

From the Front Cover

The life of Saint John Kalabytes “the hut-dweller,” is a moving story that teaches us to question our ability to see a human in a poor and homeless person. It is also one of an inner struggle between one’s duty to the Lord and Heaven and the attraction of earthly joys and affections. Saint John was the son of illustrious parents. He lived in the mid-fifth century in Constantinople received a fine education. He became well versed in philosophy and literature and developed a taste for spiritual books. He delighted himself in reading the word of God, and his parents hired a calligrapher to make him a copy of the Gospel. They had it bound in gold and diamonds. John kept it as a treasure for his whole life.

Saint John realized at an early age that he wanted to dedicate himself to monastic life which he preferred to the vanity of this world. One day, a monk stayed at his parents’ house on his way to the Holy Land. He confided in him his desire to become a monk and made him promise to call at his house again on his way back and take him to his monastery. The monk kept his word, and John left his home at twelve years of age and took monastic tonsure. Immediately, his asceticism, religious zeal and prayer life earned him the respect of the other monks. Yet, after six years of monastic life, he was overcome with feelings of sadness and remorse, and he missed his parents. He could not bear the thought of never seeing them again.

He went to the hegumen to ask him for his blessing to leave the monastery to see his parents, hopeful that it would help them overcome his temptations. The hegumen blessed his undertaking and returned to his hometown. Once there, he did not go back to the luxury of his past life. Instead, he pitched a tent at the corner of his house. There, he lived for three years praying to God all the time.

His father began to send him food from the house out of mercy. The servants derided him. He tolerated the heat, the cold and the elements. Finally, he had a vision of the Lord telling him that he had only three days left on earth before he would go to the Heavenly Kingdom. Wishing to bid farewell to his family, he sent a message to his mother asking her to see him in the hut and promising a rich reward from God. His mother refused to go, dismissing his invitation as a whim. She only responded to his second note, where he wrote that he would die in three days, thanked her for her alms and presented the gospel given to him in his childhood.

Knowing him by his Gospel, his parents embraced him and cried bitterly over failing to recognize him for so long. He departed to God at 25 years of age. His parents built a church above his grave and a hostel for the poor next to it.



**The Venerable Paul of Thebes and
Saint John the Hut-Dweller**

The Weekly Bulletin - January 15, 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*

His Beatitude John X, Patriarch of Antioch

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.

Home Blessings for 2023

Fr. Peter has begun the traditional 'Blessing of Homes.' He will be blessing homes until the end of February. To schedule an appointment to have your home blessed, you may do one of the following:

1. Complete the form sent to your home, or that have been placed on the table in the Narthex, and either mail or hand it to Fr. Peter.
2. You may also telephone/text Fr. Peter at 561. 632-7066, or email him at frpshport@gmail.com.
3. Speak to Fr. Peter during Coffee Hour.



Lust

... by Abbot Tryphon

Since the eyes and the ears are the doors of the soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention. Unlike the religion of Gnosticism, which teaches the separation of soul and body, with the physical world being evil and something to be overcome, historic Christianity teaches the unity of the body and soul, with the physical world being transformed and made anew in Christ. This means that, while caring about one's soul, an Orthodox Christian must not leave the body without attention.

The body is given over to temptation, which is rooted in the mind. As Christians we know that we must never play with temptations, for in doing so we have already fallen half-way. Thus, an Orthodox Christian who takes his salvation seriously would never enter into flirtation as though it were a sport, for he would know this to be a dangerous game.

Temptations gain hold when we entertain dirty thoughts and ideas, sometimes by allowing our eyes and ears to entertain things that can overcome our will, causing us to fall. It is much easier to stop a temptation in the beginning, than to do battle with a seductive idea once it has gained entry. A person who wants to prevent a burglary makes every effort to prevent a burglar from gaining entrance in the first place. Like taking precautions that will prevent a burglary, we must never allow ourselves to entertain temptations, for that would be like inviting a criminal into your home with the intent of trying to talk him out of stealing from you.

Many are convinced that sexual needs are so insurmountable in strength, as to make it impossible to resist. This is only the case when we habitually give in to the passions, and avoid using the tools given to us by the Church to bring our body into submission. If we observe the periods of fasting, especially the Wednesday and Friday days of abstinence, eat moderate amounts of food, avoid the overuse of alcohol, and say no to drugs, we will have taken a big step forward in our struggle with lust. Remember, a healthy body contributes to the health of the soul.

Finally, it is good to take to heart the advice of Saint Ephraim of Syrian, "Think about the good so as not to think about the bad." Guard against spending time with people whose jokes and story-telling are occasions for sinful thoughts, and avoid bad company, for "Bad company corrupts good character [1 Corinthians 15:33]."



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



Schedule of Church Services

Sunday, January 15th

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

Wednesday, January 18th

Vespers at 6:30 PM

Sunday, January 22nd

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

Wednesday, January 25th

Vespers at 6:30 PM

Upcoming Services in February

Wednesday, February 1st:

Feast of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM

Saturday, February 18th:

Soul Saturday

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM, followed by Trisagion (Memorial) Service

- ◆ **Great Lent begins Monday, February 27th**
- ◆ **Pascha (Easter) is Sunday, April 16th**

Fr. Peter is available for Confession:

- *By appointment;*
- *Prior to Sunday Matins (8:30 to 8:50 AM);*
- *Prior to Wednesday Vespers and Feast Day Services (6:00 to 6:30PM).*

Divine Liturgy Variables for the Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost & Twelfth Sunday of Luke +Venerable Paul of Thebes & +John the Hut-dweller

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. Please read The 'Prayers of Thanksgiving After Holy Communion' on pages 128–131 in the Red Service Book in the pews.

- *During the Little Entrance, 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, the hymns are chanted in the following order:*

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Venerable Paul of Thebes 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 Paul, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Apolytikion of the Venerable John the Hut-Dweller in Tone 4

Since thou hadst with fervor longed after the Lord from thy youth, * thou leftest the world with its delights and nobly didst strive in valiant ascetic deeds. * Thou didst pitch thy hut before the gates of thy parents; * thou didst break the demons' snares, O all-blessed Father. * And therefore, as is meet, hath Christ God glorified thee, O John.

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 Presentation of Christ in Tone 1

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

The Epistle

Prokeimenon Verse: *How magnified are Thy works, O Lord; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. [3:4-11]

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

الرسالة

ما أَعْظَمَ أَعْمَالِكَ، يَا رَبُّ، كُلُّهَا بِحِكْمَةٍ صَنَعْتَ. بَارِكِي يَا نَفْسِي الرَّبَّ.
فَصْنَنْ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يُوْلَسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُولُوسِي.

يا إِخْوَةَ، مَتَى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تُظْهِرُونَ حَيَاتِكُمْ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمِيتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ: الرِّئْيَ، وَالتَّجَاسَةَ، وَالهَوَى، وَالتَّشَهُوةَ الرَّدِيئَةَ، وَالتَّطَمَعَ الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةٌ وَتَن. لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي عَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى أُنْبَاءِ الْعَصِيَّانِ. وَفِي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكْتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ عَائِشِينَ فِيهَا. أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً اطَّرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الْعَضَبَ، وَالسُّخْطَ، وَالْحُبْنَ، وَالتَّجْدِيفَ، وَالكَلَامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ. وَلَا يُكْذِبْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ أَعْمَالِهِ. وَالتَّبَسُّوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ عَلَى صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ. حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا قَلْفٌ، لَا بَرَبْرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ وَفِي الْجَمِيعِ.



2023
Winter Haftli

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

FEATURING
"STAR" BASSEL EID
MUSICIAN FADI HARDAN
BELLYDANCE
BY CHEEKY BELLY



ST. MARY'S BANQUET HALL
1317 FLORIDA MANGO ROAD
WEST PALM BEACH

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM
CASH BAR COCKTAIL HOUR
DINNER AT 9:00PM

\$90 IN ADVANCE, \$100 AT THE DOOR

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CONTACT
NABIL ABOUKHALED: 561-502-8588
JANE PASLEY: 561-389-0346

Repair and Improvement Campaign Update

\$25,000 \$50,000 \$75,000 \$100,000

Amount
Received

As of January 1, 2023:
\$52, 505

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

NEW In 2003, much needed renovations of our Banquet Hall Restrooms, as well as replacing the flooring in our beloved church will be undertaken. In order to complete these two projects, your donations—no matter the amount—are needed in order to reach our goal of \$100,000. For more information on how you may donate to our campaign, please speak with Mark Samra 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.

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.

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023
11:45 AM - Saint Mary's Banquet Hall

Official Notice and Information have been mailed to your homes.

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

الإنجيل

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لَوْقَا الْبَشِيرِ التَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.
فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ دَاخِلٌ إِلَى قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَقْبَلَهُ عَشْرَةُ رِجَالٍ بُرْصِ وَوَقَفُوا مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَرَفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَهُمْ قَائِلِينَ: يَا يَسُوعُ الْمُعَلِّمُ اِرْحَمْنَا. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهُمْ قَالَ لَهُمْ امْضُوا وَأَرُوا الْكَهَنَةَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ. وَفِيمَا هُمْ مُنْطَلِقُونَ طَهَّرُوا. وَإِنَّ وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمْ، لَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّهُ قَدْ بَرِيَ، رَجَعَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ بِصَوْتِ عَظِيمٍ. وَخَرَّ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْهِ شَاكِرًا لَهُ وَكَانَ سَامِرِيًّا، فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ، أَلَيْسَ الْعَشْرَةُ قَدْ طَهَّرُوا فَأَيْنَ النَّسْعَةُ؟ أَلَمْ يُوجَدْ مَنْ يَرْجِعُ لِيُحْمَدَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا هَذَا الْأَجْنَبِيُّ؟ وَقَالَ لَهُ، فَمُ وَاْمَضْ، إِيمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَّصَكَ.

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. 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.

Liturgical Offerings

Weekly Altar Candle offered for the week of January 15th

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

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

- If you did not receive a *2023 Church Calendar*, extra calendars have been placed on the table in the Church Narthex. Please feel free to take one.



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, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Jenna Welch, Shane Brown, Raouf Saballeil, Jennifer Joseph Zicky, Marie-Therese Habib, Sabah, Luizette Aramouni, Craig Miller.

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

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, Alexios Gavrilos.

For the Departed

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

George Freije [10/26/22], Ernest Shwayri [9/29/22], Basil Dalack [9/1/22], Sarah Nabhan [9/5/22], Thomas Eissey [5/4/22], Margo Fankhauser [5/3/22].

Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered

By Jane Pasley for the health of family.

By Safwat & Nevine Fahmy for the health of Andrew and Maria.

- *If you would like to have names offered in prayer during the Sunday Divine Liturgy, or Feast Day Divine Liturgy, please text or email their names to Fr. Peter in advance of the service.*
- *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.*

Sunday School and Teen Classes

Classes are held each Sunday morning following Communion, and last approximately 30 minutes.

Ladies Meeting This Sunday

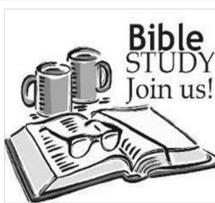
The Ladies Society will hold their January Meeting this Sunday at 11:45 PM, in the Hall. All Ladies of Saint Mary's are welcome to attend.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for the months of January and February. If you would like to host a Sunday Coffee Hour, please speak to Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam.

Learning CPR

Are you interested in learning CPR? Currently, about 9 in 10 people who have cardiac arrest outside the hospital die. But CPR can help improve those odds. If it is performed in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest, CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival. Sponsored by the Parish Council, classes are being planned in the near future for our parishioners. More information is forthcoming.

	<h3><u>Weekly Bible Study</u></h3> <p>Bible Study will resume this coming Tuesday, January 17th, from 6:45 to 8:00 PM in the Conference Room. Led by Jim Gavrilos, the topic will be the New Testament Book of Romans.</p>
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Saint Philip Ladies Winterfest Hafli

Featuring Richard Corey

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Saint Philip Orthodox Church (4860 Griffin Road, Davie, FL)

Doors Open at 7:30 PM

Donation: \$65.00

For tickets and information email: office@orthodoxfl.com