

ST. MARY

OF EGYPT



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM - If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS - Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS - Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE - Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE - The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

April 14, 2019
Volume 55: Number 15
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of April 14 - 21, 2019
Celebrating our 92nd year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, April 14 – 5th Sunday of the Fast – St. Mary of Egypt - Tone 4

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – Vespers – Mother of God Church (Georgian) 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

Monday, April 15

7:00 AM – Matins

6:30 PM – Akathist to Our Lady, Softener of Evil Hearts

7:00 PM - Bible Study

Tuesday, April 16

7:00 AM – Matins

Thursday, April 18

7:00 AM – Matins

Friday, April 19 – Last Day of the Great Fast

7:00 AM – Matins

8:00 AM – Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 20 – Lazarus Saturday – Beginning of Holy Week

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Holy Trinity – Whaleyville, MD)

Sunday, April 21 – Palm Sunday – Flowery Sunday

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Special Coffee Hour – Dollars for Diapers (Orphanage in Ukraine)

5:00 PM - Vespers

SCRIPTURE READINGS

5th Sunday of the Fast - Matins John 21:1-14; Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45;

St. Mary of Egypt: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 7:36-50.

Monday: Genesis 27: 1-41; * Proverbs 19:16-25 * Isaiah 48:17- 49:44

Tuesday: Genesis 31:3-16; * Proverbs 21:3-21 * Isaiah 49:6-10

Wednesday: Genesis 43:26 - 31; * Proverbs 21:23 - 22:4 * Isaiah 58:1-11

Thursday: Genesis 46: 1-7 * Proverbs 23: 15 - 24:5 * Isaiah 65:8-16

Friday: Genesis 49:33-50 * Proverbs 31:8-32 * Isaiah 66: 10 - 24

Lazarus Saturday Hebrews 12:28 - 13:8 * John 11:1-45 ;

Great Vespers: Genesis. 49: 1-2, 8-12; Zephaniah 3:14-19; Zacharias 9:9-15

Palm Sunday (Flowery Sunday) - Matins: John 21: 15-25; Liturgy Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18

SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - SUNDAY OF MARY OF EGYPT

Saint Mary of Egypt was born in the middle of the fourth century and at the age of twelve she left her parents for a life of prostitution in Alexandria. One summer, Mary encountered a large group of pilgrims in route to Jerusalem for the celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. She was so moved by the crowd, not due to her devout faith, but because she saw among the men the great potential for her sexual gratification, that she set sail with them for the Holy Land. At sea and in the city of Jerusalem, she continued her shameful behavior.

On the day of the Feast, Mary was prevented by an unknown force from entering the Church of the Resurrection. She began to weep alongside the Icon of the Mother of God for her sins of prostitution and cried out to the Holy Virgin that she would renounce her life of lust if granted the opportunity to see the relic of the True Cross in the Church. This was granted and St. Mary of Egypt was commanded to go and live across the Jordan River and find glorious rest there. She retired to the desert for a life of repentance of nearly fifty years. Her only contact with others were two visits from the monk, Abba Zossima. He met St. Mary during her forty-seventh year in the desert and agreed to return a year later to bring her the precious Eucharist on the banks of the Jordan. This he did but at first Mary was unable to reach him on the opposite bank so she walked upon the water to receive her Savior.

Mary was to have met Abba Zossima again the following year, but when the holy monk arrived he discovered that she had died. Mary of Egypt's regular feastday is April 14th. She is commemorated during Great Lent as a reminder to us of sincere repentance.

END OF THE GREAT FAST

One might have scarcely even noticed, but the Great Fast, which began so dramatically at Vespers on Forgiveness Sunday, six weeks ago, ended quietly this past Friday during the Presanctified Liturgy. We leap right from the Fast into Holy Week; the week that we participate in the last seven days of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's life here on earth. It is genuinely a time of real reflection, prayer and meditation. Our Fasting should now be more austere, our prayer life, that time that we spend with God, should increase.

In yesterday's Gospel reading (John 11:1-45) we hear of Christ's revelation as both God and man. As a man, He weeps and prays at the tomb of Lazarus, His friend. As God, Christ calls Lazarus back to life. Today we celebrate the real person of Christ and pay Him the homage and praise due to Him as our Lord and our King. We should shout out with joy with the Children of Israel in the Jerusalem of our hearts and our souls to Jesus, our Messianic King with the royal acclamation: "Hosanna!"

Beginning with Monday of Holy Week, we change our readings from Genesis and Proverbs to the Books of Exodus and Job. Exodus brings us directly into the narrative of the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the First Passover, which prefigures the Passover of Christ; His death and Resurrection. Job teaches us that God's saving grace is a mystery of love. We do not always understand what God does or why God does it; we must trust in God and not pride-fully think that we know better than God knows.

Let us joyfully witness and most importantly participate in this last week in the life of our Lord. Let us try to attend all the Church services. Let us try to experience the love that God offers us; for then we truly understand the message of the Gospel of St. John in our Lord's Passion, Death and glorious Resurrection: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:16-17). Let us come and witness this love. Let us come and partake of this love by receiving the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion. Let us be inspired by this love, that God loves us that much that He lays His life down for us, His friends. Let us then share this love by the way we treat one another and all those whom we meet. Then the message of God's love in His Passion, Death and glorious Resurrection will never fade, for it will be alive in us.

ON THE WAY TO BETHANY AND JERUSALEM



We enter the sixth and last week of the Great Fast. For six days prior to Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, the liturgy of the Church makes us follow Christ as He first announces the death of His friend Lazarus and then begins His journey to Bethany and Jerusalem. The theme and tone of the week are given on Sunday night at Vespers: Beginning with zeal the sixth week of the fast, we shall bring to the Lord hymns, announcing the feast of the palms; to Him who comes in glory and power Divine to Jerusalem to put death to death."

The center of attention is Lazarus - his sickness, his death, the grief of his relatives and Christ's reaction to all of this.

On Monday we hear "Today the sickness of Lazarus appears to Christ as He walks on the other side of the Jordan." On Tuesday, "Yesterday and today, Lazarus is sick." On Wednesday, "Today the dead Lazarus is being buried and his relatives weep." On Thursday, "For two days now Lazarus has been dead." On Friday, "Tomorrow Christ comes... to raise the dead brother of Martha and Mary."

So, the entire week is spent in the spiritual contemplation of the forthcoming encounter between Christ and death - first in the person of His friend Lazarus and then in Christ's own death. It is the approach of that "hour of Christ" of which He so often spoke of and toward which all His earthly ministry was oriented. We must ask ourselves: "What is the meaning of this contemplation in the Lenten Liturgy? How is it related to our own Lenten offering?"

In the commemoration of the events of Christ's life, the Church very often if not always, transposes past into present. On Christmas day we sing: "Today, the Virgin gives birth..." On Good Friday, "Today, Christ stands before Pilate..." On Palm Sunday, "Today He comes to Jerusalem." What is the significance of this liturgical "today"?

One can say without exaggeration that the whole life of the Church is one continuous commemoration and remembrance. At the end of each service we say, "whose memory we celebrate" but behind the memories, the Church is the remembrance of Jesus Christ.

Liturgical celebration is a re-entrance of the Church into the event and this means not merely its idea but also its joy and sadness, its living and concrete reality.

It is one thing to explain that the resurrection of Lazarus was "to confirm the universal resurrection" from the tropar). It is quite a different thing to celebrate day after day for one

entire week this slowly approaching encounter between life and death, to become a part of it, to see with our own eyes and feel with our whole being what was involved in the words of St. John, "He groaned in the spirit and was troubled and wept" (John 11:33-35). For us and to us all this happens today. we were not there, in Bethany at the grave with the crying sisters. From the Gospel we only know about it. But it is in the Church's celebration today that an historical fact becomes an event for us, for me, a power in my life, a memory, a joy.

The resurrection of Lazarus, the wonderful celebration of that unique Saturday is beyond Lent. It is on the Friday preceding it that we sing, "Having completed the edifying forty days"... In liturgical terms, Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday are the beginning of the Cross. But the last week of Lent, this week, is the ultimate revelation of the meaning of lent. Lent is a preparation for the Resurrection. Lent and the Resurrection are often put side by side without any real understanding of their connection. Even if Lent is not understood as the season of the fulfillment of a once-a-year Confession and Communion, it is usually thought of in terms of individual effort and thus remains self-centered. What is absent from the Lenten experience is that physical and spiritual effort aimed at our participation in the "today" of Christ's Resurrection, the partaking of the ultimate and all-embracing "today" of Christ.

During this last week of preparation for the Resurrection, the celebration of the mystery begins. Lenten effort has made us capable of putting aside all that which usually obscures the central object of our faith, hope and joy.

THE IMAGE OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Throughout the season of the Great Fast, one message has echoed repeatedly: **REPENTANCE!** In fact, even before the beginning of this 40 day fast, our Holy Orthodox Church places before us the thought that we must repent of our sins if we are to be found worthy of the great gift of salvation that the Resurrected Christ brings to His faithful followers.

It must be said, however, that true repentance is a process that is often misunderstood. True repentance involves much more than merely confessing our sins. It even goes far beyond expressing sincere sorrow for our transgressions. Indeed true repentance call out to us to **CHANGE OUR LIVES COMPLETELY!** When we repent of our sins, we are expected to strive with all our strength to rid our lives of the shameful things that we do which are contrary to God's laws. Repentance is "making right" all of the "wrongs" of which we are guilty.

No one understood the necessity of true repentance better than St. Mary of Egypt. In her early years, Mary lived a life of immorality and promiscuity. While visiting Jerusalem one day, her eyes were opened to the sinfulness of her ways when some "hidden force" prevented her from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Realizing her unworthiness before God, this 6th century Saint retired to the desert region beyond the Jordan River leaving her past life behind. For nearly 50 years she devoted her life to prayer and fasting, as she attempted to live in a manner that properly captured the spirit of repentance.

This is why our Holy Orthodox Church honors her memory every year on the Fifth Sunday of the great Fast. As this sacred time of the year rapidly draws to a close, we are asked to be imitators of St. Mary of Egypt and to find encouragement in her example as we, too, struggle to overcome our sins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Luba Szeremeta, 4/17 & Robert McConaghy, 4/20. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – Will soon be in the back of the Church. We shall have a few extra hours to fill since I shall be celebrating Paska with Holy Trinity Parish in Whaleyville, MD on Holy Saturday at 4:00 PM. Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

MEETINGS - MINISTRIES

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tuesday, May 14 @ 6:30 PM

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE CLAYMONT CIVIC CENTER – For Easter. We are collecting turkeys, hams, non-perishable foods to help supply Easter Dinners for those less fortunate than us. Please help!

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

April 14 – Victor Kaliakin and Ann Duncan

April 21 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

April 28 - Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

May 5 – Lorraine Neff and Victor Kaliakin

May 12 – Lorraine Neff and Victor Kaliakin

May 19 – Ann Duncan and Thomas Bringle

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY April 14

_____ Small Round (\$7) _____ Large Round (\$10) _____ Butter Lamb (\$3)

Name _____

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 21**

THE POWER OF PRAYER – Please remember your daily prayer for our country.
Today, we begin Day 30.

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 14 - John and Sandy Cramer

April 21 - David & Eve Lazaration

April 28 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

May 5 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 14 - Irene Maskaly

April 21 - Andrew Duncan

April 28 - Jean Roeth

May 5 - Linda Hnatow

May 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

May 19 - Jean Roeth

May 26 - Thomas Kasprzak

June 2 - John Plachuta

ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD LENTEN MISSIONS

(All Services Begin at 4:00 PM)

April 14 – Mother of God Church (Georgian) 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? – Did you know that if you would get on Smile Amazon and choose our Parish as your beneficiary that Amazon would donate a percentage of your purchase to us? Search on Orthodox Wilmington and choose SS Peter & Paul Ukrainiaan (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA - We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we order to decorate the Tomb for Good Friday and the Church for Pascha. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one(s). If you are interested, please see Linda Hnatow. Thank you!

SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS – will be held on Palm Sunday and on Sunday, May 26 to raise money for diapers for the orphanages in Ukraine.

EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place on Palm Sunday (April 21). Please see Pani Liz or Christina Pappas to register your child.

Tentative 2019 Schedule

Sunday, April 28 – Pascha

Sunday, May 5 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemeteries

Sunday, May 12 – Mother’s Day Dinner

Sunday, May 26 – Special Coffee Hour – Hot Dogs – Diapers for Orphanages

Saturday, June 15 – Visit by Weeping Icon from Taylor, PA

Sunday, June 16 – Father’s Day Dinner

Saturday, June 22 – Religious Book Sale

Monday, June 24 – First Day of the Apostle’s Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Feast Dinner

Monday, July 15 – 19 – Summer Camp

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, October 12 – UOL Retreat

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Holy Rosary)

Sunday, December 15 – UOL Cookie Sale

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of April 15 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 22 – Dawn Daniels, David Duncan & Kathy Duncan

Week of April 29 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of May 6 - Mark & Laura Andreas, Paul Andreas

Week of May 13 - John Cramer, Victor Melnychenko & Joseph Thurstlic

Week of May 20 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson

Week of May 27 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

WHAT A GREAT BAZAAR – Special thanks to Kathy Dunacan, Chairperson, and all who helped! Our Gross intake was over \$25K!!! More later!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, Galina, Dolores, Krystyna, Julian, Madison, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Betty Bosland, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, George Burns, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Betty Charney, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Mary Crystal, Patricia Crystal, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, John Dmytryk, James Dudrick, David Duncan, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Stephen Farrell, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Mary Eleanor Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Dolores Helms, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnatow, Betty Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Josephine Kapelus, Sandra Kasch, Thomas Kasprzak, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Barbara Kirylic, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Emma Krasnopera, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Andrew Makolynyk, Paul Markow, Natalia McDonough, Ronald Michel, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Michael Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Lynn Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Fred Royer, Alla Rudawsky, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Maria Russak, Dana Sargent, Charles Scully, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Wasyl Szeremeta, Tatiana Szwec, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Anna Tur, Charles Tyrawsky, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, John Wardigo, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

☪ ☪ ☪ FROM SINNER TO SAINT ☪ ☪ ☪

The story of **ST. MARY OF EGYPT** is one of the great epics of repentance to be found in our Church. Since repentance is a primary theme of the great Fast, it is no wonder that commemoration of this sinner who became a saint is made on the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Mary was born in Egypt some fifteen hundred years ago. At the age of 12, she left home and went to the city to be free from parental bounds and to taste the delights of the world. It wasn't long before she forgot all she was ever taught about morality, purity and virtue. For seventeen years she led a shameful life.

Finally, she learned the bitter truth: the world with all its sin cannot satisfy the deep yearnings of the human soul, and Mary came to despise her life. She attempted to enter a church, but encountered an "invisible" barrier. She poured out her soul in sorrow and repentance. At last, the burden of sin was lifted and she was able to enter. She then crossed over the Jordan and sought peace in the wilderness of the desert.

Zosimus, a monastic who spent the Great Fast in the desert, found her one day and learned her amazing story. She had spent 47 years alone in the desert, except for the times in the Fast that Zosimus came and brought the Eucharist for her. The final time he came he could not locate her, but found these words traced in the desert sand: "Abba Zosimus, bury here the body of the sinner, Mary . . ." And so Zosimus returned to the monastic community and preserved the story of this truly penitent soul.