

From the Front Cover

On June 24, the American people received the news that the Supreme Court of the United States, in its opinion concerning the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, has overturned the right to abortion created by the court in its 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

Undoubtedly, this should be a cause for rejoicing for all Orthodox Christians. From the earliest times, the shepherds of the Church have taught that abortion, even when accepted by the wider culture, are violations of the sanctity of human life and an offense against God and man. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is the first step towards a society and culture that recognizes the value of all human life and every human being made in the image of the Creator.

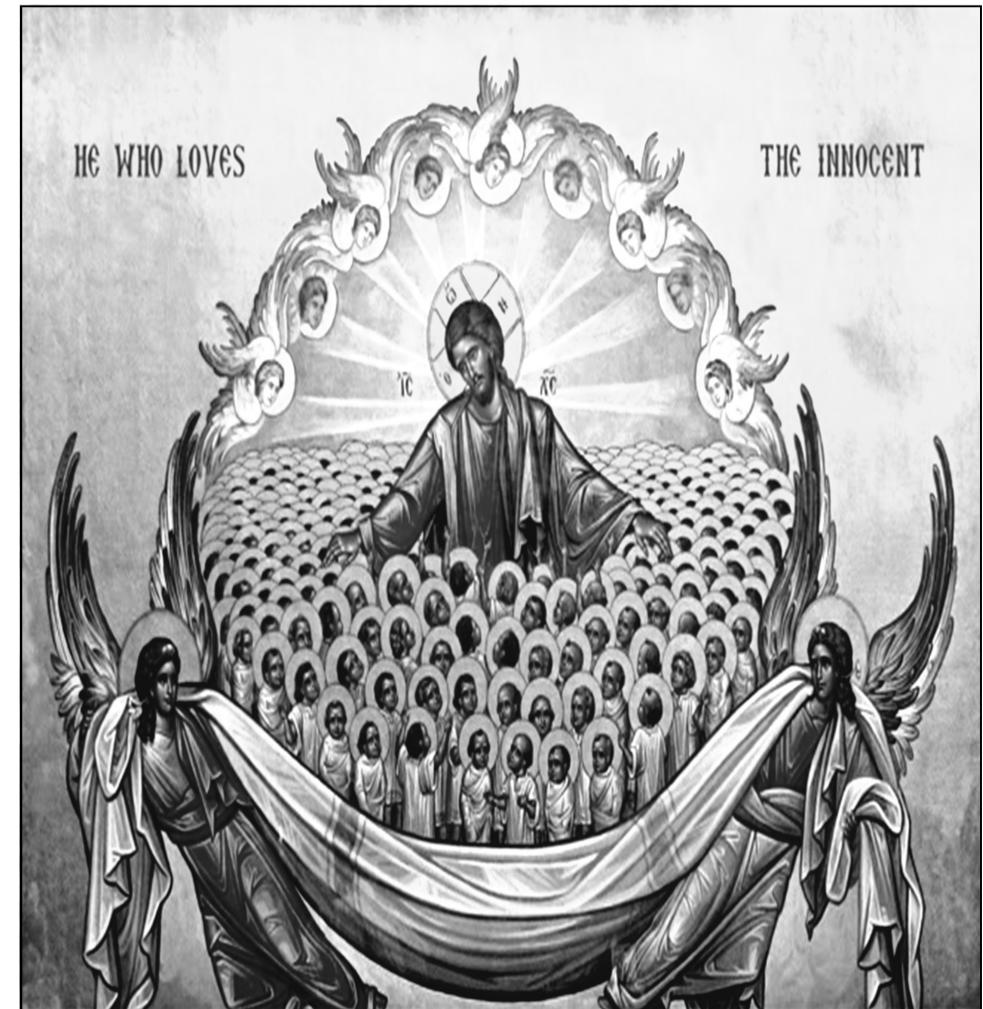
This decision was handed down on the feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner, whose leaping in the womb of his mother Elizabeth is, for us, a miraculous sign of the divine value of the lives of the unborn: God, who knows us even before we were formed in the womb, accepts not just the praise of babes and infants, but even the adoration of an unborn child [Jer. 1:5; Ps. 8:2; Lk. 1:42].

However, we must avoid all triumphalism. Though we disagree with those who believe that legal abortion is necessary to protect the rights of women, we must recognize that this belief, however mistaken, is sincerely held by many people of goodwill. These people are our fellow-citizens. They, too, bear the image of God.

A society and culture that truly recognizes the dignity of all human life is not just a question of laws and government policies. Such a society and culture must also be the result of our decisions and efforts as individuals, families, and parishes on the local, civil level to do all that we can to support women, children, and families in our communities.

May God strengthen us all in love for one another. May this court decision become a reason for us to love all our neighbors more fervently: the unborn, mothers, families, people of all political beliefs, the happy and the angry, the jubilant and the hurting. May we speak the truth in love and suffer with all the suffering. May we temper our passions—now and always—through fasting and prayer, self-reflection and self-reproach. And may the Lord Almighty bless all of our efforts to work together for a more just and more compassionate society and culture, one that welcomes all human life with joy.

Authored by Metropolitan Tikhon of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).





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)
stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net (Email)
Website: stmaryschurchwpb.org*

*Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696*

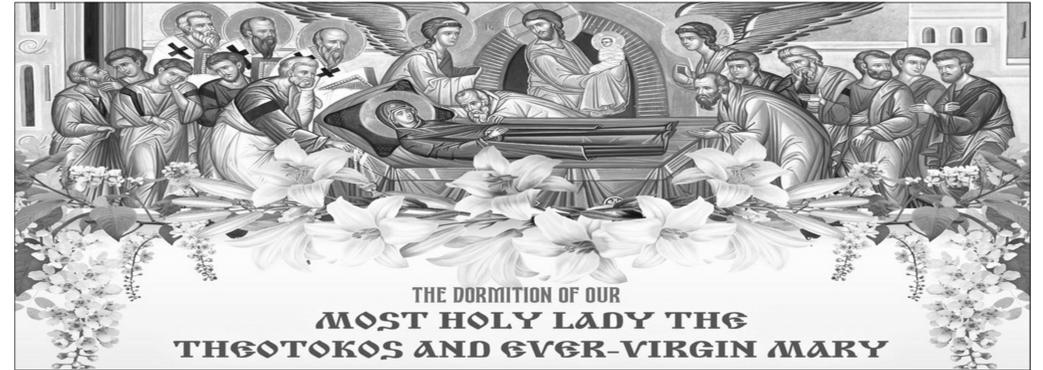
Welcome!

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.



The Church Bookstore is open the first Sunday of each month. The bookstore is located at the entrance of the Banquet Hall.



Preparing for the Dormition

Beginning August 1st, the Church will enter into the Dormition Fast in preparation for our Church Feast Day - The Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th.

This year, His Grace, Bishop Nicholas will be present with us the weekend of August 13 - 14. Bishop Nicholas will meet with the Parish Council and Organizations of the church, as well as bless the two new Sunday School Rooms.

In addition to the fast, the following liturgical services will be prayed beginning August 1st, to help us in our preparation for the feast of the Dormition.

- ◇ **Monday, August 1st**, we will pray The Paraklesis Service and Lesser Blessing of Water. The Paraklesis Service will also be prayed on **Wednesday, August 3rd, Monday, August 8th, Wednesday, August 10th and Friday August 12th**. Each service will begin at 6:30 PM.
- ◇ **Friday, August 5th**, Vespers Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration will be begin at 6:30 PM.
- ◇ **Sunday, August 14th**, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy begins at 10:00 AM. In the evening, Great Vespers for the Feast begins at 5:00 PM, presided over by Bishop Nicholas, together with the Orthodox Clergy of South Florida.

Our A-Men will host a Lenten Luncheon (approx. 11:30 AM) on Sunday, August 14th. The Ladies Society will host a Reception following Vespers on August 14th (approx. 6:30 PM).

Donations are being accepted to help defray the cost of the Luncheon and Reception, as well as the flowers in the church for the feast day. Please see Fr. Peter or Sam Pasley to make a donation.

Situation Ethics

by Abbot Tryphon



Situation ethics has become the norm for our times, having replaced the biblical ethics of past generations. In situation ethics as long as no one is hurt one can do as one pleases. Taking drugs, watching pornography and aborting the unborn child, all can come under the flag of situation ethics.

Taking drugs is seen as morally neutral by increasing numbers of Americans. We believe no one is hurt by our drug use, while refusing to see the obvious connection between our drug purchases and the mass killings in Mexico by drug cartels that are in business because of the demand for drugs by American users.

Nothing wrong with watching pornography, we tell ourselves, forgetting that the demand for pornography en-

slaves many poor young women (and men) in a form of prostitution, all for our sexual gratification. Pornography has become one of the major addictions of our time, keeping large numbers of people in bondage, and preventing sound healthy relationships.

Situation ethics has convinced women that since they have the right to make decisions concerning their own bodies, aborting the fetus is allowable if their own lifestyle will be negatively affected. Nothing about the rights of the unborn, who have no voice whatsoever.

Situation ethics has blurred the image of marriage, with heterosexual couples choosing to live together without the benefit of marriage, and same sex couples seeing marriage as their right.

The Fathers knew that even the secret sins committed by people had an effect on the whole of the cosmos. The people who promote situation ethics would have us believe that nothing that is done in private hurts anyone. Biblical ethics tells us quite the opposite.



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

Divine Liturgy Variables for the 3rd 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 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, 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.

Ordinary Kontakion for Sunday in Tone 2

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

The Epistle (For Third Sunday after Pentecost)

Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (5:1-11)

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we

rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

فُوتِي وَتَسْبِحْتِي الرَّبُّ. أَدْباً أَدَّبَنِي الرَّبُّ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ رومية. (10-1:5)

يا إخوة، إذ قد بُرِّزنا بالإيمان، فلنا سلام مع الله ببرتنا يسوع المسيح. الذي به حصل أيضاً لنا الدخول بالإيمان إلى هذه النعمة التي نحن فيها مقيمون ومُفْتَحِرُونَ في رجاء مجد الله. وليس هذا فقط، بل أيضاً نَفْتَخِرُ بالشدايد، عالمين أن الشدة تُنشئ الصبر. والصبر يُنشئ الامتحان والامتحان الرجاء والرجاء لا يُخزي. لأن محبة الله قد أفيضت في قلوبنا بالروح القدس الذي أعطينا لنا. لأن المسيح، إذ كنا بعد ضغفاء، مات في الأوان عن المنافقين. ولا يكاد أحد يموت عن بار، فلعل أحداً يقدم على أن يموت عن صالح. أما الله فيدل على محبته لنا بأنه، إذ كنا خطاة بعد، مات المسيح عنا. فبالأحرى كثيراً، إذ قد بُرِّزنا بدمه، نخلص به من الغضب. لأننا إذا كنا قد صولحنا مع الله بيموت ابنه ونحن أعداء، فبالأحرى كثيراً نخلص بحياته ونحن مُصالحون.

The Gospel (For Third Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. [6:22-33]

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious

Please contact either me or Father Peter to discuss this matter and what assistance you can be to Saint Mary's.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have." 2 Corinthians 8: 22

In Christ,

Mark Samra, Parish Council Chairman
561-719-7530

Fr. Peter Shportun, Pastor
561-632-7066

The Very Reverend Father Peter Shportun, Priest/Pastor
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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America /
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Repair and Improvement Campaign Update

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

Amount
Received

As of June 26, 2022: **\$32,220**

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.



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach, Florida

May 31, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While some may step away from the church during the summer months for various reasons, the church continues open its doors and offer ministry to the community. Your continued support to our beloved Saint Mary's Church is greatly appreciated.

Operating the church does not come without any unexpected problems or expenses. Our church community is currently facing a major expense that needs your help. This past week, our air conditioning system in the hall ceased to work and is past the point of repair. The lack of air conditioning in the hall puts the church in a difficult position of having to cancel daily and weekly hall rentals, thus losing rental income. In addition, our Sunday Coffee Hours and fellowship activities are put on hold. The Parish Council is working diligently to replace the air conditioning units as soon as we locate the equipment.

In addition, our parking lot has become an eyesore, fallen into disrepair and presents a hazard in some places. This too needs our immediate attention.

The current estimate to replace the air conditioning units and resurface the parking lot is close to \$100,000, a substantial amount of funds that Saint Mary's does not have. To meet this expense your help is needed. We understand that the urgency of this request is never at a good time - especially during the summer months.

We encourage you not to take away from your current contributions to Saint Mary's that assist with our daily expenses. We ask that you contribute in any way you feel you are able. Keeping our church from a serious financial deficit depends on each one of us and of our ability and willingness to support these expenditures.

can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفًا مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ. (33-22:6)

قال الرب: سراج الجسد العَيْنُ. فإن كانت عَيْنُكَ بَسِيطَةً، فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ نِيرًا. وإن كانت عَيْنُكَ شَرِيرَةً، فَجَسَدُكَ كُلُّهُ يَكُونُ مُظْلِمًا. وإذا كان النور الذي فيك ظلامًا، فالظلام كم يكون؟ لا يستطيع أحد أن يعبد ربين، لأنه إما أن يُغضَّ الواحد ويحب الآخر، أو يلازم الواحد ويذلل الآخر. لا تقدرون أن تعبدوا الله والمال. فلهذا أقول لكم، لا تهتموا لأنفسكم بما تأكلون وبما تشربون، ولا لأجسادكم بما تلبسون. ألبست النفس أفضل من الطعام، والجسد أفضل من اللباس؟ انظروا إلى طيور السماء، فإنها لا تزرع ولا تحصد ولا تحزن في الأهراء، وأبوكم السماوي يقوتها. أفلسنتم أنتم أفضل منها؟ ومن منكم، إذا هتمتم، يقدر أن يزيد على قامته ذراعًا واحدة؟ ولماذا تهتمون باللباس؟ اعتبروا زنايق الحقل كيف تنمو. إنها لا تتعب ولا تعزل. وأنا أقول لكم إن سليمان نفسه، في كل مجده، لم يلبس كواحدة منها. فإذا كان عشب الحقل، الذي يوجد اليوم وفي غد يطرح في الثور، يلبسه الله هكذا، أفلا يلبسكم بالأخرى أنتم يا قليلي الإيمان؟ فلا تهتموا قائلين "ماذا نأكل؟" أو "ماذا نشرب؟" أو "ماذا نلبس؟" فإن هذا كله تطلبه الأمم. لأن أبابكم السماوي يعلم أنكم تحتاجون إلى هذا كله. فاطلبوا أولاً ملكوت الله وبره، وهذا كله يزداد لكم.

- *The Divine Liturgy 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.

Trisagion (Memorial) Prayers

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 26th for:

- Nadia Mamari Danielle (40 Days), offered by Carol Sara and family.
- Constantin Sora (6 Years), offered by Elena Sora.

Liturgical Offerings

- Holy Altar Vigil Candle for the week of July 3rd is offered in glory of the Most-Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Holy Bread for the Divine Liturgy of July 3rd is offered in loving memory of Nadia Mamari Danielle, by her niece Carol Sara and family.
- Holy Bread for the Divine Liturgy of July 3rd is being offered in loving memory of Constantine Sora, by his wife Elena Sora.

If you wish to offer Holy Bread or an Altar Vigil Candle, please speak with Fr. Peter.

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, The Priest John, Michael, Sub-Deacon William Hall, George Frieji, Jodet Rae, Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Nayla Tacla, Jenna Welch, Shane Brown, Raouf Saballeil, Val Franji, Jennifer Joseph Zicky, Marie-Therese Habib.

- *Please update Fr. Peter on how the following are doing and whether they should remain on our prayer list!*

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 the end of hostilities and sufferings, and for peace in the Ukraine.

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..."

Thomas Eissey [5/4/22], Margo Fankhauser [5/3/22], Fr. Nicholas Neyman [12/12/21], Sonia AbuHadid [10/3/21].

Seven Day Prayer Candles (for Sunday, June 26th)

Offered by Cristina Nagy for health of Zoltan, Vilhelmina, Eugenia, Lucia, Cristina and Ryan; In memory of Ion, Stefan, Nicolae, Anton, Elena, Constantin, Maria and Rafael.

Offered by Judy & Leon Chalhub for travel mercies and God's protection.

Offered by Vadim Grigorian in memory of his departed family members.

- ◇ *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.*



New Church Website

Have you checked-out our new Church Website? Go to stmaryschurchwpb.org and let us know what you think.

Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship and to welcome visitors to our church community. Each Sunday, Coffee Hours hosts are needed. To volunteer, Please sign-up at the entrance of the hall, or speak to Jane Pasley or Khouryia Myriam.

Church Directory Information

The Parish Council is in the process of 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.

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.