only aware of their bodies, while
their souls were slaves bound in the prison of the body. Both were adorned with
nothing but vanity: clothed in vanity, arrayed with vanity, surrounded by vanity, and
flattered by vanity. But what a sudden change! What a divine turn of events in their
lives! More wondrous than if a wild apple were to be grafted and begin to bring
forth sweet fruits; or if a turgid, fetid swamp were suddenly to become clear, pure
potable water.

When Bishop Nonnus, in the company of other bishops, first saw the sinner Pelagia
in her outward splendor-clothed in the most expensive garments, adorned and be-
decked with rings, necklaces and baubles, perfumed, and surrounded by slaves-
Bishop Nonnus began to weep, and said to his companions: "In truth, I have learned
much from this woman. The Lord will set her before His Dread Judgment and will
rebuke us through her. How many hours does this woman spend in her room bath-
ing herself, clothing herself, adorning herself, and looking at herself in the mirror-
and for what? Only to appear more beautiful to men. And we, who have the immor-
tal Bridegroom in heaven, do not strive to adorn our souls with repentance; we do
not hasten to bathe them with the tears of repentance and clothe them in the beauty
of the virtues, that they might appear more beautiful before the eyes of God!"



+Righteous Mother Pelagia, the Penitent of Antioch

The Weekly Bulletin - October 8, 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!

Reflection 'On Raising Children'

+Saint John Chrysostom

"We are so concerned with our children's schooling and worldly success; if only we were equally zealous in bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord... This, then, is our task: to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgment-seat?"

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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The Holiness of the Church

By Abbot Tryphon

During each and every celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we, as the people of God, recite the Nicene Creed. This ancient declaration is the very core of our common faith, and connects us to the teachings of the Ancient Church. In this creed we declare that we believe in “The One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church”. The word “holy” is something we often fail to see as having anything to do with us, personally. The Church is holy, but we are not, we tell ourselves. Yet the first Christians called themselves “the holy”, precisely because they knew the Holy Spirit was in their midst, sanctifying the Church. They knew they were not simply members of a religious body, but that they WERE the Church.

Because the Holy Spirit sanctifies the Church, they, as members of the Body of Christ, were sanctified, even if they often fell short of the Glory of God. But how could the Church be holy when she so often experiences moments of darkness, and when even her priests and bishops fall short of the standards set forth in the Gospels? How can we call the Church holy, when we are all such sinners?

The Church is holy because her founder is holy, and because Christ has never abandoned His Church. The Church is holy because she is guided by the Holy Spirit. She is holy because she is always being purified and transformed anew, by the Holy Spirit. The Church is not holy because of anything we have done, but because God has made her holy.

If the holiness of the Church was dependent upon her people, most of us would have to be banned from membership. Yet this very holiness is based upon the fact that the Church does not turn away we sinners, but welcomes us with open arms. Because of the great mercy of God, and His tender love for us, we enter the very threshold of the Church with the expectation we will receive healing and forgiveness. It is within the boundaries of the Church that even the weakest of sinners can become holy, for holiness is the destiny of every Christian. Every Christian is called to holiness because our weakness is overcome by the strength of God’s mercy. It is not about living extraordinary lives, but about being transformed by an extraordinary God.

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

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Third Sunday of Luke
+Righteous Mother Pelagia the penitent of Antioch
+Marytr Pelagia the Virgin of Antioch; +Venerable Thaïs of Egypt**

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 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of the Righteous Pelagia in Tone 8

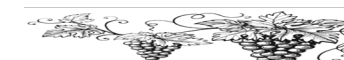
Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Pelagia; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with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

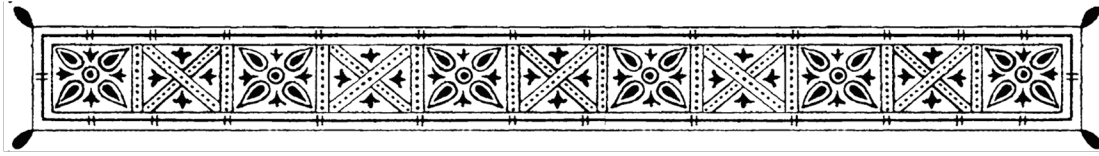
Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

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 (The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:6-11)

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

الرسالة

(للأحد الثامن عشر بعد العنصرة)

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.

ابتهجوا أيها الصديقون بالرب.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الثانية إلى أهل كورنثوس.

يا إخوة، إِنَّ مَنْ يَزْرَعُ شَحِيحاً، فَشَحِيحاً أَيْضاً يَحْصُدُ؛ وَمَنْ يَزْرَعُ بِالْبَرَكَاتِ، فَبِالْبَرَكَاتِ أَيْضاً يَحْصُدُ. كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَمَا نَوَى فِي قَلْبِهِ، لَا عَنِ ابْتِئَاسٍ أَوْ اضْطِرَارٍ. فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُعْطِيَ الْمُتَهَلِّلَ. وَاللَّهُ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يَزِيدَكُمْ كُلَّ نِعْمَةٍ، حَتَّى تَكُونُوا لَكُمْ كُلِّ كِفَايَةٍ، كُلَّ حِينٍ، فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، فَتُزَادُوا فِي كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ. كَمَا كُتِبَ "إِنَّهُ بَدَّدَ، أَعْطَى الْمَسَاكِينَ، فَبِرُّهُ يَدُومُ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ." وَالَّذِي يَزْرُقُ الزَّارِعَ زَرْعاً وَخُبْزاً لِلْقَوْتِ، يَزْرُقُكُمْ زَرْعَكُمْ وَيَكْثُرُهُ وَيَزِيدُ غِلَالَ بَرِّكُمْ. فَتَسْتَعْنُونَ فِي

كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، لِكُلِّ سَخَاءٍ خَالِصٍ يُنْشِئُ شُكْراً لِلَّهِ.



LITURGICAL SERVICES AT SAINT MARY'S FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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

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

WEDNESDAY, October 25th

Vespers Service 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

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

Annual Special Olympics Luncheon
Sunday, October 15th - 11:30 AM
Sponsored by Teen SOYO

All proceeds will going to the Special Olympics Camp host by our Archdiocese SOYO, held each summer at the Antiochian Village Camp.



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.



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 (The Third Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. [7:11-16]

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and many of His disciples and a great crowd went with Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And He came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited His people!"

الإنجيل (لأحد الثالث من لوقا)

فَصَلَّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، كَانَ يَسُوعُ مُنْطَلِقاً إِلَى مَدِينَةِ اسْمُهَا نَايْنُ، وَكَانَ كَثِيرُونَ مِنْ تَلَامِيذِهِ وَجَمْعٌ غَفِيرٌ مُنْطَلِقِينَ مَعَهُ. فَلَمَّا قَرُبَ مِنْ بَابِ الْمَدِينَةِ، إِذَا مَيِّتٌ مَحْمُولٌ، وَهُوَ ابْنٌ وَحِيدٌ لِأُمِّهِ، وَكَانَتْ أَرْمَلَةً، وَكَانَ مَعَهَا جَمْعٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنَ الْمَدِينَةِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهَا الرَّبُّ، تَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهَا وَقَالَ لَهَا: "لَا تَبْكِي." وَذَنَا، وَلَمَسَ النَّعْشَ فَوَقَّفَ الْحَامِلُونَ. فَقَالَ: "أَيُّهَا الشَّابُّ، لَكَ أَقُولُ قُمْ." فَاسْتَوَى الْمَيِّتُ، وَبَدَأَ يَتَكَلَّمُ، فَسَلَّمَهُ إِلَى أُمِّهِ. فَأَخَذَ الْجَمِيعَ خَوْفٌ، وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: "لَقَدْ قَامَ فِيْنَا نَبِيٌّ عَظِيمٌ، وَافْتَقَدَ اللَّهُ شَعْبَهُ."

***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 8th)

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

Hosted by our Teens as part of Youth Month. Donation is \$7.00 per person, with all proceeds going towards the Antiochian Village Camp Scholarships.

***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.*

Parish Council Meeting

This Sunday beginning at 11:45 AM, in the Conference Room.

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..."

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)*.

Seven Day Candles

- ◇ Offered by Leon & Judy Chalhoub for travel mercies; For the good health and well-being of Mark.
- ◇ For the health and well-being of Simona, Erik, Nicolae, Magad & Elena.

Memory Eternal!

It is in the hope of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we inform you of the falling asleep in the Lord of Kenneth Bashour, 96, this past Sunday, October 1st, in Clearwater, FL. He was predeceased by his wife Ruth in 2021, who together were founders of our church community. May his memory be eternal!

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. The topics covered the past three weeks have been: *"Realizing Christ within us;" "Making Room for God through Prayer;"* and *"Achieving Holiness."* The October 11th discussion will be: *"Our Daily Bread."*

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.



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.