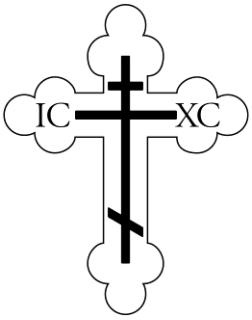
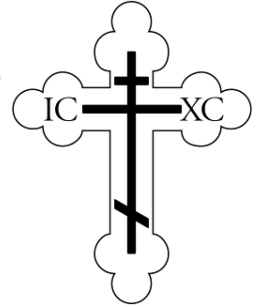


# Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago  
and the Midwest  
Orthodox Church  
in America



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Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle  
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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  
hall after Divine  
Liturgy for coffee hour.

## April 6, 2025 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent St. Mary of Egypt

*During Great Lent, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (on page 101 of the black Liturgy books)*

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 8 – Resurrectional Troparion

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

### 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 to 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 8 – Resurrectional Kontakion

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.  
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,//  
and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead, O greatly  
Merciful One!

### Tone 3 – Kontakion to 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 8 – Sunday Prokeimenon (Psalm 75)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!

### **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

<b>N.Dep.</b> James Hammang	Peter Matsueff (1923)
John Hiatt	Anna Paulsin (1967)
Joyce Krochta	Alexander Kucko (1976)
<b>Ev.Mem.</b> Alexander Spiroff (1914)	Michael Petroff (1982)

<b>Health &amp; Salv.</b>	Archpr. Jonathan	Mat. Beverly	Rollie
Archpr. Peter	Mat. Vera	Mat. Anne	Claudia
Mat. Cynthia	Pr. Patrick	Nun Theodora	Mary Ann
Hierom. John	Pr. Gregory	Brendan	Raymond

Edward	Carissa	Cindy	Zoë
Charlotte	Carol	Ron	Brenda
Joseph	Snezana	Matthew	Lisa
Janice	Ryan	John	Mazzy
Klaudia	Nathan	Erin	Terry
Maja	Kara	Aaron	Angie
Raymond	Karen	Marcietta	Irina
Anne	Alisa	Maria	Elizabeth
Desiree	Michael	Alla	Vitaliy
Robb	Moses	Elizabeth	Maria
Gerald	Helena	Samuel	Viktoria
Janet	James	Joseph	Rebecca
Gerald	Elijah	Dwight	Pauline
Rebecca	Lydia	Renee	Meagan
Christopher	Nina	Dominik	Minnie
Brianna	George	Monica	Richard
Logan	Linda	Charles	Rosie
Olga	Kimberly	Kimberly	Sarah
Janie	Steven	Abigail	Milton
Sharon	Jamie	Charles	Andrew
Tanya	Kyleigh	Rosemary	Carol
Renee	Lauren	Nicholas	Lidia
Ashton	Kyle	Natalie	Daisy
Michael	Linda	Jovan	Julie
Chris	Denise	Michael	Dorothy
Nina	John	Abram	Ann

*To add the name of a loved one recently departed or on the anniversary of their repose, or someone living and in particular need of prayer, please speak 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, Russia, 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, hearken and have mercy.

## Instead of *“It is Truly Meet...”*

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:

the assembly of angels and the race of men.

O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins,  
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –  
our God before the ages.

He made your body into a throne,

and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.

Glory to you!

## Communion Hymn for St. Mary:

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians **make more time for prayer, fast from rich and satisfying foods,** and find opportunities to **help those in need.** 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, including before Sunday Liturgy or after coffee hour, if necessary.

Once again this Lent, PTVM will deliver **72 Easter ham dinner baskets to the Ross Township food pantry** for local families in need. **There is a posterboard in the narthex with more details,** where you can sign up to bring the various shelf-stable foods that are needed.

The **church school** is organizing a viewing of the movie **“The King of Kings”** at Emagine Theaters in Portage this Friday, April 11 at 4:15pm.

This Saturday is **Lazarus Saturday.** We will welcome **five new members to the Orthodox Church** in our parish through baptism and chrismation. After Liturgy, we will enjoy our annual **pancake breakfast,** then we will **prepare palms and pussy willows** for Palm Sunday.

## **Mark your calendars:**

**Apr 9: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts @ 6pm**

**Apr 11: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts @ 10am  
King of Kings Movie Outing 4:15pm**

**Apr 12: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, pancakes, and palms @ 10am**

**Apr 13: Bridegroom Matins at Holy Trinity Cathedral @ 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 @ 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 Tomb Vigil**

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

**Sun: Agape Vespers @ 11am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt  
and potluck cookout**

**Apr 22: Bright Tuesday Liturgy @ 10am**

**Apr 25: O-Club Trivia Night for Lowell Women's Shelter @ 6pm**

**Last Week's Gifts to the Lord: \$6,026.57**

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