

+Saint John Climacus on True Repentance

Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility. Repentance is constant distrust of bodily comfort... Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair... Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by the practice of good deeds contrary to the sins. Repentance is purification of conscience. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions.

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly the angel who guards you will honor your patience. While a wound is still fresh and warm it is easy to heal, but old, neglected and festering ones are hard to cure, and require for their care much treatment, cutting, plastering and cauterization. Many from long neglect become incurable. But with God all things are possible.

Nothing equals or excels God's mercies. Therefore he who despairs is committing suicide. A sign of true repentance is the acknowledgment that we deserve all the troubles, visible and invisible, that come to us, and even greater ones. Moses, after seeing God in the bush, returned again to Egypt, that is, to darkness and to the brick-making of Pharaoh, symbolic of the spiritual Pharaoh. But he went back again to the bush, and not only to the bush but also up the mountain. Whoever has known contemplation will never despair of himself. Job became a beggar, but he became twice as rich again.

The forgetting of wrongs is a sign of true repentance. But he who dwells on them and thinks that he is repenting is like a man who thinks he is running while he is really asleep.



"The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends. He who despises his neighbor is a sinner, but happy is he who is kind to the poor. "

Proverbs 14: 20-22



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach

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The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun, *Priest / Pastor*

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Fr. Peter's Cellular: (561) 632-7066

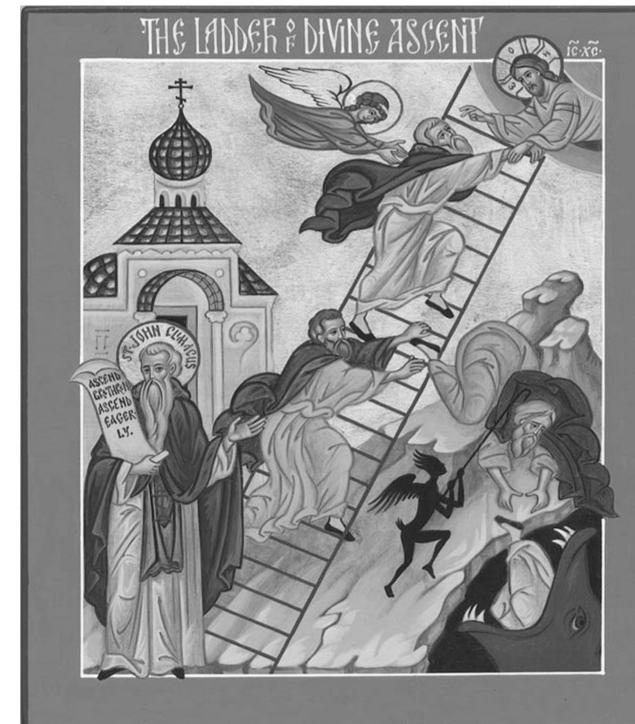
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*A Parish of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast,
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America*

Worship Guide and Bulletin – April 14, 2024



"The one who requests less than he deserves from God will surely obtain more than he deserves. This is clearly shown by the tax-collector who requested forgiveness but obtained justification. And the thief merely requested to be remembered in His Kingdom, but he inherited Paradise."

+Saint John Climacus

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 counter 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.

Divine Liturgy Variables for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent Commemoration of Saint John Climacus

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on this day. The service text may be found beginning on page 91 in the Red Service Book in the pews. The 'Anaphora Prayers' usually found on pages 111-119 in the Red Service Book, can be found on pages 134-143.

Apolytikion for the Resurrection in Tone 4

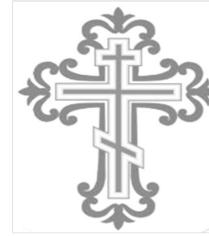
Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of Saint John Climacus in Tone 8

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ 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



During Great Lent the regular schedule of weekly services will include:

Great Compline - (Great) "Compline" means "at the end of the day," and is a service of Psalms, prayers and supplications that reflect on the day and asking God's guidance and blessing on the night ahead.

Presanctified Liturgy - Is the solemn Lenten Vespers and Prayers with Holy Communion. There is no consecration of the eucharistic gifts at the Presanctified Liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the eucharistic gifts sanctified during the Divine Liturgy of the previous Sunday.

Akathist Hymn - The "Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God" is so named because "the word 'akathistos,' or in Arabic 'Madayeh,' literally means 'not sitting,' i.e., standing; The hymns, poetic in nature, are an inspired means of expressing gratitude and praise to the Mother of God for what she has accomplished for our salvation."

In addition to the above services, **Saturday Great Vespers** and **Sunday Matins and Divine Liturgy** will be prayed.

Great Lent Service Schedule

Sunday, April 14th
Fourth Sunday of Lent
'Saint John Climacus'

- ♦ *Matins* - 8:50 PM
- ♦ *Divine Liturgy* - 10:00 AM

Monday, April 15th

- ♦ *Great Compline Service* - 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 17th

- ♦ *Presanctified Liturgy* - 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 18th

- ♦ *Little Compline with The Canon of Saint Andrew/Reading of the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt*

Friday, April 19th

- ♦ *Little Compline and 5th Akathist Hymn (Madayah)* - 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 13th

- ♦ *Great Vespers Service* - 6:30 PM

Sunday, April 21st
Fifth Sunday of Lent
'Saint Mary of Egypt'

- ♦ *Matins* - 8:50 PM
- ♦ *Divine Liturgy* - 10:00 AM

During Great Lent, Fr. Peter will be available for Confession 30 minutes prior to the start of the evening services, or by appointment.

Great Lent & Holy Week Needs

Donations are needed to help offset the cost of the following needs for Great Lent and Holy Week:

- Flowers to decorate the Cross and distributed on the 3rd Sunday of Lent: \$150.00 **DONATED!**
- Palms & Pussy Willows for Palm Sunday: \$150.00 **DONATED!**
- Flowers for Tomb for Great and Holy Friday: \$750.00
- Donations towards Potted Plants for Holy Friday and Pascha (Easter Lilies, Orchids, Peace Lilies, etc).
- Bay Leaves (for Great & Holy Saturday): \$40.00
- Olive Oil for Holy Wednesday Unction Service: **DONATED!**
- Altar Wine: \$200.00 **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.



Winter / Spring
Catechism Classes

<p>Tuesday, April 16th</p> <p>◇ Liturgical Worship and Daily Prayers.</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 23rd</p> <p>◇ Orthodox Praxis; Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving; Traditions.</p>
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Classes will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Conference Room.

Agape Vespers Readers

On Pascha (Easter) morning, Agape Vespers will be celebrated at 11:00 AM. During the service, the Gospel lesson is read in various languages. Volunteers are need to help read in following languages:

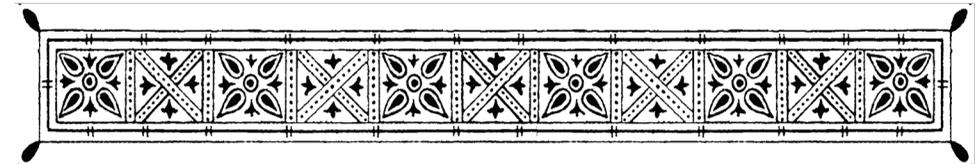
-Arabic	-Russian	-Slavonic	-Greek	-Romanian	-Italian
-French	-Spanish	-Serbian	-German	-Latin	-Other...

If you are able to read one of the above or other languages and would like to participate, please speak to Fr. Peter.

life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Kontakion for the Sundays of Great Lent in Tone 8

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.



THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

The Epistle

Verse: O Lord, how magnified are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

الرسالة (للأحد الرابع من الصوم)

ما أعظم أعمالك يا رب، كلها بحكمة صنعت. باركي يا نفسي الرب.

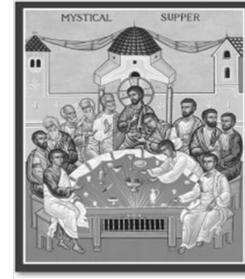
فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين.

قائلاً: لأباركك بركة وأكثرتك يا إخوة، إن الله لما وعد إبراهيم، إذ لم يمكن أن يُقسِمَ بما هو أعظم منه، أقسم بنفسه وإنما الناس يُقسِمون بما هو أعظم منهم، وتتقضي كل مشاجرة بينهم بالقسم. تكثيراً. وذلك إذ تأتي، نال الموعد حتى نحصل بأمرين لا . فلذلك، لما شاء الله أن يزيد ورثة الموعد بيانا لعدم تحول عزمه، توسط بالقسم. للثبوت يتحولان ولا يمكن أن يخلف الله فيهما على تعزية قوية، نحن الذين التجأنا إلى التمسك بالرجاء الموضوع أمامنا. الذي هو لنا كمُرْساة للنفس راسخة تدخل إلى داخل الحجاب، حيث دخل يسوع كسابق لنا وقد صار على رتبة ملكيصادق، رئيس كهنة إلى الأبد.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

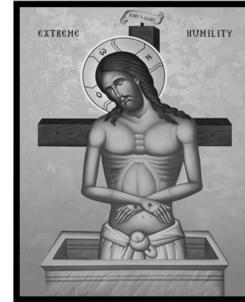
At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on



Holy Thursday - May 2nd

On this day, we celebrate the Mystical Supper (the institution of the Eucharist) in the morning; The Lord's Agony in the Garden; His Betrayal and Crucifixion in the evening.

- ◆ Vespertal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great - 9:00 AM
- ◆ Matins of the 12 Passion Gospels - 6:30 PM



Great and Holy Friday - May 3rd

The most solemn day of the year, the Church commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross; The un-nailing of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the tomb.

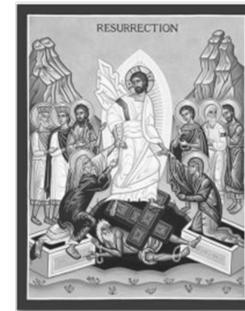
- ◆ Reading of the Royal Hours - 9:00 AM
- ◆ Vespers of the Un-nailing - 3:00 PM
- ◆ Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations) - 7:00 PM

Overnight Vigil will be kept at the Tomb of Christ. Everyone is welcome to participate with our youth. A sign up sheet is in the Church Narthex.

Great and Holy Saturday (Sebt al-Nour) - May 4th

Commonly referred to as "the day of the light" or "the first resurrection," Great Saturday is the day between Jesus' death and His resurrection. It is the day of watchful expectation, in which mourning is being transformed into joy.

- ◆ Vespertal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great - 9:00 AM



Great and Holy Pascha

On this day, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church.

Saturday Evening - May 4th

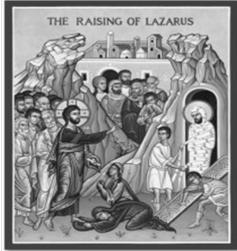
- ◆ Nocturnes; Hajme; Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha - 10:00 PM.

Sunday Morning - May 5th

- ◆ Agape Vespers - 11:00 AM (The Gospel Message is read in various languages, with a joyful Paschal Procession)



Holy Week Schedule of Services



Lazarus Saturday - April 27th

Commemorating the raising of Lazarus from the tomb by our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Divine Liturgy - 9:00 AM
- ◆ Great Vespers - 6:30 PM (In preparation for the Feast of the Entrance of our Lord in Jerusalem)



Palm Sunday - April 28th

The Feast of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

- ◆ Matins - 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM
- ◆ The Procession of Palms will be held outside around the church following the Divine Liturgy.



Bridegroom Matins

The hymn "Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight...", sung at the Bridegroom Matins, reminds us of the watchful expectation for the Lord, who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- ◆ Palm Sunday Evening, April 28th - 6:30 PM
- ◆ Holy Monday, April 29th - April 29th - 6:30 PM
- ◆ Holy Tuesday, April 30th - 6:30 PM

** The Sacrament of Confession will be offered 30 minutes prior to, and immediately following each Bridegroom Matins Service. Holy Tuesday will be the last day for Confessions during Holy Week. **

Holy Wednesday - May 1st

The Sacrament of Holy Unction - is offered for the healing of soul and body and for the forgiveness of sins. The anointing with oil and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person.

- ◆ The Service of Holy Unction - 6:30 PM

from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

الإنجيل (للأحد الرابع من الصوم)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْفُوسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ.

في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع إنساناً وسجد له قائلاً: "يا معلم، قد أتيتك بابني، به روح أبك. وحيثما أخذته يصرعُهُ، فَيُزِيدُ وَيَصْرِفُ بِأَسْنَانِهِ وَيَبْسِسُ، وَقَدْ سَأَلْتُ تَلَامِيذَكَ أَنْ يُخْرِجُوهُ فَلَمْ يَقْدِرُوا." فَأَجَابَهُ قَائِلاً: "أيها الجبلُ غَيِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِ، إِلَى مَتَى أَكُونُ عِنْدَكُمْ؟ حَتَّى مَتَى أَحْتَمِلُكُمْ؟ هَلَمْ بِهِ إِلَيَّ." فَأَتَوْهُ بِهِ. فَلَمَّا رَأَهُ لِلْوَقْتِ صَرَغَهُ الرُّوحُ، فَسَقَطَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ فَسَأَلَ أَبَاهُ: "مُنْذُ كَمْ مِنَ الزَّمَانِ أَصَابَهُ هَذَا؟" فَقَالَ: "مُنْذُ صِبَاهُ. وَكَثِيراً مَا أَلْقَاهُ فِي النَّارِ وَفِي الْمِيَاهِ. يَتَمَرَّغُ وَيُزِيدُ." فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: "إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تُؤْمِنَ، فَكُلُّ شَيْءٍ مُسْتَطَاعٌ لِيُهِلِكَ. لَكِنْ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ شَيْئاً، فَتَحَنَّنْ عَلَيْنَا وَأَعِثْنَا لِلْمُؤْمِنِ." فَصَاحَ أَبُو الصَّبِيِّ مِنْ سَاعَتِهِ بِدُمُوعٍ وَقَالَ: "إِنِّي أَوْمِنُ يَا سَيِّدُ، فَأَعِثْ عَدَمَ إِيمَانِي." فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّ الْجَمْعَ يَتَّبِعُونَهُ إِلَيْهِ، انْتَهَرَ الرُّوحَ النَّجِسَ قَائِلاً لَهُ: "أيها الروحُ الأَبْكَمُ الأَصَمُّ، أَنَا أَمُرُّكَ أَنْ أُخْرَجَ مِنْهُ وَلَا تُعَدُّ تَدْخُلُ فِيهِ." فَصَرَخَ وَخَبَطَهُ كَثِيراً وَخَرَجَ مِنْهُ، فَصَارَ كَالْمَيِّتِ، حَتَّى قَالَ كَثِيرُونَ إِنَّهُ قَدْ مَاتَ. فَأَخَذَ يَسُوعُ بِيَدِهِ وَأَنْهَضَهُ، فَقَامَ وَلَمَّا دَخَلَ بَيْتاً، سَأَلَهُ تَلَامِيذُهُ عَلَى انْفِرَادٍ: "لِمَاذَا لَمْ نَسْتَطِعْ نَحْنُ أَنْ نُخْرِجَهُ؟" فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ هَذَا الْجِنْسَ لَا يُمْكِنُ أَنْ يُخْرَجَ بِشَيْءٍ إِلَّا بِالصَّلَاةِ وَالصُّومِ." وَلَمَّا خَرَجُوا مِنْ هُنَاكَ، اجْتَازُوا فِي الْجَلِيلِ، وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْرِيَ أَحَدٌ. فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ يُعَلِّمُ تَلَامِيذَهُ وَيَقُولُ لَهُمْ: "إِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ يُسَلَّمُ إِلَى أَيْدِي النَّاسِ، فَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَبَعْدَ أَنْ يُقَتَّلَ، يَقُومُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ."

- The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual.

Saint Basil Divine Liturgy Megalynarion (sung instead of 'It is truly meet...')

All creation rejoices in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoices in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

After receiving Communion, please read the 'Prayers of Thanksgiving After Holy Communion' on pages 128-131 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

Offerings for April 14th

Weekly Altar Candle

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

***If you would like to offer a Weekly Altar Candle, or Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy, please speak with Fr. Peter. (A minimum donation of \$10.00 (Altar Candle), and \$30.00 (Holy Bread) is requested.)*

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: Archpriest Michael & Matushka Annette Zaparyniuk, Michael, Priest Andrew Short, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Raouf & Virginie Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Alice Kelly, Anne-Marie Gargoura, Eugenia, Joseph Matouk, George Matouk, Nadine Smith, Yulieth Vasquez, Elena Sora.

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

For peace in the Middle East; the Ukraine and throughout the world.

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..."

Panagiotis (Peter) Ziros (1/5/24), Florence Esper (12/8/23), Roy Samra (9/13/23), Gail Camileri (6/26/23), Angie Smith (6/23/23).

Seven Day Prayer Candles

◇ Offered by Leon & Judy Chalhub in loving memory of her sister Jennifer.

◇ Offered by the Safwat Family for the good health of Nevien and Maria.



A beautiful way to celebrate an occasion, honor a loved one's memory or simply show your love for Saint Mary's is to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. It is also a great way to contribute to our parish fellowship. Please speak with Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam for more details and to host a Coffee Hour. This Sunday's Coffee Hour is hosted by Gina Sayegh.



Candle Decorating

With Palm Sunday and Pascha coming soon, our Parents Group will sponsor a 'Candle Making Sunday' (for a small donation) on April 21st, in the hall during Coffee Hour.



Following the Agape Vespers Service (11:00 AM) on Pascha Sunday, May 5th, there will be Easter Egg Hunt and Goodies for the children on the church grounds hosted by the Parents Group.

Parents: *If your children are participating, please speak to Kelly Pasley so we may get an approximate head count in order to have enough eggs and goodies for all the children.*

****All children should bring their own basket.****

Online Donations

In addition to making your donations to Saint Mary's by using the Sunday Offering Envelopes, mail, or Paypal, the church offers 'Zelle' as an online means of fulfilling your 2024 Annual Giving. To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to: stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com.