

:: Synaxarion for the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt ::

When she was only twelve years old, she slipped away from her parents and went to Alexandria, where she lived a life of prodigality for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she departed for Jerusalem with many pilgrims, in order to be present at the Exaltation of the Precious Cross. During the voyage, she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and immorality and enticed many into the pit of perdition.

Wishing to enter the Church, on the day when the Cross was being elevated, three times, four times, she sensed an invisible force that prevented her from entering, whereas the crowd of people with her was entering without any hindrance. Smitten in her heart by this, she resolved to change her life and to propitiate God through repentance; and thus, on returning to the Church, she entered it with ease. After venerating the Precious Cross, she departed from Jerusalem that same day, crossed the Jordan, and went into the inner recesses of the desert, where, for forty-seven years, she lived a life that was very severe and superhuman, praying alone with God.

Near the end of her life, she encountered a hermit named Zosimas and, after recounting her life from the beginning, she besought him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries so that she might receive communion. He did so the following year, on Great Thursday. When Zosimas returned a year later, he found her dead, stretched out on the ground, with a note near her, which read: "O Abba Zosimas, bury the body of humble Mary in this place. I reposed on the same day that I communed the immaculate Mysteries. Pray for me." Her death is assigned to the year 378.

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on the 1st of April; but she is also commemorated on this day, as the Holy Fast is already drawing to a close, in order to arouse the slothful and the sinners to repentance, having St. Mary as an example.

By her intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andren, by email or phone.



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

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Sunday, April 6, 2014 – St. Mary of Egypt
Morning Prayer (Orthros) and Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Richard and Bette Malooley, Kh. Katherine Buss
Next Week's Coffee Hour: Bob Abraham

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):

O Compassionate One, Thou didst descend from the heights; Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord: Glory to Thee!

Troparion of the St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 8):

Through thee the Divine likeness was securely preserved, O Mother Mary, for thou didst carry the Cross and follow Christ! By example and precept, thou didst teach us to ignore the body because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

Troparion for St. George the Great-Martyr (Tone 4):

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan PHILIP, primate
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 4):

O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator: Turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to thee in faith, with assistance, for thou art good! Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honor thee.

Epistle Reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Make your vows to the Lord our God, and perform them.

God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (9:11-14)

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel Reading for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and 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 upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise."

And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire." And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, consult the calendar on our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org. All extra services for Lent and Holy Week are now posted!

Lenten Services this week (April 7-12):

- Wednesday, April 9: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 PM
- *No services on Friday this week*
- **Lazarus Saturday**, April 12: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM
- Saturday, April 12: Vespers for Palm Sunday, 5:00 PM

Holy Week begins this Saturday, April 12!

Orthodox Holy Week begins with Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, next weekend! Services will be held each day between from April 12 to 20. Grab a schedule downstairs by the food table or consult the calendar on our website for specific times. **Please make plans to attend as many of these services as possible, so that we may walk together with our Lord Jesus through the events of His Passion and Resurrection!**

- The **sacrament of confession** will be available before and after each service.
- Most evening services will begin at 6:00 pm, with the exception of our solemn late-night **Easter vigil**, which will begin **Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 PM**. After our Easter vigil, we will break the Lenten fast with a simple meal. Please bring finger-foods or snacks to share with everyone!
- On **Easter day, April 20**, we will have **Agape Vespers at noon**, a short service of joyful Easter hymns. This will be followed by an Easter Egg hunt (with prizes, of course!) for the children in the church yard.
- We will celebrate the **Feast of St. George**, our church's patronal feast day, on Wed. evening, **April 23, at 6:00 pm**, with a Divine Liturgy.

Contact Information update forms

If you have not done so already, fill out a contact information update sheet. We are especially interested in collecting as many email addresses and birthdays as possible, not to replace mailings and phone calls but to reach out to our people as many ways as possible.

Home Blessing schedule is downstairs

Sign up for a date and time for Fr. Andrew to come bless your home with holy water. If none of the dates work for you, call or email me and I will be happy to work with you.

Children's Sunday School continues

Kh. Patty and Patrice will continue to work with the children during the 9:00 AM hour each Sunday. Today and next week, they will be decorating candles to carry in the Palm Sunday procession. No registration is necessary; older youth are welcome to come and assist.