



“Brethren, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.”

Hebrews 12:28

The Basics of Great Lent and Holy Week

Great Lent began on Monday, February 23rd, and concludes with the celebration of Pascha on April 12th. During the time of Great Lent and Holy Week, we are called to:

- ⇒ **Fast (abstain)** from all meat products (including fish), dairy products, wine and olive oil.
- ⇒ **Give Alms** and remember the poor in your prayers.
- ⇒ **Pray.** Increase your daily prayers. Attend the Lenten Services. Spend more time reading the scriptures.



Saint Mary's Calendar

Sunday, April 5th

Feast of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

- Confessions - 8:30 AM
- Matins & Divine Liturgy - 8:50 AM
- Procession of Palms at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
 - No Sunday School Classes
- Palm Sunday Luncheon - 11:30 AM

(Sunday Evening)

- Confessions 6:30 to 7:00 PM
- Bridegroom Matins - 7:00 PM

Schedule of Holy Week Services has been inserted in today's Bulletin.

No Vespers Service on Wednesday, April 15th or Saturday, April 18th

Sunday, April 19th

Thomas Sunday

- Confessions - 8:30 AM
- Matins & Divine Liturgy - 8:50 AM
- Sunday School Classes following Communion.

Wednesday, April 22nd

Feast of the Great Martyr George

- Confessions 6:30 PM
- Vespers Divine Liturgy - 7:00 PM



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, FL

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America and the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” Acts 11:26

Metropolitan SABA,
Primate, Antiochian
Orthodox Archdiocese

Bishop NICHOLAS,
Auxiliary Bishop for the
Diocese of Miami and the
Southeast

Parish Priest
The Very Reverend
Father Peter Shportun
561.632-7066 (Cellular)

Church Office:
561.965-5007

Office Hours:
Tuesday—Friday
10:30 AM—2:30 PM
(by Appointment)

Website:
stmaryschurchwpb.org

The Weekly Bulletin

April 5, 2026



Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Weekly Liturgical Service Schedule:

*Sunday Services: Matins 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
Wednesday Vespers 7:00PM; Saturday Vespers 6:30 PM
Feast Day Services as announced in The Weekly Bulletin*

Sacrament of Confession:

*Saturday 6:00 - 6:30 PM; Sunday 8:30 - 8:50 AM;
Wednesday 6:30 - 7:00 PM; By appointment with Fr. Peter.*

Sunday School Classes for all children between the ages of 3 and 12 years, each Sunday (September - May) immediately following Communion.

Catechism Classes and Bible Studies as announced in The Weekly Bulletin.

We are glad you have chosen to pray with us at Saint Mary Orthodox Church. Today, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated. The service text begins on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

Please know that Holy Communion is offered to Orthodox Christians after preparing themselves through prayer, fasting and recent confession. All visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy, and join us for fellowship during Coffee Hour.

The Feast of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Today, *THE DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM* is celebrated. The service text begins on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews. The Divine Liturgy variables are as follows:

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I am filled with joy, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. The anguish of death encompassed me; the perils of hades beset me.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

I found tribulation and anguish, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. I will walk acceptably before the Lord in the land of the living. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I believed, and therefore have I spoken: but I was deeply humiliated. What shall I render unto the Lord, for all His benefits unto me?

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

*During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the **Apolytikion of Lazarus Saturday** is sung. After the entrance, these hymns are sung in the following order:*

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM



On Palm Sunday we behold the Word of God, the Giver of Life and the Vanquisher of Death, made flesh. This day reminds us that He is always present with us (Matthew 28:20) in His Church. That He comes ceaselessly to us in power and glory at every Eucharist, in every prayer and sacrament, and in every act of love, kindness and mercy. He comes not only to deliver us from sin and death, but also to make us capable of attaining perfect communion with Him. He is our King, who liberates us from the darkness of sin and the bondage of death.

In the fleeting moments that mark Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world receives its King, on His way to the Cross to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him. Filled with infinite love for mankind, Jesus accepts the infinite abasement of the Cross. He bears our griefs and carries our sorrows; He is wounded for our transgressions and makes Himself an offering for sin (Isaiah 53). His glorification, which was accomplished by the Resurrection and the Ascension, was achieved through the Cross. Secondly, Palm Sunday calls us to see the Kingdom of God as the goal of our Christian life. We draw our very identity from Christ and His Kingdom. The Kingdom does not lie somewhere or sometime in the distant future; rather, the Kingdom is a present reality and a future realization at the same time (Matthew 6:10). Moreover, the Kingdom is within us (Luke 17:21).

Saint Theophan the Recluse wrote:

"The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master, and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as Master 'both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established."



Join us today for the traditional Palm Sunday Lunch hosted by the Parish Council immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A donation \$15.00 for adults; Free-will offering for children 12 years and under.

Making It Easier To Give



By using this QR Code, it is easier to make a donation or fulfill your annual pledge through Zelle to Saint Mary's. You may also access it through your online bank to:

stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com

Should you have any questions, or need further information about giving opportunities at Saint Mary's, please speak to our Parish Council Treasurer Sam Pasley.

Note: You may also use Zelle to make donations for Great Lent, Holy Week, Pascha and Food For Hungry People. Please make sure you earmark what the donation is for.

DONATIONS FOR GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Again this year, we turn to our parishioners and benefactors for donations for Great Lent. Please consider donating towards the following:

- Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and Pascha. Suggested donation: **DONATED!**
- Palms and Pussy Willows for Palm Sunday. **DONATED!**
- Oil for Holy Wednesday Unction Service. **DONATED!**
- Rose Water for Holy Friday Vespers and Lamentation Service. **DONATED!**
- Flowers for Tomb for Great and Holy Friday. **DONATED!**
- Donations towards Potted Plants for Holy Friday and Pascha (Easter Lilies, Orchids, Peace Lilies, etc.).
- Bay Leaves for Holy Saturday. **DONATED!**

All donations may be offered for the good health of, or memory of loved ones, and will be acknowledged in the Pascha Bulletin. Please see Fr. Peter or Sam Pasley to donate.

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY IN TONE ONE

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

THE EPISTLE

*Verse: Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made

Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of My burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!" His Disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

MEGALYNARION FOR PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us; ordain a feast, and rejoicing, come let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, crying out with hymns: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

COMMUNION HYMN FOR PALM SUNDAY IN TONE EIGHT

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

- *After receiving Communion, please quietly read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion' on pages 128-131 in the Red Service Book.*
- *At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the customary Procession of Palms will be held around the exterior of the church.*

- *There will be a **Second Offering Tray** for the Patriarchate of Antioch that will be collected today prior to Fr. Peter's homily. Please read Metropolitan Saba's letter enclosed in today's bulletin and be generous in your giving.*

Offerings for the Divine Liturgy Today

Holy Bread

- For the health of Alan, Carol, Simon, Ivana, Alondra, the Sara, Mamari and Janin Families; In memory of Roula, Fehmi, Olga, Samaan and Renee.
- For the health of Khouryia Myriam on the occasion of her birthday.
- For the health and well-being of Valerica, Daniela, Andrei, Rachel, Fr. Gherman, Petru, Sarah, Xenia, Lucia, Basil, Maria, Ioana, Joachim.

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

Your Prayers Are Requested

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: Matushka Annette Zaparyniuk, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Sabah Shalhoub, Cheryl Lewis, Eric Waser.

For those serving in our armed forces here and abroad: Christopher Smith, Jonathan Shportun, Alexios Gavrilos, Dylan Himber.

For peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

For the Departed

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

Ralph Haselmann (12/22/25), Sub-Deacon William Hall (4/12/25).

**Names for the 'good health' will be kept on the Prayer List for 40 days unless otherwise requested. Please speak with Fr. Peter.*