

March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast/St. Mary of Egypt



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Propers for this Sunday: Resurrectional Tone 1: pg. 125, First Sunday of Lent: pp. 230 – 231
Typica: pp. 16-17, Beatitudes: pp. 23-24, St. Basil melodies: pg. 96

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., MAR. 21 **FIFTH SUNDAY of the GREAT FAST, St. Mary of Egypt**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY of St. Basil**
+ Gordon Jn Baptiste, requested by Liz Guy

(At St. Mary: Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 P.M., Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts)

THUR. MAR. 25 **THE ANNUNCIATION HOLYDAY**
6:00 P.M. **VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY**

FRI., MAR. 26 **SIXTH FRIDAY OF LENT**
6:00 P.M. **LITURGY of the PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS**

SUN., MAR. 28 **PALM SUNDAY, the ENTRANCE of our LORD into JERUSALEM**
8:30 A.M. **DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of palms and pussy willows**
+ Sister Rose Elizabeth, requested by Jimmy Mudron

Holy Week Schedule Published - The Holy Week schedule is published in today's bulletin. Fr. Geoff has generously scheduled multiple services and opportunities during Holy Week. During this time, we are called to make every effort to "lay aside all earthly cares", to devote ourselves to contemplate the central Mysteries of our Faith which are revealed in the liturgical services of Passion Week: the Cross, the Tomb and the Resurrection of Christ. So significant is Holy Week that "time seems to stand still and earthly life ceases for the faithful, as they go up with the Lord to Jerusalem" (Fr. Thomas Hopko). May we all look upon the days ahead as sacred and dedicated to our Lord.

Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:
March 21: Mary Ann Popovich, March 22: Carolyn Gural

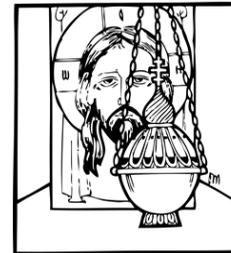
Wedding Anniversaries this Week:
None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins
HOME – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

Hunter's Care Home (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff
Beaver Elder Care (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

Epistle Readers – March 21: JoAnn Hersh – March 28: Louisa Hersh
Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – March 21: F. Hersh – March 28: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP
March 21- 27, 2021
Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:
+ Frank Polas
(In loving memory)
Offered By:
Daughter, Betty Polas



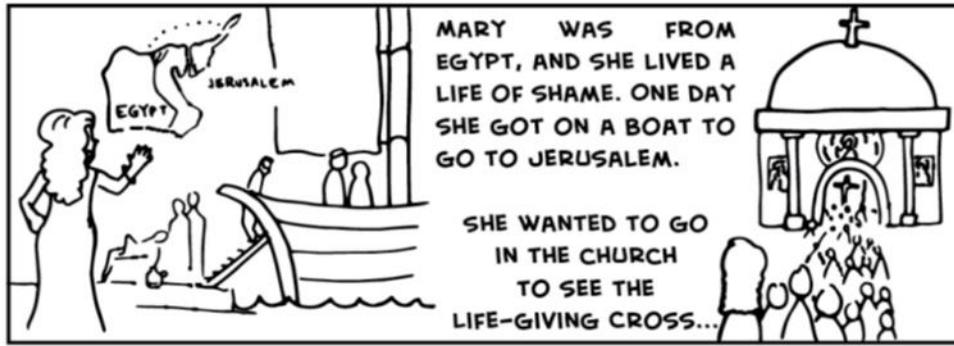
Prayer of Saint Ephraim *To be prayed each day of the Great Fast*

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. *(Prostration)*

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. *(Prostration)*

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen. *(Prostration)*

∞
**THE LIFE OF
 ST.
 MARY
 OF
 EGYPT**
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marymexis.blogspot.com

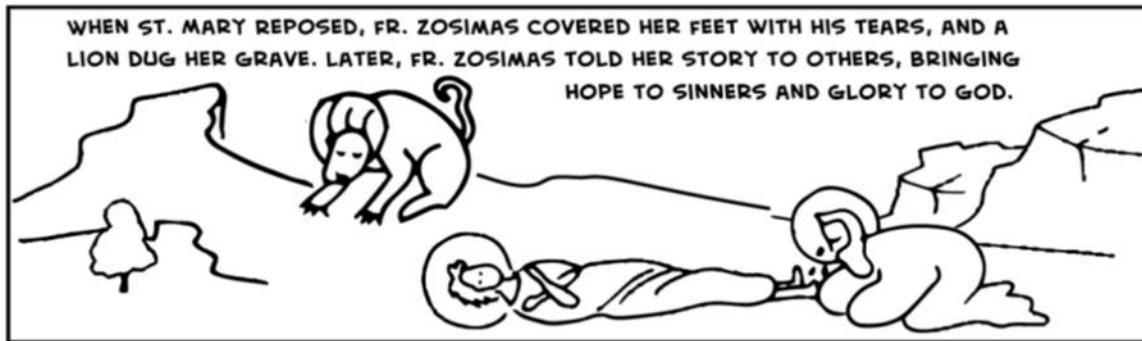


...BUT SHE COULDN'T GO IN! SHE SAW AN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND WEPT FOR ALL HER SINS.

SHE HEARD A VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS...



SHE MET FR. ZOSIMAS IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION SHE WALKED ACROSS THE JORDAN AS ON DRY LAND.



HOLY ST. MARY OF EGYPT, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!

A Note from Father Geoff

On the final Sunday of the Great Fast, we commemorate a great saint of the Lord, our holy mother Mary of Egypt, who lived in the 4th and 5th centuries. Mary had been a dissolute and licentious person, driven by every whim of her passions and given over to pleasure.

When she attempted to enter the Church of the Resurrection (the Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem, she was mysteriously prevented by her sinfulness. Filled with remorse and a conviction to repent, she was eventually permitted. After venerating the Cross of our Lord, she was able to confess her sins and receive absolution. Praying in thanksgiving before an icon of the Theotokos, she heard the words, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest." She crossed the Jordan River and lived as a hermit the rest of her life.

St. Mary of Egypt lived a life of extremes. For us, who look back at her over the centuries, it may appear that God performed a transformation in her almost overnight. She went from being a well-known and notorious sinner to an extremely pious ascetic and hermit; from a life driven by her passions to a dispassionate holiness. And yet, she lived for decades in solitude and obscurity in the desert before she was discovered by St. Zosimas the priest. It was actually through many years of repentance, striving, tears, and seeking the Lord, that Mary was found to be holy.

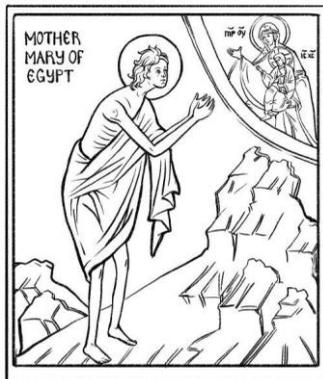
Most of us live far less extreme lives than St. Mary did. Our sins are often much more hidden and our shame is, perhaps, known only to ourselves. And our ascetical exercises are much less renowned; our sacrifices so small. And yet, the shape of the Christian life is still the same. We are called to live lives of repentance. To "repent" is literally to "change one's mind." We are called to live lives of repentance because, as sinners, we need to change our minds frequently. This Great Fast has been given to us as an opportunity to put first things first in our lives, to practice our asceticism, to root out the things which keep us from experiencing the love and mercy of God.

As we near the end of the Great Fast, may our holy mother Mary of Egypt intercede for us and inspire us to pay attention to the "one thing needful" (cf. Luke 10:42); that is, to abide in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, who himself is our sanctification and our hope.

Glory to Jesus Christ!
Fr. Geoff

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast Reflection

In both the Gospel and Epistle today we learn about one of the hallmarks of Christianity – servant leadership. “Cleanse your conscience from dead works,” Saint Paul teaches us, “to serve the living God.” And again, in the Gospel, Jesus explains that he did “not come to be served but to serve.” In this way of service, Jesus shows us that we are called to “give” our life to God through the gift of service to each other. During the Lenten season, the Church invites us to intensify our calling as servant leaders and to live out this calling in real tangible ways.



Challenge Questions:

1. What are some practical example of servant leadership?
2. What are some ways we can serve others?
3. Why is service to one another a way in which we serve God?
4. If service is a good work, what are some example of “dead works” which are not unto salvation?

Today: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

As we continue our Lenten journey, we focus on this Sunday on the life of our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. The example of this “Penitent Saint” tells us that **it is never too late in life - or in Lent - to repent**. Christ will gladly receive all who come to Him, but their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord’s mercy motivates us to do better.

-Pope Francis

The Power of Humility

God wants for nothing. He has no need for anything. Yet, when He humbled himself, He produced such great good, increased his household, and extended the kingdom. Why, then, are you so afraid that you will become less if you humble yourself? (*Saint John Chrysostom*)

For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve....

Feast of the Annunciation

On March 25, exactly ninth months before Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos. This feast celebrates the Incarnation of the Son of God, when the archangel Gabriel appeared to a young virgin in the town of Nazareth, and she agreed to become "she who gives birth to God" (*Theotokos*). Since ancient times, this has been one of the great feasts of the Byzantine liturgical year, and on this one day during the Great Fast, the sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy is always celebrated.



It is prescribed **if March 25 falls on a Lenten weekday**, the Divine Liturgy will be in the evening, with Vespers and Divine Liturgy. Join us for this Vespereal Divine Liturgy on **Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 P.M.**

The Beginning of our Salvation

What a wonder! God is come among men; He who cannot be contained is contained in a womb; the timeless enters time. A great mystery! His conception is without seed, his emptying past telling! So great is this mystery! For God empties himself, takes flesh and is fashioned as a creature, when the angel tells the pure Virgin of her conception: “Rejoice, you who are full of grace; the Lord who has great mercy is with you!” (*Stichera of Annunciation, St. John the Monk*)

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God”
(Luke 1:35).

Don’t Wait Until It Is Too Late

Start arranging your schedule today so that you can be present for the Divine Services for Holy Friday through Pascha-Resurrection of Christ. **Absolutely no one should miss these Divine Services**, especially since these services were not available for us last year. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.



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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh

E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
 Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
 Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
 Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
 Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
 St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate

“Though your sins be red as scarlet, I shall make them white as snow.” (Isaiah 1:18)



St. George, Aliquippa

Monday, March 29: *Great and Holy Monday*

No Service

Tuesday, March 30: *Great and Holy Tuesday*

No Service

Wednesday, March 31: *Great and Holy Wednesday*

4:30 – 5:15 P.M. Confession (*also after Liturgy*)

6:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

* During the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

Thursday, April 1: *Great and Holy Thursday*

7:00 P.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

* “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper” is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 2: *Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday* *Strict Fast*

7:00 P.M. The Office of the Burial of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ’s Saving Passion, of His Mother’s grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation.

Saturday, April 3: *Great and Holy Saturday*

9:00 A.M. Jerusalem Matins

7:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins with Paschal Divine Liturgy

& Blessing and partaking of Paschal-Easter Foods in the Center

* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ’s Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly during the Divine Liturgy. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all. Following the blessing of the Paschal foods we will “break the fast” together by partaking of our Paschal foods.

Sunday, April 4: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

No Service

Monday, April 5: *Bright Monday*

9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy with Procession

*At the end of the liturgy there will be the procession with the Icon of the Resurrection and reading of the Gospel at the four corners of the church.

St. Mary, Ambridge

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4:30 – 5:15 P.M. Confessions (*Also after Liturgy*)

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Saturday, April 3: *Great and Holy Saturday*

Saturday, April 20 Paschal Vigil begins....

5:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food

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Sunday, April 4: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food

* We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all.

Monday, April 5: *Bright Monday*

No Service

Tuesday, April 6: *Bright Tuesday*

9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy

What should I have in my Easter-Pascha Basket?

Paska- The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

Ham/Sunka- This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

Sausage/Kielbassa- A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

Cheese/Hrutka- Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

Eggs/Pysanky- Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

Horseradish/Hrin- A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

Butter/Maslo- Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which makes the symbolism even stronger.

Salt/Sol- A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

If your family has never taken a Pascha basket to be blessed, the above Easter-Pascha basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!

