

Baptism and Repentance

So, why is repentance so important in man's life?

In the Greek language, the word "repentance" ("metania") designates a "change of mind," a "change of thought," a "reconsideration," or "change."

In the baptismal font during the Mystery of Baptism, by the triple immersion into water by a priest, our old man dies; for the water here is not merely a symbol of ablution and purity, but a symbol of the earth and burial. And by the triple rising from the water, pronouncing the baptismal formula, "The servant of God (name) is baptized in the name of the Father. Amen. And of the Son. Amen. And of the Holy Spirit. Amen," man arises renewed and heavenly, grafted onto the vine of Christ and cleansed from sin—worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven. After all, it was not only for our Lord Jesus Christ that the heavens were opened during His Baptism, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and the voice of God the father was heard: *Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased* (Lk. 3:22), but for each of us, baptized into Christ and adorned in Christ, the heavens are sundered and upon each of us the Holy Spirit descends, and to each of us speaks God the Father, "Thou art My beloved son (My beloved daughter)." And the great miracle, the great mystery of adoption of every individual person is performed by God.

But in the course of earthly life, every one of falls. The old man tries to prevail again over the newly-baptized heavenly man in the earthly vale of vanities. Our task, with God's help, is to break out of his (the old man's) tenacious and lethal embrace by prayer, participation in the life of the Church, the Sacraments, good works, and, of course, repentance—that is, by a change in ourselves, of our own heart. This begins with man turning his spiritual gaze, his attention not upon material, visible, and sensible things that bring carnal pleasure, but within himself, comprehending his own sins. In the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian we pray the words: *"O Lord and Master of my life... grant me to see my failings..."* Once man begin to see his own sins, he needs to turn to the One Who can heal him. And that, of course, is only God. When our heart's contrite and repentant will we be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Andrei Chizhenko



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach

1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

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

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

Worship Guide and Bulletin – January 14, 2024



Being Immersed with Christ +Saint Nikolai Velimirovich

"The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them [immersion] and became alive again [the coming out of the water]; and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation."

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 Leave-taking of the Feast of Theophany

The Divine Liturgy of Saint 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.

The First Antiphon

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

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

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? (**Refrain**)

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

The Second Antiphon

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

Refrain: *Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.*



Church Services at Saint Mary

- ♦ Sunday: Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
 - ♦ Saturday: Great Vespers at 6:30 PM
 - ♦ Wednesday: Vespers at 6:30 PM

Confessions

- ♦ Saturday immediately following Vespers;
 - ♦ Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM;
 - ♦ Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM;or by appointment with Fr. Peter

Wednesday and Saturday Vespers at 6:30 PM

In the Orthodox Church the liturgical day begins in the evening with the setting of the sun. This practice follows the Biblical account of creation: "And there was evening and there was morning, one day" (Genesis 1.5). The Service of Vespers takes us through creation, sin, and salvation in Christ. It prepares us for the sleep of the night and the dawn of the new day to come.



"Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6: 13



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, Florida

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December 13, 2023

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Dear Parishioners,

This letter serves as official notification of the Annual Parish Meeting of Saint Mary's Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, Florida, to be held on **Sunday, January 21, 2024, 11:45 AM**, at Saint Mary's Banquet Hall, 1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, FL.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive and review the reports from the Parish Council, Pastor, and Parish Organizations for the year 2023. In addition, the 2024 Church Budget will be presented for approval and elections to the Parish Council will be held.

All reports are asked to be submitted by January 7, 2024. These reports and the meeting agenda will be made available in the Church Narthex on or before January 14, 2024, and during the Annual Parish Meeting.

To participate and vote, parishioners must be in good spiritual and financial standing with Saint Mary's Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, FL.

Your support of Saint Mary's over the year has been greatly appreciated. Please continue with your support by participating in the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Pasley, Parish Council Secretary, on behalf of:

The Very Reverend Fr. Peter ~~Shportun~~, Pastor;

Parish Council of Saint Mary's Orthodox Church,
Mark Samra, Chairman

The Very Reverend Father Peter ~~Shportun~~, Priest/Pastor
1317 Florida Mango Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

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

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)

Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. (*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 confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of Theophany is sung. After the Little Entrance, the following hymns are sung in the following order:*

Apolytikion for the Resurrection in Tone 7

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion for Theophany in Tone 1

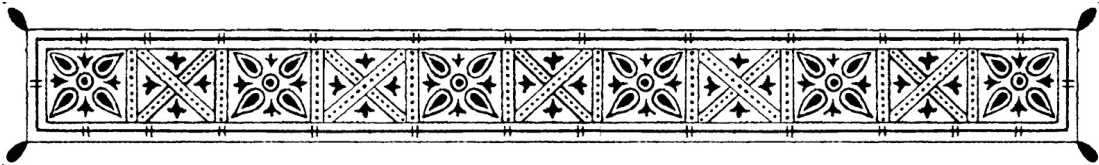
When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, 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 of Theophany in Tone 4

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.



THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

The Epistle

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, it is said, “When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

الرسالة (للأحد بعد عيد الظهور الإلهي)

لِتَكُنْ يَا رَبُّ رَحْمَتُكَ عَلَيْنَا.
انْتَهَجُوا أَتْيَهَا الصَّادِقُونَ بِالرَّبِّ.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس.

يا إخوة، لكل واحد منا أعطيت النعمة على مقدار موهبة المسيح. فلذلك يقول "لما صعد إلى العلى سبى



Time To Have Your Home Blessed!

Each year following the Feast of Epiphany, it is the tradition of the Orthodox Church to have the priest come and bless our homes. Through the prayers and by the sprinkling of Holy Water the priest invokes God’s blessings and protection upon the home and those living in it. We bless homes for many reasons:

- to show that the family is a small Church in Christ,
- to consecrate and sanctify the home and all activity in it to God,
- to fill the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God.

Fr. Peter will begin the Blessing of Homes on Sunday, January 7th. To schedule a Home Blessing, you may contact Fr. Peter by doing one of the following:

- *Telephone or Text (Fr. Peter’s cellular # is 561.632-7066);
- *Email at frpshport@gmail.com;
- *Speak to him following services or during Coffee Hour;
- *Complete the form below and either mail or give it to him directly.

When the Fr. Peter comes, have as many family members present as possible. On a table include an icon and a lit candle; a list of names (living and departed) you want Fr. Peter to pray for; You may also include anything that you may want to have blessed (i.e. icon, cross, personal item, etc.) This is also a wonderful time for you and Fr. Peter to visit. (Note: *It is not expected to feed Fr. Peter unless prior arrangements are made*).

HOME BLESSING REQUEST FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Holy Water from Theophany

Bottles of Holy Water blessed on Theophany, are on the table next to the baptism font. If you did not receive Holy Water on Theophany, please feel free to take one home with you.

2024 Church Calendars Available

If you did not receive a 2024 Church Calendar in the mail, please pick one up from the table in the Church Narthex.

Weekly Spiritual Discussion

Spiritual Discussions led by Fr. Peter are held each Wednesday immediately following the Vespers Service. The topic of discussion over the next several weeks will be ‘The Beatitudes’ taken from the gospels of Matthew (5:2-12) and Luke (6:20-26). All are welcome to participate.

Antiochian Village Registration

Registration for the Antiochian Village Summer Camp is now open. If you wish to send your children to Antiochian Village, For more information and to register. Please refer to www.avcamp.org for more information and to register.

**The Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch and Saint Mary’s Church will again offer camp scholarships for 2024. Information for qualifications and how to apply will be announce soon.

Online Donations

In addition to making donations to Saint Mary’s by Sunday Offering Envelopes or by mail, 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. Paypal continues as an option for those who wish to donate online. For questions and information, please speak with our Parish Council Treasurer Sam Pasley.

The Annual Saint Mary’s Haflī
Saturday, February 24th
Saint Mary Banquet Hall

Information and Tickets available this coming week.

سَبِيًّا وَأَعْطَى النَّاسَ عَطَايَا. " فَكُونُهُ صَعِدَ، هَلْ هُوَ إِلَّا أَنَّهُ نَزَلَ أَوَّلًا إِلَى أَسْفَلِ الْأَرْضِ؟ فَذَلِكَ الَّذِي نَزَلَ، هُوَ الَّذِي صَعِدَ أَيْضًا فَوْقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ كُلِّهَا لِيَمْلَأَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ. وَهُوَ قَدْ أَعْطَى أَنْ يَكُونَ الْبَعْضُ رُسُلًا، وَالْبَعْضُ أَنْبِيَاءَ، وَالْبَعْضُ مُبَشِّرِينَ، وَالْبَعْضُ رُعَاةَ، وَمُعَلِّمِينَ، لِأَجْلِ تَكْمِيلِ الْقَدِيسِينَ، وَلِعَمَلِ الْخِدْمَةِ، وَبُنْيَانِ جَسَدِ الْمَسِيحِ إِلَى أَنْ نَنْتَهِيَ جَمِيعُنَا إِلَى وَحْدَةِ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَعْرِفَةِ ابْنِ اللَّهِ، إِلَى إِنْسَانٍ كَامِلٍ، إِلَى مَقْدَارٍ قَامَةِ مِلءِ الْمَسِيحِ.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

الإنجيل (لِلأَحَدِ بَعْدَ عِيدِ الظُّهُورِ الإِلَهِيِّ)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، لَمَّا سَمِعَ يَسُوعُ أَنَّ يُوْحَنَّا قَدْ أُسْلِمَ، انْصَرَفَ إِلَى الْجَلِيلِ وَتَرَكَ النَّاصِرَةَ، وَجَاءَ فَسَكَنَ فِي كَفَرْنَاهُومَ الَّتِي عَلَى شَاطِئِ الْبَحْرِ فِي تُخُومِ زَبُولُونِ وَنَفْثَالِيمَ. لِيَتِمَّ مَا قِيلَ بِأَشْعِيَاءَ النَّبِيِّ الْقَائِلِ: أَرْضُ زَبُولُونِ وَأَرْضُ نَفْثَالِيمَ، طَرِيقُ الْبَحْرِ، عَبْرَ الْأُرْدُنِّ، جَلِيلُ الْأُمَمِ. الشَّعْبُ الْجَالِسُ فِي الظُّلْمَةِ أَبْصَرَ نُورًا عَظِيمًا، وَالْجَالِسُونَ فِي بَقْعَةِ الْمَوْتِ وَظِلَالِهِ أَشْرَقَ عَلَيْهِمْ نُورٌ. وَمُنْذُنْذِ ابْتَدَأَ يَسُوعُ يَكْرِرُ وَيَقُولُ: تَوْبُوا، فَقَدْ اقْتَرَبَ مَلَكُوتُ السَّمَاوَاتِ.

- *The Divine Liturgy continues as usual with the following changes:*

Megalynarion for the Leave-taking of Theophany in Tone 2

Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.
O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

Communion Hymn for Theophany in Tone 8

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alleluia.

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

- *After Communion, instead of singing “We have seen the true light”, the Festal Apolytikion: “When Thou, O Lord” is sung.*

Liturgical Offerings for January 14th

40 Day Trisagion Prayers

Offered by the Chalhoub families in loving memory and for the repose of Lama Chalhoub. +Memory Eternal!

Weekly Altar Candle

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

Holy Bread Offered

By the Chalhoub families in loving memory and for the repose of Lama Chalhoub, Hanna, Dalia, John, Grace, Bruce & Bassam. Memory Eternal!

***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.)*



Be a Sunday Coffee Hour Host

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 of Khouryia Myriam for more details and to host a Coffee Hour.

- ◇ This Sunday’s Coffee Hour is host by the Chalhoub families in loving memory of Lama Chalhoub.

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, Priest Andrew Short, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhoub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhoub, Raouf Saballeil, Sabah Shalhoub, Craig Miller, Emma, George, Alice Kelly, George Matouk, Yvette Sajem, Anne-Marie Gargoura.

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

Panagiois Ziros (newly departed 1/5/24), Khalil Aboukhalid (newly departed 12/13/23), Florence Esper (newly departed 12/8/23), Lama Chalhoub (newly departed 12/6/23), Gail Camileri (6/26/23), Angie Smith (6/23/23), Archdeacon Joseph Harb (3/8/23).

Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered

*****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.***

Our Sympathies

To Ruby Ziros and family on the falling asleep in the Lord of her husband Panagiotis (Peter) Ziros on Friday, January 5th. Trisagion Prayers for the repose of his soul were offered on Tuesday, January 9th, at Boynton Memorial Chapel. +Memory Eternal!