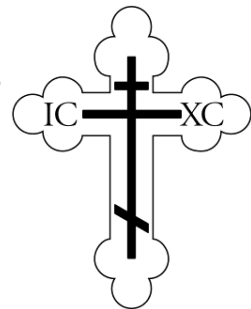
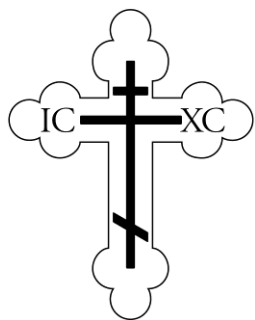


Protection of the Virgin Mary

Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219)384-6826 • 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 21, 2024

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

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

The Life of Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt was written down in the seventh century by St 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 5 – Resurrectional Troparion

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death,
and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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 5 – Resurrectional Kontakion

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

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 5 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 103)

You, O Lord, shall protect us

and preserve us from this generation forever!

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 (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 (5th 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

N.Dep. Emma Faye Bible

Sequoyah Bible

James Ronald Hughes

Ev.Mem. Nicholas Pushkar ('13)

George Kostoff ('43)

Trofim Naumovetz ('56)

Theodore Puhach ('56)

Alexandra Paige ('70)

Nicholas Sharbak ('77)

Anastasia Tucler ('89)

Barbara McKenzie ('89)

Mat. Ann Rozdelsky (2002)

Health & Salv.

Archpr. Peter
Mat. Cynthia
Hierom. John
Pr. Gregory
Mat. Beverly
Pr. Patrick
Mat. Anne
Mat. Catherine
Kevin
Jon
Tanya
Jovan
Rollie
Claudia
Paul
Carol
Snezana
Ryan
Nathan
Kara
Djuro
Paula
Christopher
Karen
Alexandra
Jonathan
Christine
Zoey
Dominic
Declan
Hudson
Ronald
Mary Ann
Dara
Jaroslava
Andrew
Andrew
Vadim
Hanna

Viktor
Gerald
Christine
Olga
Janie
Sharon
Tanya
Renee
Ashton
Michael
Chris
Nina
Carissa
Duane
Elizabeth
Olga
Klaudia
Tom
Diane
Brandi
Joyce
Galina
Thomas
Diane
Stephanie
Cindy
Nathaniel
Tamara
Dennis
Maria
Elizabeth
Jonah
Jamie
Kyleigh
Lauren
Kyle
Mark
Christopher
Betty
William

Grace
Janet
Sarah
Angela
Lauren
Jack
Melissa
Carolynn
Nicholas
Natalie
Elizabeth
William
Linda
Margaret
Linda
Jennifer
Diane
Chris
Erin
Jude
Miriam
Ephraim
Irina
Cyan
Alla
Gregory
Joseph
Michael
George
Ivanka
Simeon
Lupka
Vangel
Jovan
Cveta
Terry
Elijah
Erin
John

To add a name to our parish prayer list, please give it to Fr Jacob

Special Petition at the Augmented Litany:

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially the victims in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After venerating the cross, we will serve the **40-day Memorial for Rom Hughes** and the **22-year Memorial for Mat. Ann Rozdelsky**.

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 available after evening services. You can also make an appointment with Fr Jacob, including before Sunday Liturgy if necessary.

We need **more coffee hour volunteers** to spread the load of providing the snacks and coffee we all enjoy each week. If you can help, please speak to Juli Lear or Fr Jacob for more information.

This week we will deliver the **diapers collected for the Women's Care Center** in Hammond. Thank you to everyone who donated.

We have a representative from **Habitat for Humanity**, who will share with us during coffee hour what work they are currently doing in Northwest Indiana.

After the presentation, **the O-Club will hold their monthly meeting**.

The annual **Ladies' Sodality Bright Week Luncheon** will be at Outback Steakhouse on Tuesday, May 7 after Divine Liturgy. Interested new members are encouraged to join them for lunch. Please indicate if you are planning to come on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, so we can make the reservation.

The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church **Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 1**, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Hobart. This is a major fundraiser for us. Hole sponsors (\$125) or other monetary or prize donations will be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to help in any way (including

making desserts or appetizers), or to purchase tickets, please see Rich Svihra, Nick Rozdelsky, or Lara Richards. Thanks in advance, The Golf Committee.

Mark your calendars:

Apr 23: Faith Enrichment @ 10am

**Apr 24: Presanctified Liturgy and Lenten potluck @ 6pm;
Archbishop Daniel praying with us**

Apr 26: Presanctified Liturgy and Lenten potluck @ 10am

**Apr 27: Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy @ 10am, followed by
pancake breakfast and preparing palms and pussywillows**

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 @ 7pm**

**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, followed by the all-night
Tomb Vigil**

**Sat: Vesperal Liturgy of Pascha @ 10am
Paschal Vigil (Resurrection) @ 11pm**

Sun: Agape Vespers @ 11am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

May 7: Bright Tuesday Liturgy @ 10am

May 10: O-Club Trivia Night for Lowell Women's Shelter @ 6pm

June 1: Jan Hughes Memorial Golf Outing

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$3,004.72

Glory to God for all things!