

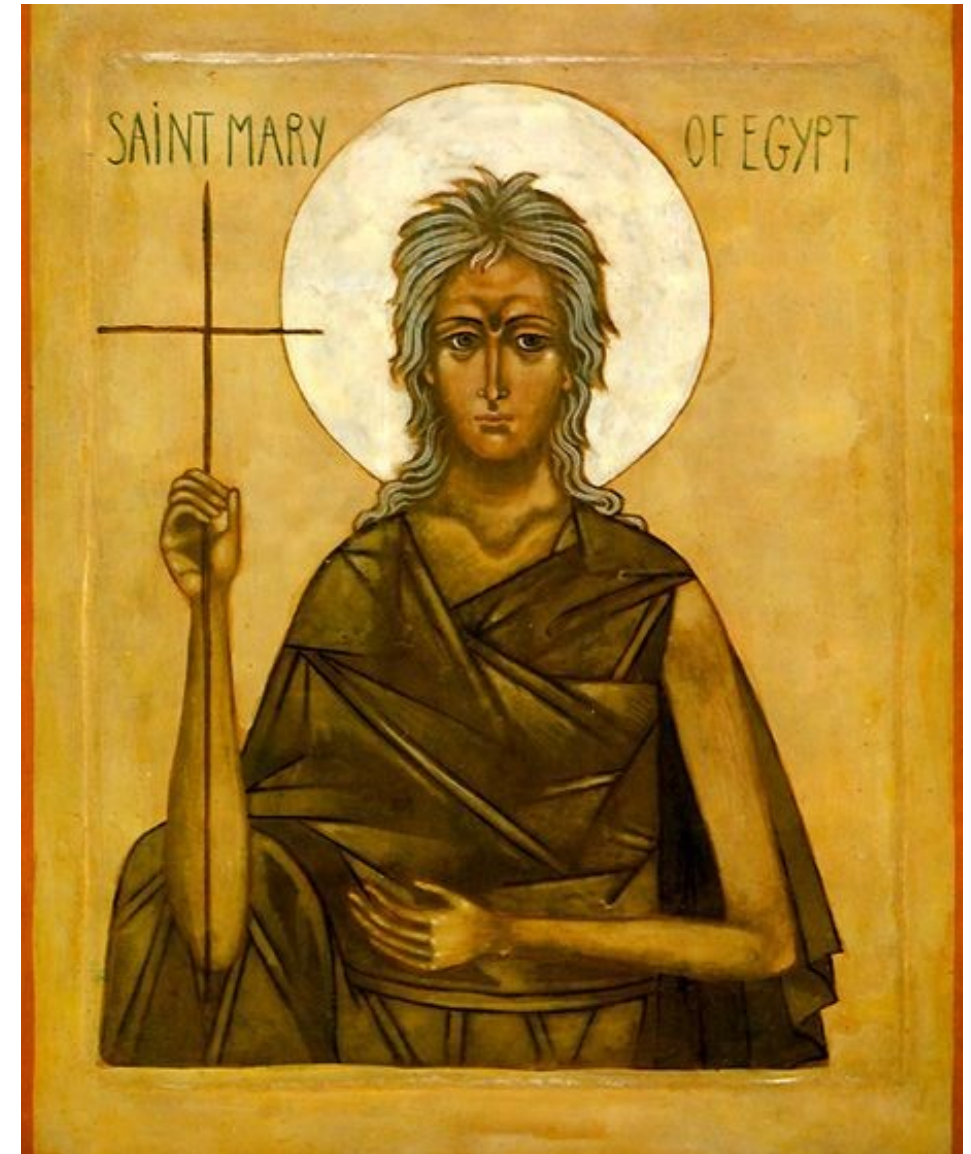
From the Divine Office for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Having first distanced yourself from the weight of the passions by contemplating God, O Mary, you then directed your desires and deeds to that which is on high. Gazing at the icon of the all-pure Virgin and resolutely renouncing all sin, you confidently went to worship the precious Cross. (Vespers)

With hymns we now celebrate you, O venerable Mary, lamb and daughter of Christ! Once the offshoot of the Egyptians, you have now become a precious flower for the Church, practicing asceticism and prayer beyond the common measure of mankind. By the merits of your life and deeds, you have been exalted in Christ, O Mary, and appear as a radiant bride in the kingdom of Heaven. (Orthros)



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
MARCH 21, 2021**



ST. MARY OF EGYPT

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
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Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
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Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (1st)

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, sing praise to His name.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

2: Say to God: How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies cringe before You.

Be shafa'ati Walidatil Eelah, ya Mukhallisu, khallisna.

3: Let all the earth worship You and sing praises to You; let it sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.

People: O Son of God, Who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1, pg. 38)

After the stone was sealed by the Jews and the while the soldiers were watching Your spotless body, You rose, O Savior, on the third day, bestowing life to the world. Wherefore, the heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of life: "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your kingdom! Glory to Your economy, O You who alone are the lover of mankind!"

Troparion of our Mother Mary of Egypt (Tone 8)

In you, O Mother Mary, was restored the likeness of God, for you carried your cross and followed Christ. You taught by your deeds how to spurn the body, for it passes away and how to value the soul, for it is immortal. Wherefore your soul is forever in happiness with the angels.

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone 1, Pg. 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8)

We your servants ascribe to you, O Mother of God, thank offerings of victory, O Champion Leader, for we have been liberated from terror. But since you have that invincible power, do you free us from danger, so that we may cry out to you, "Hail, O Virgin and Bride ever pure!"

St. Mary of Egypt

(Taken from the Synaxarion of the Lenten Triodion-HDM Press)

The recorder of the life of this wonderful saint is St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. A hieromonk, the elder Zossima, had gone off at one time during the Great Fast on a twenty-days' walk into the wilderness across the Jordan. He suddenly caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body and hair as white as snow, who fled in its nakedness from Zossima's sight. The elder ran a long way, until this figure stopped at a stream and called, "Father Zossima, forgive me for the Lord's sake. I cannot turn around to you, for I am a naked woman." Then Zossima threw her his outer cloak, and she wrapped herself in it and turned around to him. The elder was amazed at hearing his name from the lips of an unknown woman. After considerable pressure on his part, she told him the story of her life.

She had been born in Egypt and lived as a prostitute in Alexandria from the age of twelve, spending seventeen years in this way of life. Urged by the lustful fire of the flesh, she one day boarded a ship that was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she attempted to go into one of the churches to venerate the Precious Cross, but some unseen power prevented her from entering. In great fear, she turned to an icon of the Mother of God that was in the entrance and begged her to let her go in and venerate the Cross, confessing her sin and impurity and promising that she would then go wherever the Most Pure One led her. She was then allowed to enter the church. After venerating the Cross, she went out again to the entrance and, standing in front of the icon, thanked the Mother of God. Then she heard a voice saying, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace." She immediately bought three loaves of bread and set off for the Jordan, arriving there the same evening. She received Holy Communion the following morning in the monastery of St. John the Baptist, and then crossed the river. She spent the next forty-eight years in the wilderness in the greatest torments, in terror, in struggles with passionate thoughts like gigantic beasts, feeding only on plants.

Later, when she was standing in prayer, Zossima saw her lifted up in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the next year on the bank of the Jordan, and she would come to receive it. The following year, Zossima came with the Holy Gifts to the bank of the Jordan in the evening and stood in amazement as he saw her cross the river. He saw her coming in the moonlight and, arriving on the further bank, make the sign of the Cross over the river. She then walked across it as though it were dry land. When she had received Holy Communion, she begged him to come again the following year to the same stream by which they had first met. The next year Zossima went and found her dead body there on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zossima, bury in this place the body of the humble Mary. Give dust to dust. I passed away on April 1, on the very night of Christ's Passion, after Communion of the Divine Mysteries." For the first times, Zossima learned her name and also the awe-inspiring marvel that she had arrived at that stream the previous year on the night of the same day on which she had received Holy Communion—a place that he had taken twenty days to reach. And thus Zossima buried the body of the wonderful saint, Mary of Egypt. When he returned to the monastery, he recounted the whole story of her life and wonders to which he had been an eyewitness. Thus the Lord glorifies repentant sinners. She entered into rest about the year 530.

St. Mary is remembered today, as we reach the end of the Great Fast, to arouse the energy the slothful and urge sinners to repentance, imitating her example.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Kasper Kfoury. Requested by Fr. Bryan, Kh. June, and family.

Last Week's Collection

Regular	\$ 913
Candles	\$ 12
Easter Flowers	\$ 25
Stole	\$ 73
Total	\$1,023



This Week's Lenten Services

Mon. 3/22 @ 6PM Great Compline

Wed. 3/24 @ 6PM Divine Liturgy for the feast of The Annunciation

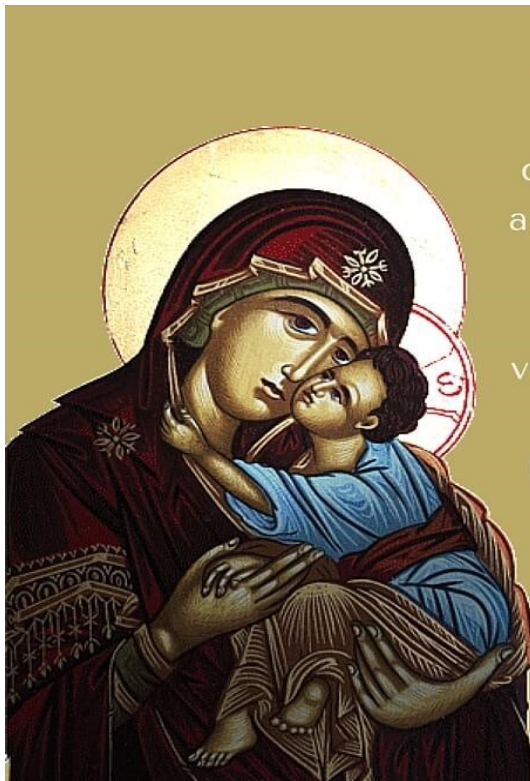
Fri. 3/26 @ 6PM Vespers for Lazarus Saturday

Sat. 3/27 @ 10AM Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday

Sun. 3/28 @ 10AM Palm Sunday w/Blessing of Palms and Procession

If we have to cancel a service, we will send an email to the email list and put a post on our Facebook page.

Fr. Bryan is available for confession after each Lenten service, on Saturdays from 10AM-Noon, and by appointment.

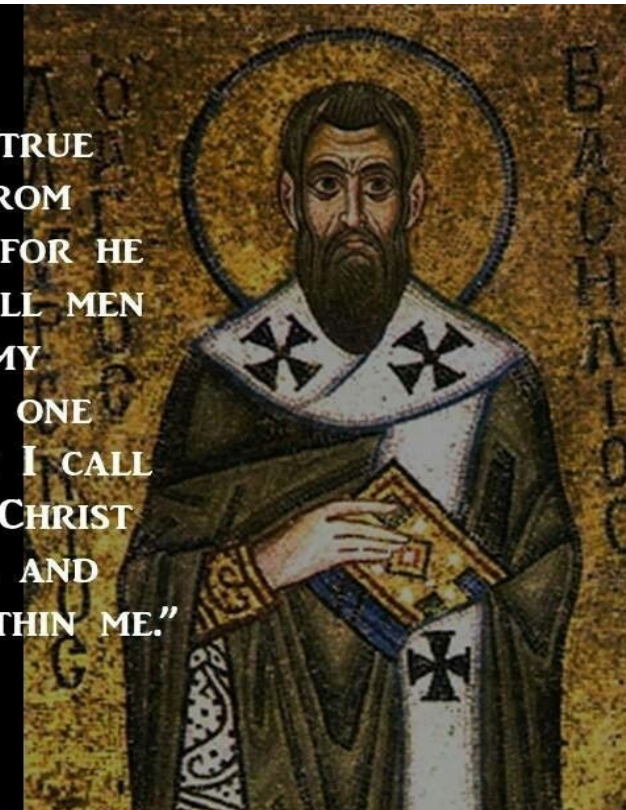


"Christ conquered the devil with the same weapons the devil used against us: a virgin, a tree, and death. These tokens of our demise have now become the tokens of our victory. Instead of Eve, there is Mary; instead of the tree of knowledge, there is the wood of the Cross; and instead of Adam's death, there is the death of Christ."

— ST JOHN
CHRYSOSTOM

"I HAVE LEARNED THE TRUE MEANING OF CHARITY FROM JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF, FOR HE SAYS "BY THIS SHALL ALL MEN KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, IF YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER." NEVER CAN I CALL MYSELF A SERVANT OF CHRIST UNLESS I POSSESS TRUE AND UNFEIGNED CHARITY WITHIN ME."

— ST. BASIL OF CAESAREA



HOLY WEEK/PASCHA LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SUN 3/28, 10AM - PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY BLESSING OF PALMS AND PROCESSION

MON 3/29, 6PM - BRIDEGROOM SERVICE

TUE 3/30, 6PM - ANOINTING SERVICE

WED 3/31, 6PM - VESPERS/LITURGY OF ST. BASIL
COMMEMORATING THE LAST SUPPER

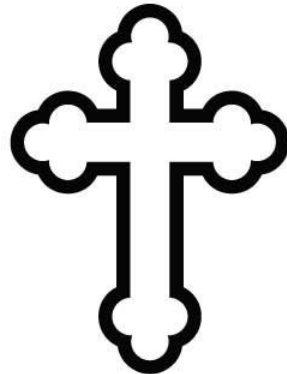
THU 4/1, 6PM - CRUCIFIXION SERVICE

FRI 4/2, NOON - VESPERS/DESCENT FROM THE CROSS

FRI 4/2, 6PM - EPITAPHIOS SERVICE

SAT 4/3, 9PM - HAJMEH, ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY FOR PASCHA

SUN 4/4, 10AM - DIVINE LITURGY FOR PASCHA



Prokimenon

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

People: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

Verse: God is renowned in Judah; in Israel great is His name.

People: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

Reader: Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them;

People : Let all round about bring gifts to the awesome God.

Epistle: **Heb 9:11-14**

Alleluia Verses

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Verse: Let us greet Him with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

Gospel: **Mk 10:32-45**

Special Petitions for the Ecumenic Prayer (Inserted after the third petition)

- For all your people who have proven positive with the coronavirus, that they may be restored to full health and offer you their praise and thanksgiving, we pray to you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus that they may be granted rest with the Saints and the mercy of God in the Heavenly Kingdom, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For doctors, nurses, and all in health care, risking their lives to minister to those afflicted with the coronavirus, that they remain safe, and in good health as they serve others, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all your people in Lebanon who were hurt during the disastrous explosion, that they may be restored to full health, and for those who died that they may be granted rest among the Saints, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For peace throughout the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

HIRMOS of Saint Basil (Tone 3)

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the human race as well: O Sanctified Temple, Spiritual Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, from whom our God, who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child! He has taken your womb as His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, O Full of Grace, in you all creation rejoices: glory to you!