

Saint Mary of Egypt

The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (Lk 5:32).

In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life -- or in Lent -- to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

The commemoration of the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who formerly had been a great sinner, is intended to serve as an example of true repentance for all and convince us of the ineffable compassion of God. The Church finds in her an image of true repentance and a source of encouragement for those engaged in spiritual endeavors, by virtue of the example of the ineffable mercy of God shown towards her a repentant sinner.

Troparion *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother,
for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ.

By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//

Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman,

thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ.

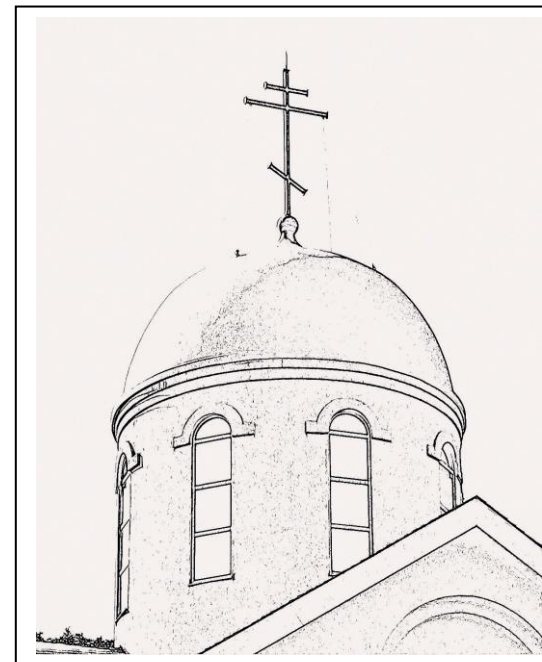
Having attained angelic life,

thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.//

Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

The Church refers to the upcoming week as the Week of Palms. During this week, Lazarus, the friend of our Lord, dies. The death of Lazarus and Jesus' call for him to return to life set in motion the final days of Our Lord on this earth that include His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His betrayal, His passion, His death, and His Resurrection. The Church carries us through these events liturgically by way of her Divine services. Please participate and witness the glory of God through the services offered for the remainder of Great Lent, the entirety of Holy Week, and through to the Great and Holy Pascha!

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

April 10, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - St. Mary of Egypt

Tone 1. Martyrs Terence, Pompeius, Africanus, Maximus, Zeno, Alexander, Theodore, Macarius, and 33 others, beheaded at Carthage (3rd c.). Martyrs James (Jacob) the Presbyter, and Azadanes and Abdicius—Deacons, of Persia (ca. 380).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 and Galatians 3:23-29

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 and Luke 7:36-50

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Wednesday – **6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Friday – **6:00pm Vespers**

Saturday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy (Lazarus Saturday)**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers & Blessing of Branches**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy (Palm Sunday)**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18



St. Mary of Egypt

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. For more information, please visit the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

Please pray for vocations to the Holy Priesthood!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, Zoran Pejovic, Lidia Zemlanicky, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, George Stavrou, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Eileen Zamerovsky, and Dorothy Studier.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Following the Divine Liturgy, an **Agape Coffee Hour** will be served in the Parish Hall. **Team #1** is in charge of today's Coffee Hour.

TODAY – The parish youth are again **collecting food** for distribution to our neighbors in need. Grocery bags with lists of requested items will be available for anyone to pick up, fill, and return to the narthex. Next Sunday is the end date of this project.

TODAY – **Babkas** ordered from South River are available for pick-up today.

THIS WEEK – Please check the **schedule of church services** for this week. Remember that this is Great Lent and as Orthodox Christians, we are expected to at least consider increasing our prayer and worship during this time.

THIS TUESDAY – The **Parish Council** meets at 7:00pm.

THIS WEDNESDAY – We celebrate the evening **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**. If you plan to **receive the Eucharist** at this service, please prepare by **fasting to the best of your ability**. If possible, eat and drink nothing from midnight. At the very least, try to abstain from eating and drinking after an early lunch. As it is whenever we receive the Eucharist, we should contemplate that it is **the very Body and Blood of Christ** that we are receiving. Please prepare with this firmly in mind.

THIS WEDNESDAY – After the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a **pot-luck agape meal** will be held in the parish hall. All are invited to attend and bring along a dish to share.

THIS SATURDAY – After the Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday, all are invited to participate in a **clean-up of the parish buildings and grounds**. General tasks need to be done both indoors and outdoors. More hands will allow more to be done. Please plan to spend an hour or more helping out. During this time, **palms and pussywillows** will be assembled to be blessed and distributed to the faithful on Palm Sunday.

Next Sunday – **Team #2** will oversee the Coffee Hour. All Coffee Hours during Great Lent will include only foods appropriate for the Fast.

We continue the **Lenten discipline of fasting** from meat and dairy until the Great Feast of Holy Pascha. All fasting should be undertaken with regard to each person's ability to tolerate its physical demands. If you have questions about the Lenten discipline, please contact Father Gary for further clarification.

Many thanks to those who participated in the production of **Dessert Rolls** on Friday. They are available for sale at \$15 apiece. For purchases, please see Cathy Berger of Olga Pasick.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Today – Sever Ciorlian

Friday – James Petrides

We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!