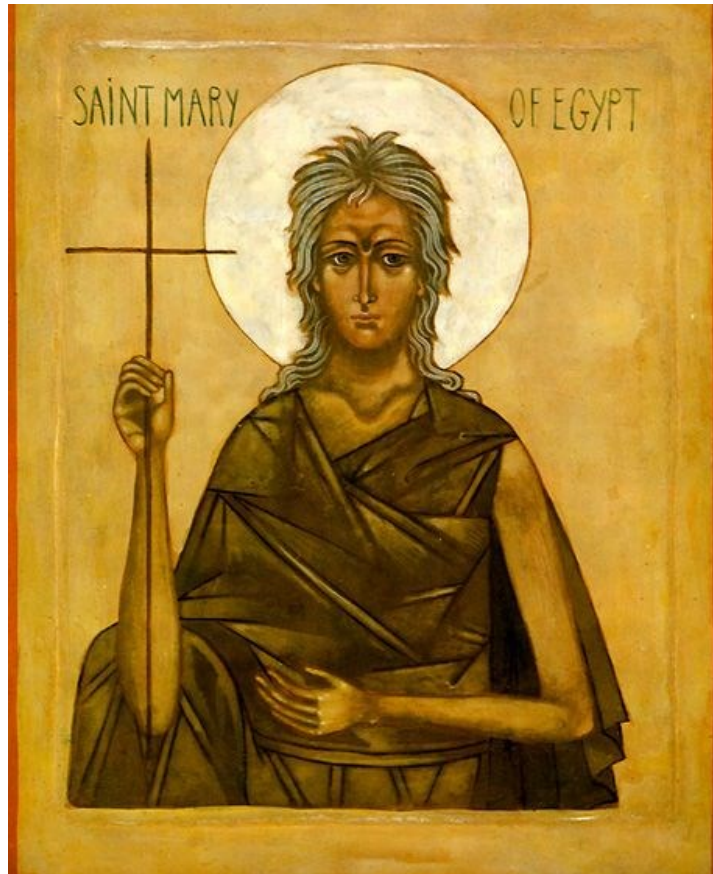


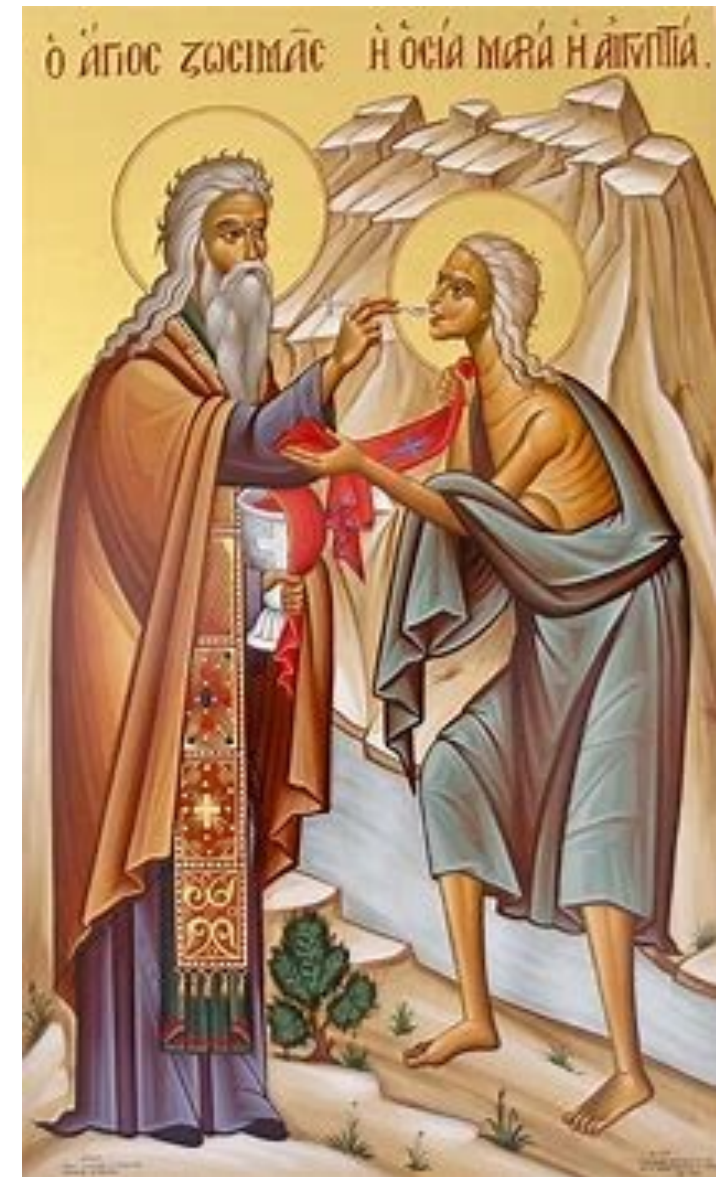
*From the Divine Office for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent*

*O Christ, the power of Your Cross has worked wonders for Mary of Egypt. She had been a harlot and has now become an example and ideal of ascetic life. Casting off the weakness of nature, she has bravely fought Satan. Now, as a saint in Heaven, she has obtained the prize of victory and intercedes for our souls. (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  
ST. MARY OF EGYPT  
MARCH 17**



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church  
256 Hamilton St., Worcester, MA 01604  
Phone: (508) 752-4174  
Email: [olphmelkite@gmail.com](mailto:olphmelkite@gmail.com)/Website: [olphworcester.org](http://olphworcester.org)  
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor  
Cell: (774) 502-8547  
Rev. Deacon Elias Bailey  
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

### DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

#### Antiphon (1st)

1: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth, and 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. 45

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.

#### Patronal Troparion (Tone 1) Pg.13

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 intercession, save our souls from death.

#### Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8) Pg. 14-English this week

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 as you have that invincible power do you free us from every kind of danger, so that we may cry out to you: "Hail O Virgin and Bride ever pure!

### Saturday of the Akathist

In Byzantine Churches of the Greek or "Southern" tradition it is customary to serve Compline with the Akathist to the Theotokos on the Friday evenings during the Great Fast. Due to the pressures of the work and school week this is often the only Lenten weekday service many parishioners attend. In fact this is not an actual Lenten service, such as Great Compline or the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. Rather it is a weekend service, ushering in our Saturday observance.

Saturday and Sunday, remember, are generally not fast days. This is why our Churches observe festivals like the Saturday of the Ascetics or the Sunday of Orthodoxy on weekends during the Fast. The Akathist service is connected to one of these feast days called, appropriately enough, the Saturday of the Akathist.

#### **What is This Festival?**

The Saturday of the Akathist recalls three important events in Byzantine history. On August 8, 626 the imperial capital, Constantinople, was attacked by both the Persians and the Scythians (Iranian tribes living along the Black Sea in today's Crimea and Ossetia). A sudden hurricane scattered the invading ships and the attackers retreated. The Byzantines ascribed this turn of events to the intercession of the Theotokos. As the Synaxarion relates, they spent the entire night giving thanks for their deliverance. Two later victories over Muslim Arab and Turkish invaders in the seventh and eighth centuries occasioned the observance of a common feast of thanksgiving to the Theotokos during the Fast (the Muslim sieges took place in the spring). The Saturday of the Akathist is observed on the fifth Saturday of the Fast.

#### **Preparing for the Annunciation**

On the Saturday of the Akathist the entire hymn is sung at Compline. On the previous four Fridays parts of it are sung in anticipation of this feast and of the Great Feast of the Annunciation, which falls on March 25. Since this feast falls during the Great Fast or the Great Week it does not have the extended celebration – sometimes a week or more – which marks the other Great Feasts during the year. The Church "makes up" for this by celebrating the Annunciation in advance on these weekends.

In addition to the Akathist itself, Compline on Lenten Fridays includes the singing of a canon to the Theotokos by St Joseph the Hymnographer, the ninth-century monk in Constantinople who composed many of the canons in our service books, the Menaion and the Paraklitiki. The troparia in this canon are written as an acrostic, with the first letter of each troparion combining to spell out the phrase "*Vessel of joy, to you alone 'Hail!' belongs.*" These acrostics are almost never evident in translation of these hymns.

## DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

**Today** +**Ron Abraham.** Requested by Antoinette Arraj

**Next Sunday** Our families and friends living and deceased

**This morning's Coffee Hr.** will be hosted by **Marilyn & Zenon Tencza**

**Next week's Coffee Hr.** will be hosted by

**Please remember in your prayers:** Lorraine Lian, George Arraj, Jr., Peter Abraham, Robert Ghiz, Sadie Mirante, Archie Opatka, Charlotte Stockhaus, Richard Abraham, Sr., Frank Boyda, Carol Boyda, Bob Lynch, Joe Najemy, Michael Mooradian, Dennis Desplaines, Michael McNeil, Jeff McNeil, Billy Rahall, Dan Rahall, Lauren Abraham, Nicholas Haddad, Nicholas Halal, Elaine Foley, David Ahlin, Elio Kanaan, Sandra Hanlan, Susan Bailey, Jacqueline Ventriglia, Margaret Giaquinto, those affected by the natural disasters throughout the world, the people of Gaza, and for peace in the Middle East.

If there are people for whom you would like me to pray, please reach out and give me their names. Part of our vocation as Christians is to pray for each other, especially when someone is sick or suffering in any way.

### Last Week's Collection

Weekly	\$1,324
Coffee Hr.	\$ 81
Candles	\$ 35
Easter Fl.	\$ 50
Stole	\$ 200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,690</b>

**Just a reminder that we need a minimum of \$2,000 per week to meet our financial obligations.**

**God bless you for your generosity to our Parish!**



**Welcome to any visitors we have with us this morning! We are happy to have you worship with us.**

**Please join us downstairs in the church hall for the coffee hour so that we can get to know each other better and answer any questions you may have about the parish or the Melkite Church.**

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

**Mon Mar 18, 6pm - Great Compline**

**Wed Mar 20, 6pm - Presanctified Liturgy**

**Fri Mar 22, 6pm - Great Vespers for Lazarus Saturday**

**Sat Mar. 23, 10am - Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday**

**Sunday Mar. 24, 10am - Palm Sunday**

**Please join us!**

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

**SUN 3/24 6PM - Bridegroom Service**

**MON 3/25 6PM - Divine Liturgy - Feast of the Annunciation**

**TUE 3/26 6PM - Anointing Service**

**WED 3/27 6PM - Vesper Liturgy of St. Basil (Institution of the Last Supper)**

**THU 3/28 6PM - Crucifixion Service (Service of the Gospels)**

**FRI 3/29 Noon - Descent from the Cross**

**FRI 3/29 6PM - Lamentations**

**SAT 3/30 9PM - Hajmeh, Orthros, Divine Liturgy of Pascha**

**SUN 3/31 10AM - Divine Liturgy of Pascha**



## The Road to Jerusalem (Mark 10:32-45)

“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*” (Mk 10:33-34).

As the Great Fast draws to a close, we turn our eyes to Jerusalem where the Lord will undergo His life-giving passion and death for us. He had spoken repeatedly of the suffering He would endure but, as the Gospel records, His disciples “*did not understand this saying and were afraid to ask Him*” (Mk 9:32).

When Jesus first spoke of the sufferings awaiting Him, “*Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him*” (Mk 8:32). By the time recorded in this Sunday’s Gospel selection, the disciples understood the threat posed by Jesus’ enemies and “*they were afraid*” (Mk 10:32). In John 10 we read that Jesus’ foes “*...sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. And He went away again beyond the Jordan... and there He stayed*” (Jn 10:39-40).

Still the disciples did not fully comprehend what would happen. At this stage they still saw the Kingdom of God as being “of this world” and were concerned about their own status in this Kingdom as they understood it. They envisioned Jesus restoring Israel’s freedom from the Romans and securing an independent state for God’s people. The sons of Zebedee, James and John, wanted to be Jesus’ principal aides, at His right and left hands in His “glory.” But Jesus’ glory would be the glory of sacrifice, on the cross, and others were destined to be at His right and left hand there.

### Why Go to Jerusalem?

The practice of spending the great feasts of the Jews – Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot – in Jerusalem was based on the precept in the Book of Exodus: “*Offer a sacrifice to Me three times each year. Keep the festival of Matzos [Passover]... the reaping festival [Shavuot]... the harvest festival [Sukkot] ...Three times each year, every male among you must appear before God the Lord*” (Exodus 23:14-17). Since sacrifices were only performed in the temple people would regularly visit Jerusalem on these feasts.

The Gospels record several visits by the Lord to Jerusalem for these feasts, the first being when He was twelve years old (see Lk 2:41-51). This visit, however, would be a climactic one, culminating in His death and resurrection. The version of the Mosaic commandment in the book of Deuteronomy adds a note: “*Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God ... and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you*” (Deut 16:16-17). In His Incarnation Christ received the gift of His human nature – He would now give it back to the Father on the cross. But God, who would not allow the death of Abraham’s son Isaac (see Gen 18), would not permit His own Son to remain in the grave, but raised Him up on the third day.

### 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.

**Reader:** 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

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, Sunday of Mary of Egypt

### Hirmos (Tone 3)-Arabic this week

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!

