

## From the Front Cover

Saint Babylas was the twelfth Bishop of Antioch (237-253 AD). He served Antioch's Christian citizens well during the years of Christian persecution, and especially cared for the vulnerable widows and orphans. Saint John Chrysostom was from Antioch, and in his homily on the Acts of the Martyrs said that Saint Babylas "saved this holy ship [the Church] in storm and choppy sea and waves." He reported on the time that Saint Babylas stood outside of the church and refused to let the visiting pagan emperor enter the church to witness the Divine Liturgy. He ordered him instead to take his place among the penitents for his part in a murder.

During the Decian persecution (250 AD) St Babylas made an unwavering confession of faith and was thrown into prison. He was placed in heavy chains and given the choice to either sacrifice to the idols or die. Despite the tortures that Saint Babylas was enduring, three young brothers who were spiritual children of the Saint did not abandon him. These young boys suffered tortures, but none of them renounced Christ. In the end, Saint Babylas and his companions were executed in 253, and are commemorated on September 4.

Saint Babylas is also well known for events that occurred after his death. He was one of the first saints to have his relics moved, or 'translated', to the suburb of Daphne in Antioch by Caesar Constantius Gallus around 350 AD. In Saint John Chrysostom's words it was like "bringing a physician to the sick," as his presence counteracted the ungodly activities of the pagans at the nearby Temple of Apollo.

Saint John Chrysostom also relates the following events in his sermon: When the pagan Emperor Julian the Apostate went to the Temple to receive a prophecy, the demon in the statue replied: "The dead prevent me from uttering, but break open the graves, dig up the bones, move the dead." By this, the demon made known that the power of the Saint prevented him from speaking. The emperor then moved the Martyr's relics, but in doing so created a triumphant procession of his relics throughout Antioch. As soon as the coffin reached the city, a thunderbolt destroyed the statue in the Temple and burned the roof. Thus, even in death, the Saints make known the glory of God.



+ The Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch and those with him



# 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 Joseph, *Primate*

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.

## Our Church Website

Have you checked-out our new Church Website? Go to [stmaryschurchwpb.org](http://stmaryschurchwpb.org) and let us know what you think.

## 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 or Fr. Peter.

## The Feast of the Nativity of the Most - Holy Theotokos



The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

## Schedule of Church Services

### Wednesday, September 7th

*Commemoration of the Nativity of the Theotokos*

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM

### Sunday, September 11th

*Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross*

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

### Tuesday, September 13th

*Commemoration of the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (Eid al-Salib)*

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM, followed by the Procession of the Cross.

### Wednesday, September 14th

Vespers Service at 6:30 PM

### Sunday, September 18th

*Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross*

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

*Fr. Peter is available for Confession by appointment; or 30 minutes prior to Sunday Matins, Wednesday Vespers and Feast Day Services.*

## The Ego



Modern psychology has told us we must feel good about ourselves and instructed us to reject the idea of guilt and sin. Sin is seen as religion's instrument for keeping people in line, making them dependent on an institution that should be relegated to the Dark Ages. In an age where man is elevated to being his own god, religion is seen as a sort of enslavement. Up with self! Down with guilt!

Self as the new god is worshiped at the expense of community and enthroned in a position of the utmost importance. Worship of self has contributed to the downfall of families and societal stability, with careers, social and financial gain and self fulfillment reigning supreme.

Divine love does not tolerate this elevated status of self, for the ego is the enemy of our communion with God. In an age of financial collapse, mortgage foreclosures and high unemployment, worship of self dooms us to a life of total loss.

We were created for communion with God and the worship of the ego has led us into a state of spiritual bankruptcy. The total meltdown of the economy and the destruction of the environment is the direct result of the turning away from spiritual values. The foundation of economic and environmental collapse is to be found in our spiritual bankruptcy. We need to return to the worship of God, and reject the worship of self.

The denial of guilt and sin is the ultimate example of our having accepted the lie perpetrated by the devil, the great deceiver. True happiness and true wealth come only through the fulfillment of our destiny and that for which we were created, communion with God.

The destruction of the ego begins with repentance and the acquisition of a humble and a contrite heart.



*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)*

## Divine Liturgy Variables for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

*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, the Resurrectional Apolytikion is sung. 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 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

### Apolytikion of the Hieromartyr Babylas of Antioch in Tone 4

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, thou hast succeeded to their throne. Inspired by God, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the Word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith to the very shedding of thy blood, O Hieromartyr Babylas. Entreat the Lord our God to save our souls.

### 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 of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone 4

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

## The Epistle *(For the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)*

*Verse: Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all ye nations.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

رَبُّوْا لِإِلَهِنَا رَتِلُوا.

يا جميع الأمم صفقوا بالأيدي.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول الأولى إلى أهل كورنثوس.

يا إخوة، أَعْرَفُكُمْ بِالْإِنْجِيلِ الَّذِي بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ وَقَبِلْتُمُوهُ وَأَنْتُمْ قَائِمُونَ فِيهِ. وَبِهِ أَيْضاً تَخْلُصُونَ بِأَيِّ كَلَامٍ

بَشَّرْتُكُمْ بِهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَذْكُرُونَ إِلَّا أَنْ تَكُونُوا قَدْ آمَنْتُمْ بِاطِّبَالٍ. فَإِنِّي قَدْ سَلَّمْتُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَوَّلاً مَا تَسَلَّمْتُهُ أَنْ الْمَسِيحَ مَاتَ مِنْ أَجْلِ

خَطايانا على ما في الكُتُب. وَأَنَّهُ قَبِرَ وَأَنَّهُ قَدْ قَامَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ عَلَى مَا فِي الْكُتُب. وَأَنَّهُ تَرَأَى لَصَقاً ثُمَّ الْإِثْنَيْ

عَشَرَ. ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِأَكْثَرِ مِنْ خَمْسِ مِئَةٍ أَحْ دَفَعَهُ وَاحِدَةً، أَكْثَرَهُمْ بَاقٍ إِلَى الْآنَ، وَبَعْضُهُمْ قَدْ رَقَدُوا. ثُمَّ تَرَأَى لِيَعْقُوبَ،

ثُمَّ لِجَمِيعِ الرُّسُلِ. وَأَجَزَ الْكُلَّ تَرَأَى لِي أَنَا أَيْضاً كَأَنَّهُ لِلْسِّقْطِ. لِأَنِّي أَنَا أَصْغَرُ الرُّسُلِ، وَلَسْتُ أَهْلاً لِأَنَّ أَسْمَى رَسُولاً،

لَأَنِّي اضْطَهَدْتُ كَنِيسَةَ اللَّهِ. وَلَكِنْ بِنِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ أَنَا مَا أَنَا. وَنِعْمَتُهُ الْمُعْطَاةُ لِي لَمْ تَكُنْ بَاطِلَةً بَلْ تَعِبْتُ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ جَمِيعِهِمْ.

وَلَكِنْ لَا أَنَا بَلْ نِعْمَةُ اللَّهِ الَّتِي مَعِي. فَسِوَاءَ كُنْتُ أَنَا أَمْ أَوْلِيكَ هَكَذَا نَحْرُزُ وَهَكَذَا آمَنْتُمْ.

## The Gospel *(For the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew)*

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him,

## Sunday School and Teen Classes Begin September 18th!

Classes will be held each Sunday morning following Communion, and last approximately 30 minutes. Before classes begin on September 18th, Fr. Peter will gather all of our Sunday School students and teens for a blessing prior to Communion.

The following is general information regarding Sunday School and teen classes:

- ◇ There will be three classes:
  - Pre-K and K Class (Ages 4 - 6 years)
  - Middler Class (Ages 7 - 10 years)
  - Pre-Teen (Ages 11 & 12) and Teens
- ◇ Registration Forms will be mailed *and* emailed to all parents, in addition to being available on the table in the Church Narthex. All parents are asked to complete the forms and return them to the church by September 18th.

## Ice Cream Sundae Sunday

On September 18th in conjunction to the first day of Sunday School and Teen classes, Coffee Hour will feature Ice Cream Sundaes for our children and their parents. For everyone else (adults), muffins and coffee will be available.

## Donations for the Feast of the Cross

It is customary that at the celebration of the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross that the Cross adorned by flowers is taken in procession and venerated at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Donation(s) are needed to help defray the cost of the flowers. If you are willing to donate, please speak with Fr. Peter.

**The Vesperal Divine Liturgy in celebration of the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross will be Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:30 PM.**

## Upcoming Meetings and Activities

- ◇ **Sunday, September 4th:** Teen SOYO Meeting at 12:00 PM, in the Teen Room.
- ◇ **Sunday, September 11th:** Parish Council Meeting at 12:00 PM, in the Conference Room.
- ◇ **October is Youth Month!**
- ◇ **Saturday, October 1st:** Pizza and a Movie at 6:00 PM. The Movie 'Man of God,' depicts the trials and tribulations of Saint Nektarios *(More information coming in the following weeks)*.
- ◇ **Sunday, October 16th:** Special Olympics Sunday and Luncheon at 11:30 PM, hosted by our Teen SOYO.

## Repair and Improvement Campaign Update

\$25,000

\$50,000

\$75,000

\$100,000

Amount  
Received

As of August 31, 2022: **\$44,030**

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Since the Parish Council initiated the Repair and Improvement Campaign at the end of May, much needed repairs and improvements have been carried out.

- ♦ New Air-Conditioning System for our Banquet Hall, in addition to a new A/C system for our hall restrooms and new Sunday School Rooms.
- ♦ Repair and re-surfacing of our parking lots; new curb stones and parking stripes; relocation of handicapped spaces and signage to South Parking Lot and school.
- ♦ Repair of pumps and zone timer for the outdoor sprinklers.

The total cost for the above repairs currently exceeds to amount donated to date.

For those who have donated we THANK YOU!

In order to reach our goal of \$100,000, your donations are still needed, no matter the amount.

*It is also imperative to continue to keep up with your annual giving, especially during the summer months. This will keep the church from falling into a deficit.*

For more information on how you may donate to our campaign, please speak with Mark Samra, Judy Chalhub, 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.

"Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, 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." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، دَنَا إِلَى يَسُوعَ شَابٌ وَجِئَا لَهُ قَائِلًا: أَيُّهَا الْمُعَلِّمُ الصَّالِحُ، مَاذَا أَعْمَلُ مِنَ الصَّلَاحِ لِتَكُونَ لِي الْحَيَاةَ الْأَبَدِيَّةَ؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: لِمَاذَا تَدْعُونِي صَالِحًا؟ وَمَا صَالِحٌ إِلَّا وَاحِدٌ وَهُوَ اللَّهُ. وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كُنْتَ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ الْحَيَاةَ، فَاحْفَظِ الْوَصَايَا. فَقَالَ لَهُ: أَيَّةُ وَصَايَا؟ قَالَ يَسُوعُ: لَا تَقْتُلْ، لَا تَزْنِ، لَا تَسْرِقْ، لَا تَشْهَدْ بِالزُّورِ. أَكْرَمِ أَبَاكَ وَأُمَّكَ، أَحِبِّبِ قَرِيبَكَ كَنَفْسِكَ. قَالَ لَهُ الشَّابُّ: كُلُّ هَذَا قَدْ حَفِظْتُهُ مِنْذُ صِبَايَ، فَمَاذَا يَنْقُصُنِي بَعْدُ؟ قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: إِنْ كُنْتَ تُرِيدُ أَنْ تَكُونَ كَامِلًا، فَادْهَبْ وَبِعْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ لَكَ وَأَعْطِهِ لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، فَيَكُونَ لَكَ كَنْزٌ فِي السَّمَاءِ. وَتَعَالَ اتَّبِعْنِي. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الشَّابُّ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ، مَضَى حَزِينًا لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ ذَا مَالٍ كَثِيرٍ. فَقَالَ يَسُوعُ لِتَلَامِيذِهِ: الْحَقُّ أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ يَعْسُرُ عَلَى الْعَيْنِ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ. وَأَيْضًا أَقُولُ لَكُمْ، إِنْ مُرَرَ الْجَمَلُ مِنْ ثَقْبِ الْإِبْرَةِ لِأَسْهَلُ مِنْ دُخُولِ غَنِيٍّ مَلَكُوتَ السَّمَاوَاتِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ تَلَامِيذُهُ بُهِتُوا جِدًّا وَقَالُوا "مَنْ يَسْتَطِيعُ إِذَنْ أَنْ يَخْلُصَ؟" فَنَظَرَ يَسُوعُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: أَمَّا عِنْدَ النَّاسِ فَلَا يَسْتَطَاعُ هَذَا، وَأَمَّا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ.

### Trisagion (Memorial) Service

- ♦ A 40 Day Trisagion Service will be offered for the repose of Nayla Tacla, by Jina Sayegh and family.
- ♦ A 10 Year Trisagion Service will be offered for the repose of Sam Pasley III, by Jane Pasley and family.

MEMORY ETERNAL!

## Liturgical Offerings

### Holy Bread offered for Sunday, September 4th:

- ◇ By Jina Sayegh and family in memory of her mother, Nayla Tacla (40 days).
- ◇ By Jane Pasley and family in memory of her husband, Sam Pasley III (10 years); Also offered for the health of Jane, Sam, Kelly, Shannon, Sammy and Savannah.
- ◇ By Carol Sara and family in memory of her father, Fehmi Meimari (3 years).

### Weekly Altar Candle offered for the week of September 4th:

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

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

## Coffee Hour

Hosted by Jina Sayegh and family in memory of Nayla Tacla.

*If you wish to host a Sunday Coffee Hour, please speak with Jane Pasley.*

## 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, George Frieji, Jodet Rae, Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Jenna Welch, Shane Brown, Raouf Saballeil, Jennifer Joseph Zicky, Marie-Therese Habib, David Bredeweg, Suad AbuHadid, Sabah.

*For the Shut-ins of our Church Community:* Gloria Yedlinsky, Lidia Pawlcuk, Basil Dalack, 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.

## For the Departed

*"With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest O Lord to the souls of Thy servants..."*

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) *(newly departed)*, Archpriest Alexander Padlo *(newly departed)*, Archpriest Robert Andrew Zbeeb *(newly departed)*, Matushka Ann Hopko *(newly departed)*, Nayla Tacla *(newly departed)*, Thomas Eissey *(5/4/22)*, Margo Fankhauser *(5/3/22)*, Archpriest Nicholas Neyman *(12/12/21)*, Sonia AbuHadid *(10/3/21)*.

## Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered *(For August 28th)*

- ◇ By Judy Chalhub for the health and salvation of Judy & Leon Chalhub.
- ◇ Cristina Nagy for the health of Eugenia, Zoltan, Cristina, Wilhelmina, Ryan and Lucia; In memory of Ion, Stefan, Elena, Constantin, Florea, Maria, Melania.

*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.*



## Giving of Your Blessings

Thank you to those who continue to fill our Feed the Hungry Box located in the Church Narthex. Your food donations will be distributed to those in need in our local community. In addition to non perishable food items, items such as baby formula, diapers, wipes; toothpaste, soap and shampoo are greatly needed.

## Weekly Bible Study Begins September 6th

Beginning September 6th, Weekly Bible Study will be held on Tuesday evenings 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.