

+Venerable Maximos the Confessor

The Venerable Maximus, whose name means “greatest” and whose way of life was unsurpassed, was born in Constantinople in 580. His parents were of noble lineage and Orthodox and gave him an excellent education.

St. Maximus’ keen mind was illuminated through his ascetic struggles, and he wrote extensively about the spiritual life based in the writings of those who had gone before and his own experience of those truths. But in 634, through his association with St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, St. Maximus was enrolled in the struggle against the Monothelite heresy, which taught that Jesus Christ had had only one will—a divine one. But for Christ to lack a human will was to render Him less than fully human. The consequences of this were not merely academic, for as St. Gregory the Theologian had taught, “What is not assumed is not healed.” If Christ had not assumed a human will, then man’s will was not healed by Christ—and it was man’s will above all, perhaps, that needed to be healed. Man could not be saved if Christ lacked a human will. For the rest of his life, and sometimes nearly alone, St. Maximus eloquently defended Christ’s full divinity in the face of political pressure, heretics, and wavering churchmen. He was tried by imperial authorities, condemned, and exiled three times: in 655, 656, and finally, in 662. The last time, his right hand and his tongue, the instruments of his teaching, were cut off. He died in exile shortly afterwards at Tsageria, Georgia, on August 13, 662.

St. Maximus bears the titles “Venerable” and “Confessor”. “Venerable” is the title given to monastic saints. “Confessor” is the glorious title given to a saint who has been persecuted and has suffered for the Faith.

One of the Church’s most profound theologians, St. Maximus possessed equally profound insight into the spiritual life which he acquired through his practice of it. True Christian life always consists both of believing and confessing the right doctrine as well as doing the right things or living the right way. In his writings, the intimate relation between theology and spirituality is manifest. Christian spirituality (how one approaches and interacts with God) depends on Christian theology (what is said about God). If the Church’s confession of who God is, and especially, who Jesus Christ is, becomes corrupt or distorted, it cannot but have a corrupting influence on spiritual life.



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*

Church Office: (561) 965-5007

Fr. Peter’s Cellular: (561) 632-7066

Email: stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net

Website: stmaryschurchwpb.org

Banquet Hall Rentals: Maribel Perez - (561) 721-5696

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

Worship Guide and Bulletin – January 21, 2024



‘Temptations and Passions’

“Nothing created by God is evil. It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-esteem. It is only the misuse of things that is evil, not the things themselves.”

**+Saint Maximos the Confessor
‘The Philokalia’**

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 Twenty-ninth Sunday after Pentecost and the Twelfth Sunday of Luke

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.

- *During the Little Entrance (Entrance of the Gospel), 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, the following hymns are sung:*

Apolytikon for the Resurrection 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.

Apolytikon of Saint Maximos the Confessor in Tone 8

Thou hast shown thyself, O God-inspired Maximos, as a guide to the Orthodox Faith, a teacher of true worship and purity; O star of the universe and companion of the bishops, O wise one. Through thy light thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the spirit. Therefore, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.



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 prior to, and immediately following Great Vespers;
 - ♦ Sunday 8:30 to 8:50 AM;
 - ♦ Wednesday 6:00 to 6:30 PM;
 - ♦ 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.



Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ into the Temple

Thursday, February 1st at 6:30 PM



"Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who
is in heaven." Matthew 5: 16



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

Telephone: (561) 965-5007 • Fax: (561) 965-0679 • E-mail: stmaryschurch@bellsouth.net

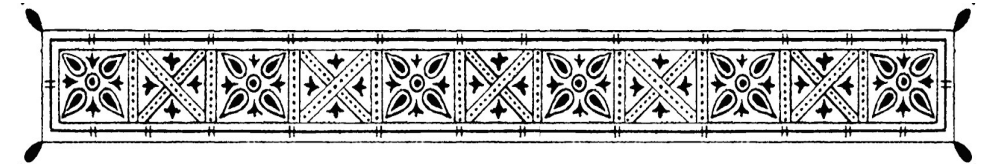
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America / Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

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 AND GOSPEL READINGS

The Epistle (For the Twenty-ninth 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 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 (لِلأحد التاسع والعشرين بَعْدَ الغنصرة)

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا.

اللهُ معروفٌ في أرضِ يهوذا. إِسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ في إِسْرَائِيلَ.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُولُوسِي.

يا إِخْوَةُ، متى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الذي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تُظْهِرُونَ حَيَاتَكُمْ فِي الْمَجْدِ. فَأَمِيتُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ التي على الأَرْضِ: الرِّزْيَ، وَالنَّجَاسَةَ، وَالْهَوَى، وَالشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ، وَالطَّمَعِ الذي هُوَ عِبَادَةُ وَثَنٍ. لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللَّهِ على أَبْنَاءِ الْعِصْيَانِ. وفي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكَتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ عَائِشِينَ فِيهَا. أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً اطَّرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الغَضَبَ، وَالسُّخْطَ، وَالْخُبْنَتَ، وَالتَّجْدِيفَ، وَالْكَلَامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ. وَلَا يَكْدِّبْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ أَعْمَالِهِ. وَابْتَسُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الذي يَتَجَدَّدُ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ على صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ. حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا قَلْفٌ، لَا بَرَبْرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ فِي الْجَمِيعِ.

The Gospel (For the Twelfth Sunday of Luke—"Ten Lepers")

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 (لِلأحد الثاني عشر من لوقا)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْبَشِيرِ التِّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسُوعُ دَاخِلٌ إِلَى قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَقْبَلَهُ عَشْرَةُ رِجَالٍ بُرْصِيٍّ وَوَقَفُوا مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَرَفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَهُمْ قَائِلِينَ: يَا يَسُوعُ الْمُعَلِّمُ ارْحَمْنَا. فَلَمَّا رَأَاهُمْ قَالَ لَهُمْ امْضُوا وَأَرَوْا الْكَهَنَةَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ. وَفِيمَا هُمْ مُنْطَلِقُونَ طَهَّرُوا. وَإِنَّ وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمْ، لَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّهُ قَدْ بَرِيءٌ، رَجَعَ يُمَجِّدُ اللَّهَ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ. وَخَرَّ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ عِنْدَ قَدَمَيْهِ شَاكِرًا لَهُ وَكَانَ سَامِرِيًّا، فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ، أَلَيْسَ الْعَشْرَةُ قَدْ طَهَّرُوا فَأَيْنَ التَّسْعَةُ؟ أَلَمْ يُوجَدْ مَنْ يَرْجِعُ لِيُحْمَدَ اللَّهَ إِلَّا هَذَا الْأَجَنَبِيُّ؟ وَقَالَ لَهُ، فَمُ وَأَمُّضْ، إِيمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَّصَكَ.



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.

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: _____

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 for January 21st

Weekly Altar Candle

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

Holy Bread Offered

***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 hosted by the Parish Council in conjunction with the Annual Parish Meeting.

Sunday School Classes

Following Communion, Sunday School Classes are held for children and teens between the ages of 4 and 18 years. Classes last approximately 30 minutes. Parents are asked to please encourage their children to participate.

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.

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

Seven Day Prayer Candles Offered

♦ On the occasion of the birthdays of Jason Underwood, Sadie Malley and Dale Nielsen

*****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.***

Congratulations!

Zachary & Brittany (Waser) Harabedian on the Baptism and Chrismation of their daughter Amara Camille Harabedian last Sunday, January 14th. May God grant Amara and her parents many years!

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.

Online Donations

In addition to making your 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.

Antiochian Village and Camp Saint Thekla Registration

Registration for the Antiochian Village Summer Camp is now open. Currently there are wait lists for Sessions 1, 2 & 3 and limited openings for Session 4. For more information and to register, please refer to www.avcamp.org.

Those unable to register their children for the Antiochian Village may wish to consider Camp Saint Thekla, the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Summer Camp, located in Asbury Hills, SC. This years dates are June 23–29 and June 30–July 6. Registration information is forth coming.

****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.**

Wednesday Spiritual Discussions... Looking Ahead

The following are the topics for the forthcoming Wednesday Spiritual Discussions:

- January 24th: The Beatitudes
- January 31st: The Beatitudes
- February 7th: Pain, Suffering and Salvation
- February 14th: No Discussion
- February 21st: A Christian Ending to our Life
- February 27th: No Discussion
- March 6th: Preparing for Great Lent Part 1
- March 13th: Preparing for Great Lent Part 2

The Spiritual Discussions led by Fr. Peter are held on Wednesday's immediately following the Vespers Service, and last approximately 30 minutes. All are welcome to participate.