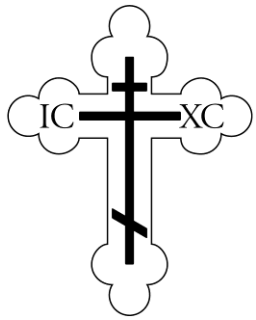
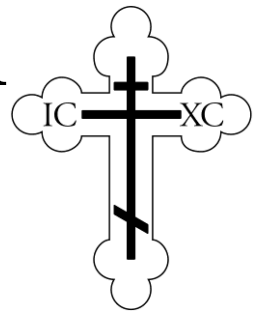


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or
after Vespers or by appointment

Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

April 18, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent:

Saint Mary of Egypt

*On the Sundays of Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine
Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.*

St Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from

entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset to bring her holy communion on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions to return to where they first met exactly one year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried.

Zosima returned to the monastery and told all he had seen. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery. Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius of Jerusalem. The *Life of St. Mary of Egypt* is read during Great Lent along with the Great Canon of St. Andrew on the fifth Thursday of Great Lent.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:

“Death is overthrown!

Christ our God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,
illumined by your coming, O Mother of God.
Beholding your pure image we fervently cry to you:
Encompass us beneath the precious veil of your protection.
Deliver us from every form of evil
by entreating Christ, your Son and our God//
that He may save our souls.

Tone 8 – Troparion for St Mary of Egypt

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Kontakion

My Savior and Redeemer, as God,
rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master,//
He has risen on the third day!

Tone 3 – Kontakion for St Mary of Egypt

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//
Therefore, O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Tone 3 – Patronal Kontakion

Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church,
And with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us.
Angels and bishops worship.
Apostles and prophets rejoice together,//
Since for our sake she prays to the eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all!

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for St Mary of Egypt (Psalm 67)

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel!

Epistle: Hebrews 9.11-14 (Sunday)

Brethren: Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Galatians 3.23-29 (for St Mary of Egypt)

Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Gospel: Mark 10.32-45 (Sunday)

At that time, they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed, they were afraid.

Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver

Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.”

And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Luke 7.36-50 (for St Mary of Egypt)

At that time: One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, “This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

So he said, “Teacher, say it.”

“There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.”

And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Joseph Starkey

Ev.Mem. Elia Kotlaroff ('48)

Kaitan Sandusky ('63)

Julia Suglobov ('64)

Pauline Thomas ('96)

Anton Waluszko (2004)

Zinaida Niedbaljik (2009)

Rosemary Barancyk (2011)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Margaret

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Tom

Tina

Jennifer

Gail

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Christine

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Brendan

David

Sharon

Michael

Janie

Tanya

Christopher

Nina

Renee

Carissa

Cynthia

John

Olga

Mark

Jerry

Michael	Dominic	Jessika & family
Anthony	Declan	Timothy
Daryl	Hudson	Lisa
Diane	Ayden	Lois
Carla	Hyland	Michael
Susan	Jason	Janice
Timothy	Ted	Ken
William	James	Debbie
Paul	Pamela	Jacqueline
Joseph	Erin	Dara
Linda	Alexander	Cindy
Claudia	Ronald	Daniel
Elizabeth	Theodore	Laura
Snezana	Robert	Dorothy
Nathan	Craig	Vasiliy
Kara	Chuck	William
Ryan	Scott	Wanda
Thomas	Mark	Cindy
Carol	Christine	Mary
Christine	Dale	Linda
Jon	Pauline	Ivanka
Zoey	Mary	Brandi

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve a the **10-year memorial Panakhida for Rosemary Barancyk**.

The **O-Club** will hold its monthly meeting during coffee hour today. New members are always welcome.

We continue to take precautions during the health crisis. Everyone except celebrants and choir must be masked and maintain distance between groups. Those seeking to limit their exposure to larger groups are encouraged to take advantage of **weekday services** with lower attendance.

Our **men's group** is once again making **sausage** in time for Pascha. Order forms are available in the Narthex and due today. Pick-up will be after Liturgy next Sunday, April 25. The next day for making sausage is this Thursday, April 22.

This Thursday evening at 7pm, our own **Dn. Nicholas** will deliver a Valparaiso University **lecture about Orthodox Pascha** on Zoom. Advanced registration is required to join. A link to register has been sent to the parish email list. If you did not receive it, but would like to join the lecture, please see Fr Jacob and he will send it to you directly.

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, deny themselves rich and satisfying foods** (meat, dairy, and perhaps fish), and find opportunities to **help those in need** (this is almsgiving). They also examine their consciences and repent of their sins before the Lord in the **Sacrament of Confession**. Confession is available before or after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob any time, including before Sunday Liturgy, if necessary.

The parishes of the Chicago deanery each year usually collaborate to host a series of **Lenten Sunday Vespers** services. These Sunday Vespers are back again this year, but because of the pandemic, parishioners from other Churches are asked to remain home and participate via livestream. **Pick up a flyer** in the Narthex for information about when Sunday Vespers are happening this year and where you can find the Livestreams.

Mark your calendars:

- Apr 19: Livestream with Archbishop Paul: Who is Jesus Christ? @ 7pm – www.midwestfamily.com**
- Apr 20: Hall Committee meeting @ 6pm
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm**
- Apr 21: Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm**
- Apr 22: Zoom lecture by Dn. Nicholas – “Feast of Feasts, Holy Day of Holy Days: The Joy of Pascha” @ 7pm**
- Apr 23: Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am**
- Apr 24: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy @ 10am followed by pancake breakfast and making Palms**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$4,843.52

Glory to God for all things!