

## From the Front Cover

A young man, described as a rich ruler, comes to Jesus. It appears that he is seeking justification, or at least some reassurance that he is on the right spiritual path. In response to Jesus' questions, he asserts that he has followed the commandments all of his life. He has not committed adultery, nor murder. He has not stolen from others, borne false witness, nor failed to honor his parents. He has, in other words, followed the rules. He has obeyed the commandments. In the eyes of the Jews, he was most certainly a righteous man. For us, living today, his way of life would be considered praiseworthy. We are all required, at a minimum, to keep the commandments of God. What could be more simple? But the truth is that if we want more, if we want to follow the road of the saints and truly become the children of God, we must not think that our spiritual life stops there.

The issue, as Jesus observes, is not simple obedience of rules and regulations. The issue is not whether or not we can justify ourselves, to make ourselves appear to be righteous or worthy of commendation. The true issue, the key question which every Christian must face, is whether or not a person has surrendered his entire life to God, or does he or she reserve some parts wholly for himself.

Jesus knew that the focus of the young man was his wealth. It was what characterized his life. It was, in the end, the way in which he defined who he was and what he did. It was, in the end, the thing that kept him from God. He thus challenged his questioner to abandon the very thing that, whether or not the man knew it, separated him from God. To that end, Jesus asked the man to surrender that part of him which he kept separate and that he valued the most—his wealth.

This is the challenge for us. We may not be rich young rulers, and we may think this gospel does not apply to us. We may lead moral lives, not breaking any of the rules, and we may think that this gospel does not apply to us. But if we are honest with ourselves, we will see something, somewhere inside of us, that we cling to tenaciously, an area of our life which we stubbornly refuse to yield to God. Whatever it may be, we find ourselves faced with the dilemma of the young man—can we surrender that which we hold dear, that we clutch to ourselves and call precious—can we abandon that, for the love of Christ?



# 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 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](mailto:stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net) Website: [stmaryschurchwpb.org](http://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.



"...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3: 26-27



## Church Services at Saint Mary

- ♦ Sunday: Matins at 8:50 AM; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM
  - ♦ Wednesday: Vespers at 6:30 PM
- ♦ Confessions: Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM; Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM; or by appointment with Fr. Peter

## Saturday, December 9th

Feast of the Conception by the Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM

## Tuesday, December 19th

Feast of Saint Ignatius of Antioch  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 6:30 PM



## Schedule of Services for the Feast of the Nativity

### Friday, December 22nd

Great and Royal Hours for the Nativity at 9:00 AM

### Sunday, December 24th

*(Morning – Sunday before the Nativity)*

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

*(Christmas Eve - Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord)*

Festal Matins at 6:45PM; Divine Liturgy at 8:00 PM

No Church Services on Christmas Day

# The Heavenly Banquet

by Abbot Tryphon

Eternity is an everlasting banquet (the Divine Liturgy) that takes place in the heavenly realm. Every time we participate in the Divine Liturgy we are transported into a place where there is neither time nor space, and participate in that very banquet. As we receive the Holy Mysteries (Christ’s very Body and Blood), we receive the healing medicine for that which ails us. Our brokenness in both body and soul are given the healing medicine that we so very much need.

God is everywhere present and fills all things. There is nowhere where He is not. Hell fire is none other than the Fire of God, burning those who are unloving and unresponsive to His invitation to commune with Him. God does not send anyone to hell, for we sentence ourselves. Eternity with God necessitates a transformation of our souls, that we be purified in order to be engulfed by God’s uncreated light. Without transformation the fire of God burns us, not because He desires we be burned, but because our fallen nature can not withstand the presence of God without having been purified.

The Eucharist is the very medicine that God offers for this transformation. Our response should be one of humble submission to this invitation to commune with the very God Who created us. Holy Communion is meant to be the very agent that changes us, making us whole. The Holy Mysteries give us life. Frequent confession and communion are the means we have for change.

The Eucharist is both mystical and symbolic and is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ, precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries and symbols of God’s true and genuine presence, and His manifestation to us in Christ. The Holy Eucharist defies analysis and explanation in purely rational and logical terms, precisely because it is a mystery. The Eucharist, as is Christ himself, is a mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven which, as Jesus has told us, is “not of this world.” The Eucharist, because it belongs to God’s Kingdom, is truly free from the earth-born “logic” of fallen humanity.

*The Very. Rev. Abbot Tryphon is Igumen of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. This and other articles may be found on his website [abbottryphon.com](http://abbottryphon.com)*

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost & Thirteenth Sunday of Luke  
+Venerable Alypius the Stylite of Adrianople;  
+Nikon the preacher of repentance;  
+Venerable Stylianos of Paphlagonia

## Divine Liturgy Variables for November 26th

*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.*

- Sung during and immediately following the Entrance of the Gospels

### Resurrectional Apolytikon in Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

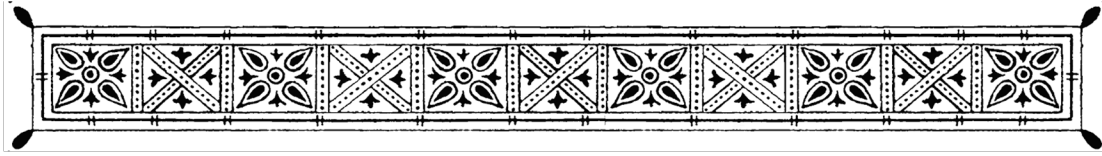
### Apolytikion of the Church (Dormition) in Tone 1

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 for the Preparation of the Nativity of Christ in Tone 3

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.





## THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS

### The Epistle (For the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Verse: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.*

### The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

### الرسالة

### (لِلأَخْدِ الثَّانِي وَالْخَمْسِينَ بَعْدَ الْعَنْصَرَةِ)

صَلُّوا وَاقْرَأُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهُنَا.

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُوذَا؛ وَاسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَفَسَسَ.

يَا إِخْوَتِي، أَطْلُبُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَنَا الْأَسِيرُ فِي الرَّبِّ أَنْ تَسْلُكُوا كَمَا يَحِقُّ لِلدَّعْوَةِ الَّتِي دُعِيتُمْ بِهَا. بِكُلِّ تَوَاضُعٍ وَوِدَاعَةٍ وَبِطَوَلِ  
أَنَانَةٍ، مُحْتَمِلِينَ بَعْضُكُمْ بِبَعْضٍ بِالْمَحَبَّةِ. وَمُجْتَهِدِينَ فِي حِفْظِ وَحْدَةِ الرُّوحِ بِرِبَاطِ السَّلَامِ. فَإِنَّكُمْ جَسَدٌ وَاحِدٌ وَرُوحٌ وَاحِدٌ،  
كَمَا دُعِيتُمْ إِلَى رَجَاءٍ دَعْوَتِكُمُ الْوَاحِدِ، رَبِّ وَاحِدٍ، وَإِيمَانٍ وَاحِدٍ، وَمَعْمُودِيَّةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، وَإِلَهُ أَبٍ لِلْجَمِيعِ وَاحِدٌ، هُوَ فَوْقَ  
الْجَمِيعِ وَبِالْجَمِيعِ وَفِي جَمِيعِكُمْ. وَلِكُلِّ وَاحِدٍ مِنَّا أُعْطِيَتْ النِّعْمَةُ عَلَى مِقْدَارِ مُوهَبَةِ الْمَسِيحِ.

### Saint Barbara Celebration

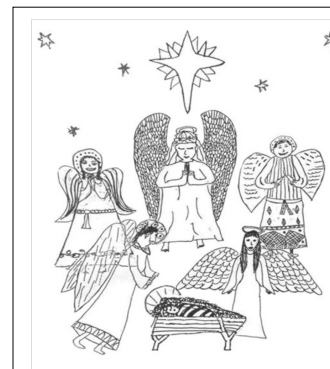
The Feast of Saint Barbara, or Eid il-Burbara or (Arabic: عيد البربارة), is celebrated on December 4th. The Great Martyr Barbara suffered persecution in the early 4th Century. While fleeing from her persecutors, Saint Barbara would disguise herself as many different characters to elude her captors. She ran through freshly planted wheat fields, which grew instantly to cover her path. This miracle is celebrated symbolically by planting wheat seeds in cotton wool on her feast day. The

seeds germinate and grow up to around six inches in time for Christmas, when the shoots are used to decorate the Nativity scene usually placed below the Christmas Tree.

On Sunday, December 3rd, Saint Mary's will celebrate the Feast of Saint Barbara in the hall following the Divine Liturgy.

- ◇ Children and Adults may wear costumes (please use good taste: nothing scary, ghoulish, be original – homemade costumes are the best).
- ◇ Traditional foods will be available; 'Burbara,' a bowl of boiled wheat grains, pomegranate seeds, raisins, anise, and sugar; 'Awamat,' sweet fried dough.
- ◇ Treats and 'Christmas Movie' for the children.
- ◇ An early visit from Santa.

Pass the word and join us for this traditional celebration of the life of the Great Martyr Barbara.



## Christmas Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 17th

*In the church immediately following the Divine Liturgy*

*Presented by  
Our Sunday School Children, with assistance  
from our Choir and Parents.*



### Ladies Christmas Dinner

The Ladies Society Christmas Dinner will be at Grande Bella Cucina (4580 Donald Ross Rd, Palm Beach Gardens., on Friday, December 15th, at 6:30 PM. The dinner will include a choice of: Fish of the Day, Shrimp Scampi, Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmesan, Lasagna (Bolognese or Veggie); Salad; Dessert; a glass of Wine or Soda. The cost is \$33.00 (includes taxes and gratuity). To reserve a spot, please see Carol Sara.

### Thank You!

This Thanksgiving, our church community provided 30+ boxes of non perishable food items, and gifts cards to the YMCA 'Harmony House,' who working together with the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, care for abused women and their children. Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed in their donations and helped in assembling the Thanksgiving Boxes.

**\*\*The next giving opportunity in the annual 'Angel Tree.'\*\***

### Online Donations

Thank you for your continued donations to your Saint Mary's Church. In addition to giving by Sunday Offering Envelopes, or by mail, the church offers Zelle as an online means of fulfilling your 'Annual Pledge.' To use Zelle, please access it through your online bank to: [stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywpbfinance@gmail.com).

In addition to making donations toward your annual pledge to the church, you may also donate towards our ongoing church facilities renovations, and various ministries.

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.



### **Volunteers Are Needed!**

Next Sunday, December 3rd, the Christmas Trees that adorn our church for the Nativity Season will be put up and decorated following the Divine Liturgy.

If you wish to volunteer, please se Khouryia Myriam.

### The Gospel (For the Thirteenth Sunday of Luke)

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:18-27)**

At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery. Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" And the man said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

### **الإنجيل (لأحد الثالث عشر من لوقا)**

#### **فصل شريف من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (18:18-27)**

في ذلك الزمان، دنا إلى يسوع إنسان مجرباً له وقالاً: "أيها المعلم الصالح، ماذا أعمل لأرث الحياة الأبديّة؟" فقال له يسوع: "لماذا تدعوني صالحاً؟ وما صالح إلا واحد وهو الله. إنك تعرف الوصايا: لا تقتل. لا تسرق. لا تشهد بالزور. أكرم أباك وأمك." فقال: "كل هذا قد حفظته منذ صباهي." فلما سمع يسوع ذلك، قال له: "واحدة تعوزك بعد. بـع كل شيء لك ووزعه على المساكين، فيكون لك كنز في السماء، وتعال اتبعني." فلما سمع ذلك، حزن لأنه كان غنياً جداً. فلما رآه يسوع قد حزن، قال: "ما أعسر على ذوي الأموال أن يدخلوا ملكوت الله. إنه لأسهل أن يدخل الجمل في ثقب الإبرة من أن يدخل غني ملكوت الله." فقال السامعون: "فمن يستطيع إذن أن يخلص؟" فقال: "ما لا يستطيع عند الناس، يستطيع عند الله."

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

## The Nativity Fast

From November 15th until December 24th, the Orthodox Church observes the Nativity Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this period, we are called to do our best to fast, increase our daily prayers, and remember those in need in our almsgiving.

## This Sunday (November 26th)

### 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.*

### Sunday School Classes

**Please Note: There will be no Sunday School Classes on Sunday, November 26th. Classes will resume December 3rd.**

### Christmas/Nativity Play Practice

Practice for this years Christmas Nativity Play will be today following the Divine Liturgy. This, and all practices will be held in the church. This year's pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th.

## 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, Archpriest Maximos Saikaley, Priest Andrew Short, Sub-Deacon William Hall, Jodet Rae, Leon & Judy Chalhub, Johnny & Joyce Chalhub, Raouf Saballeil, Sabah, Craig Miller, Emma, Lauren Moreland, George, Lama Chalhoub, George.

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

For peace in the Middle East and the Ukraine.

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.

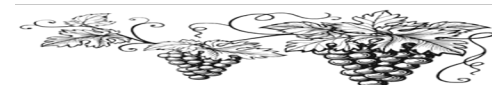
### For the Departed

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

Gail Camileri (6/26/23), Angie Smith (6/23/23), Archdeacon Joseph Harb (3/8/23).

## 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.*



## Tuesday Bible Study

The Fall Weekly Bible Study Classes will conclude on Tuesday, November 28th. Class will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Conference Room. Led by Jim Gavrilos, the Fall Bible Study is the Gospel of Mark. All are welcome to participate. Please bring your bibles.

## Weekly Spiritual Discussion

Thank you to everyone who have participated in the Spiritual Discussions led by Fr. Peter on Wednesday's following the Vespers Service. The participation in the discussion grow in number each week. The topics covered the past several weeks have been: *Realizing Christ within us; Making Room for God through Prayer; Achieving Holiness; Give us this Day our Daily Bread; The Understanding of Sin; Where Does Sin Come From?; Recovery from Sin; 'Overcoming Habitual Sins.'*