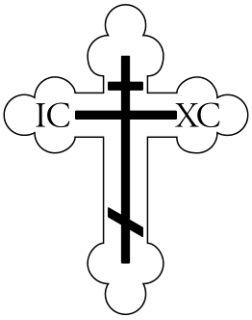
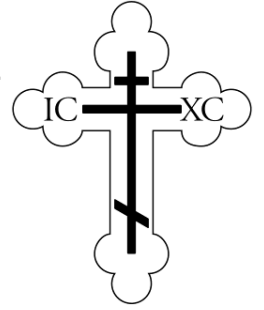


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



8600 Grand Blvd.  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
(219)947-4748  
[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 2, 2023

### 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.*

This Life of Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt was written down in the seventh century by Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, some hundred years after the repose of the holy Mary, who fell asleep in the Lord April 1, 522. It is one of the most beautiful and edifying lives of a saint. Its obvious and stated purpose is to glorify God and to feed the souls of its readers. St. Sophronius lifts up the life of blessed Mary as a most wondrous example of repentance for all the faithful. Indeed, the Church has for centuries

lifted up this life before all the faithful on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, the Sunday before Palm Sunday. It is both a challenge and an inspiration to us. It shows us what a human being is capable of when she works with the all-powerful saving and forgiving grace of our all-loving God.

## 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,  
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 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 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 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 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

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 (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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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 (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.** Lucille Hojnacki  
Anita Favretto  
David May

**Ev.Mem.** John Bisali ('51)  
Martha Zakutansky ('58)  
Peter Krill ('72)  
Tatiana Hadad ('90)

**Health & Salv.**

Archpr. Peter  
Mat. Cynthia  
Archpr. John  
Pr. Patrick  
Mat. Anne  
Kevin  
Jon  
Tanya  
Jovan  
Tom  
Jennifer  
Rollie  
Joseph  
Nadia  
Joseph  
Linda  
Claudia  
Carol  
Snezana  
Ryan  
Nathan  
Kara  
Djuro  
Paula  
Christopher  
Karen  
Dominic  
Declan  
Hudson  
Ayden  
Hyland  
Jason  
Ted  
James  
Pamela  
Alexander  
Ronald  
Ivanka  
Karen

Sandra  
Linda  
Jim  
John  
Martha  
Mark  
Michelle  
Irene  
Michelle  
Erika  
Luke  
Jo  
Stephanie  
Mary Ann  
Dara  
Jaroslava  
Andrew  
Andrew  
Vadim  
Hanna  
Viktor  
Alex  
Carl  
Laura  
Chrisan  
Gerald  
Olga  
Janie  
Sharon  
Tanya  
Renee  
Michael  
Chris  
Nina  
Carissa  
Ashton  
Doris  
Laura  
Duane  
Elizabeth

Karen  
Alexa  
Miriana  
Olga  
Richard  
Klaudia  
Nicodemus  
Nada  
Mark  
Catherine  
Aaron  
Dale  
Ebony  
Peggy  
Sue  
Victoria  
Janet  
Tom  
Diane  
Wilma  
Jerry  
Penelope  
Cora  
Brandi  
Joyce  
Paul  
Galina  
Helen  
Kathleen  
Rachel  
Martha  
Stephanie  
Thomas  
Diane  
Michael  
Linda  
Stephanie  
Nathan  
Cindy

\*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.

## **Communion Hymn for St. Mary of Egypt (Psalm 111)**

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.  
He shall not fear evil tidings.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you**, everyone who came out yesterday for our **Spring Cleaning!** We got a lot accomplished.

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **40-day Memorial for David May**.

**Pascha Bake Sale** pick up is today during coffee hour. Thank you to our baking crew!

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

The **Ladies Sodality** is selling **homemade bows** the next couple of Sundays during coffee hour for Pascha.

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**.

## **Mark your calendars:**

- Apr 2: Lenten Vespers at St. Elizabeth's in Chesterton @ 6pm**
- Apr 5: Presanctified Liturgy @ 6pm; Lenten potluck after**
- Apr 7: Presanctified Liturgy @ 10am; Lenten potluck after**
- Apr 8: Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday @ 10am, followed by pancake breakfast and preparing Palms and Pussywillows.**
- Apr 9: Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity in Chicago @ 6pm**

## **Holy Week Schedule**

- Mon: Presanctified Liturgy @ 2pm  
Bridegroom Matins @ 6pm**
- Tues: Presanctified Liturgy @ 2pm  
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 @ 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**
- Apr 18: Bright Tuesday Liturgy @ 10am**
- Apr 21: O-Club Trivia Night for women's shelter @ 6pm**

**Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$2,162**

# **Glory to God for all things!**