

Triumph of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Orthodoxy, also known as the 'Triumph of Orthodoxy' has a backstory which should be remembered by all Orthodox Christians. Whether they know it or not, it impacts their daily life.

If you are thinking that this is merely an over exaggeration, think again. Do you pray in front of an icon? Do you venerate icons? Do you follow the traditions handed down to us from Christ through the Apostles and the Fathers? If your answer to all of these is yes, and as Orthodox Christians the answer should be yes to all three, then you have something to celebrate on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Before coming to why we celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy, a brief history of the icon is needed. The word icon comes from the Greek word '*eikona*,' which can be translated as 'image'. During the Byzantine era, there arose problems with the use of icons because of the way they were treated by some of the people. Inspired by the ban on painting images of people from Islam and also by the Second Commandment not to worship graven images, icons were banned in the Byzantine Empire. This provoked clashes within the Empire with the weight of the civil authorities on the side of the iconoclasts ('icon destroyers'). On the other side were the monks and the faithful. St Maximos the Confessor and St Stephen the New were among those who fought and sacrificed themselves for the icons. After over two hundred years, and with much blood and the destruction of ancient icons, the Seventh Ecumenical Council was convened.

It was decided there that the correct approach was to follow the formula of St John of Damascus, who wrote that icons were not to be worshipped as they had been previously, nor were they to be destroyed. They were instead to be venerated, shown honor for what was depicted on them.

The decision of the Council did not stop the heresy of the iconoclasts, and it was only after a Synod in 843, called because of the Empress and later Saint Theodora, that the issue was resolved. A triumphal procession was made from the Church of Blachernae to Hagia Sophia with the people carrying icons. This was on the First Sunday of Lent, and we commemorate our icons on this day with a special service and procession with icons each year. We remember the struggle to have icons, as well as the other struggles overcome by the Church in its preservation of tradition on this First Sunday of Lent each year.



Saint Mary Orthodox Church of West Palm Beach

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

Worship Guide and Bulletin – March 24, 2024



"This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; this is the Faith of the Orthodox; this is the Faith which has established the universe!"

*From the Synodicon read on the
Sunday of Orthodoxy, celebrating
the 'Triumph of Orthodoxy.'*

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 First Sunday of Great Lent 'Orthodoxy Sunday'

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.

The First Antiphon

Verse: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

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

Verse: Who shall tell of the mighty acts of the Lord? Who shall make all of His praises to be heard? Let the redeemed by the Lord say so, whom He has delivered from the hand of the enemy. (Refrain)

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

The Second Antiphon

Verse: Let them acknowledge the Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.



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.

2nd Week of Great Lent Service Schedule

Sunday, March 24th
First Sunday of Lent
'Sunday of Orthodoxy'

- ♦ *Matins* - 8:50 PM
- ♦ *Divine Liturgy* - 10:00 AM
- ♦ *Procession of Icons celebrating the 'Triumph of Orthodoxy' at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.*

Monday, March 25th
Feast of the Annunciation

- ♦ *Vesperal Divine Liturgy* - 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 27th
♦ *Presanctified Liturgy* - 6:30 PM

Friday, March 29th
♦ *Little Compline and 2nd Akathist Hymn (Madayah)* - 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 30th
♦ *Great Vespers Service* - 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 31st
Second Sunday of Lent
'Saint Gregory of Palamas'
♦ *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.

Food For Hungry People Boxes

"A poor man when he reaches out to you does not beg, but offers you the Kingdom of God." Elder Arsenie Papacioc of Romania

As we prepare to enter the season of Great Lent, our archdiocese embarks upon the 50th Anniversary of the Food For Hungry People and Charitable Outreach Ministry. In addition to our fasting and prayer, almsgiving - remembering the poor - is part of our Lenten discipline. FFHP Alms Boxes have been placed in the Church Narthex to assist in your giving of alms. Please take one home with you.

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
- Palms & Pussy Willows for Palm Sunday: \$150.00
- 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)
- Olive Oil for Holy Wednesday Unction Service: **DONATED!**
- Altar Wine: \$200.00

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.

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.

Summer Camp Scholarships Available

Again this year, Saint Mary's will be providing scholarship assistance to those attending our archdiocese summer camps. If you have a child attending one of our archdiocese summer camps, please let Fr. Peter know by March 26th, so that they may be considered for scholarship assistance.

Verse: Let them exalt Him in the church of the faithful, and in the assembly of the presbyters. (Refrain)

Verse: The eyes of the Lord are upon those that fear Him, upon those that hope in His mercy; to hear the mourning of those in captivity, and to loose the sons of those appointed to death. (Refrain)

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

The Third Antiphon

Verse: Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will acknowledge Thee forever.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, the Apolytikion of the 'First Sunday of Great Lent' is sung. After the Little Entrance, these hymns are sung in the following order:*

Apolytikion for the Resurrection in Tone 1

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion for the First Sunday of Great Lent in Tone 2

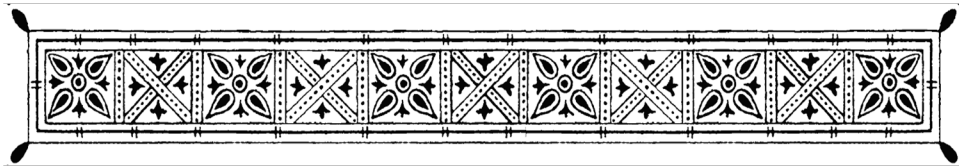
Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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 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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



Winter / Spring

Catechism Classes

Catechism Classes will be offered each Tuesday for inquirers, catechumens and those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith. Each class will be 1 hour in duration. Classes will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Conference Room.

Tuesday, March 5th

- ◊ Life as an Orthodox Christian; Salvation: “What must I do to be saved?”

Tuesday, March 12th

- ◊ We pray what we believe: The Nicene Creed; The Bible

Tuesday, March 19th

- ◊ The role of the Virgin Mary and the Saints.

Tuesday, March 26th

- ◊ Overview of the Ecumenical Councils; The 1054 Schism until today.

Tuesday, April 2nd

- ◊ Sacraments of Baptism, Chrismation, Unction and Marriage.

Tuesday, April 9th

- ◊ Sacraments of Confession (and Spiritual Guidance), Communion and Ordination.

Tuesday, April 16th

- ◊ Liturgical Worship and Daily Prayers.

Tuesday, April 23rd

- ◊ Orthodox Praxis; Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving; Traditions.



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Prot. no.: 117/2024

The Sunday of Orthodoxy
March 24, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and beloved Faithful in Christ,

Greetings to you as we celebrate this glorious Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. We have just completed the difficult first week of Lent. In many ways, this one week is a microcosm of the challenges we face throughout our Christian lives, as we try to live faithfully despite weaknesses within us and trials around us. However, the Lord's words to St. Paul are a comfort to us in every season of our lives: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:19).

Each year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we remember our seminarians, who are studying at residential seminaries and through the Antiochian House of Studies. They are preparing to take up the Cross and follow our Lord on the difficult but rewarding road of priestly ministry. Those whom God calls to ordination will become pastors in our parishes, working with the children, the elderly, and all the faithful, leading them on their journey to the heavenly kingdom. They will stand before the holy altar and offer prayers to the All-Holy Trinity on behalf of us all. They will bring divine grace into all the joys and sorrows of our earthly lives. Therefore, it is our duty to provide them with the best possible education and preparation for this sacred ministry.

Today we ask you to support our dedicated seminarians through your prayers and by making a financial gift toward their theological education. Among the Orthodox in America, our archdiocese is a leader in seminarian support. We strive to provide full scholarships to these qualified men who are studying for the priesthood, and your generous contribution will help to ensure a well-prepared clergy for our future while not burdening our future pastors with excessive debt.

Fervently praying that your Lenten journey will be filled with growth in Christ, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠ SABA
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

- *The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great continues as usual with the following variables.*

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

All creation rejoiceth 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 rejoiceth 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.

Procession of Icons for 'Orthodoxy Sunday'

Following Communion, The clergy, altar servers and children bearing icons, make a procession around the church, stopping in each of the four corners, where the clergy will offer a litany. During the procession, choir sings the Apolytikion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Offerings for March 24th

Second Offering Tray

There will be a Second Offering Tray taken today for Archdiocese Theological Education Fund to aide in the education of our seminarians. Please read Metropolitan Saba's letter in this bulletin and be generous in your giving.

Holy Bread Offered

- ◇ Offered in memory of Yrene (Irene) Fuentes (3 Years).
- ◇ For the good health and spiritual well-being of the Ladies of Saint Mary in commemoration of Antiochian Women Month.

Weekly Altar Candle

- ◇ In glory of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ◇ Offered in memory of Yrene (Irene) Fuentes (3 Years).

***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.)*

The Month of March is Antiochian Women's Month

Each year, our Archdiocese sets aside the month of March as 'Antiochian Women Month' to acknowledge the good works and the important role the women have in our churches. Today, the following Ladies from Saint Mary will be reading the Epistle, serving as Ushers, and hosting Coffee Hour.



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 Khourya Myriam for more details and to host a Coffee Hour.

During Coffee Hour this Sunday, the 'Annunciation Luncheon' will be hosted by the Saint Mary's Ladies Society. Donation is \$15.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children under the age of 5 years. All donations will go towards the Antiochian Women 2024 Project: 'Widowed Clergy Wives Endowment Fund.'

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 Chalhoub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhoub, Raouf 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

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.

