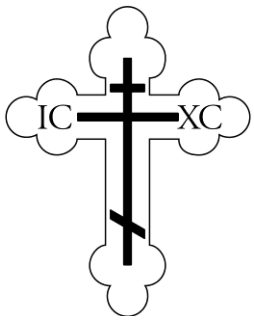
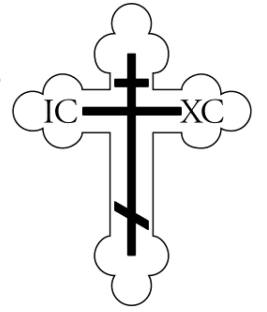


# Protection of the Virgin Mary

## Orthodox Church



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



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
Hall: (219)730-4698  
[www.ptvm.com](http://www.ptvm.com)

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
(219)384-6826 • [frjacobvansickle@gmail.com](mailto:frjacobvansickle@gmail.com)

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 10, 2022

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent:

### St Mary of Egypt

*On Sundays in Great Lent we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, on pg. 101 of the black Divine Liturgy Book*

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 seduced, 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 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.

## HYMNS OF THE DAY

### **Tone 1 – Resurrectional Troparion**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,  
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body,  
You rose on the third day, O Savior,  
granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:  
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!//

Glory to Your dispensation, O You who love mankind!"

### **Tone 4 – Patronal Troparion**

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy,  
illuminated 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**

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 1 – Resurrectional Kontakion**

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Yourself.  
Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished.  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You://  
“You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

### **Tone 3 – Kontakion for St Mary**

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 1 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 32)**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us /as we have set our hope on You!

### **Tone 4 – Prokeimenon for St Mary (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

**New Dep.** Jove Avramoski

William Koveck

**Ev.Mem.** Stephen Oreschenko ('12)

John Romanchek ('30)

Ilya Kurochka ('36)

Andrew Bartosh ('52)

Arseny Stazik ('53)

Josephone Trepachko (2007)

### Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter

Mat. Anne

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Tom

Jennifer

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Nadia

Mark

Jerry

Joseph

Linda

Claudia

Ryan

Nathan

Kara

Dominic

Declan

Hudson

Ayden

Hyland

Jason

Ted

James

Pamela

Alexander

Ronald

Ken

William

Wanda

Ivanka

Aaron

Karen

Sandra

Linda

Jim

John

Martha

Mark

Michelle

Irene

Michelle

Erika

Luke

Jo

Stephanie

Mary Ann

Robb

Desiree

Hanna

Jaroslava

Andrew

Andrew

Vadim

Hanna

Helen Maria

Alex

Carl

Laura

Chrisan

Janice

Gerald

Olga

Janie

David

Sharon

Tanya

Renee

Carissa

Ashton

Matthew

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

## **Special Petitions at the Augmented Litany:**

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

We also pray You, O Lord our God, to remember and have mercy on our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Russia and Ukraine, who are involved in violent conflict. Remove from their midst all hostility, confusion and hatred. Lead everyone along the path of reconciliation and peace, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you to the many faithful parishioners** who pitched in to our **Spring cleaning** yesterday!

After venerating the Cross, we will serve the **40-day Memorial for Bill Koveck**, along with the **20-year Memorial for Mat. Anne Rozdelsky**.

The children will assemble the **Easter Dinner baskets** in the Hall after Liturgy today, which will be delivered to Merrillville Food Pantry this week.

**Pascha Bake Sale** pick up is today during coffee hour.

Tomorrow, April 11 we will hold another **prosphora baking tutorial** for anyone interested in learning how to make the communion bread. Baking starts at 10am, followed by lunch for all present. Please let Fr Jacob know if you plan to be there, so we can make sure to have enough supplies. Everything will be provided.

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

## **Mark your calendars:**

- Apr 11: Prospora Baking tutorial @ 10am (lunch provided)**
- Apr 12: Moleben for Peace in Ukraine @ 10am**
- Apr 13: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6pm (Lenten potluck after)**
- Apr 14: Faith Enrichment @ 10am**
- Apr 15: Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 10am (Lenten potluck after)**
- Apr 16: Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday @ 10am, followed by a pancake breakfast and preparing Palms and Pussywillows.**
- Apr 17: Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago @ 6pm (Fr Jacob will preach)**

## **Holy Week Schedule**

- Mon: Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm**
- Tues: Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am  
Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm**
- Wed: Bridegroom Matins @ 2pm  
Holy Unction at Descent of the Holy Ghost @ 6:30pm**
- Thur: Liturgy of the Holy Supper @ 10am  
Matins of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) @ 6pm**
- Fri: Royal Hours @ 9am  
Vespers of Entombment (Taking down from the Cross) @ 2pm  
Matins of Lamentation @ 6pm**
- Sat: Vesperal Liturgy of Pascha @ 10am  
Paschal Vigil (Resurrection) @ 11pm**
- Sun: Agape Vespers @ 11am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,892**

**Glory to God for all things!**