

Today's Scripture Readings

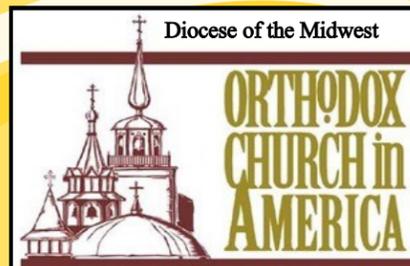
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

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?

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Now 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."

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St

Lorain, OH 44055

www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Archpriest Joseph McCartney, Rector

440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

April 21, 2024

Tone 5



5th Sunday of Lent

St. Mary of Egypt

Divine Liturgy

Readings

(Readings on Back)

♦ Hebrews 9:11-14

♦ Mark 10:32-45

Announcements:

St. Herman's Meal

We will be preparing our next meal for St. Herman's on Tuesday, April 23rd. We will gather in the hall at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to help.

Church Cleaning

We will have a church cleaning party on Lazarus Saturday, April 27th at 11:30am. Come for Liturgy at 9 and stay, or come for the cleaning of the chandelier and rest of the temple.

Palm Sunday - Lenten Lebanese Lunch

All are invited to join us following the Divine Liturgy for a Lenten Lebanese Lunch. The lunch is being offered as a fundraiser for St. Mary & Martha Girls School in Bethany, Palestine. Please let Sam Jacob know if you are planning to attend. A free-will offering will be taken and sent to the school in Palestine.

Calendar Updates

Please note the following changes made to our parish calendar:

Holy Wednesday, May 1:

- 3:00pm Unction Service @ St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy @ Ss Peter & Paul

Holy Saturday, May 4:

- 8:00am Vespertal Liturgy (time changed from 9am)

The Week Ahead

Wednesday, April 24

6:00pm - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Lazarus Saturday, April 27

9:00am - Divine Liturgy
Church Cleaning

6:00pm - Vespers w/Litya
Blessing of Palms & Branches

Palm Sunday, April 28

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



Ask for repentance in your prayer and nothing else, neither for divine lights, nor miracles, nor prophecies, nor spiritual gifts – nothing but repentance.

Repentance will bring you humility, humility will bring you the Grace of God, and God will have in His Grace everything you need for your salvation, or anything you might need to help another soul.

—Paisios of Mount Athos

The Fifth Sunday of Lent: St Mary of Egypt

On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt. The feast day of Saint Mary of Egypt is April 1, however, she is also commemorated on this Sunday due to her recognition by the Church as a model of repentance.

Our holy mother Mary was born in Egypt. She had left her parents at the age of twelve to go to Alexandria, where she spent the next seventeen years in debauchery and the greatest profligacy. Living on charity and linen-weaving, she nevertheless offered her body to any man, not being forced to it by dire necessity as were so many poor women, but as though she were consumed by the fire of a desire that nothing was able to appease.



One day, seeing a crowd of Lybians and Egyptians moving towards the port, she followed them and set sail with them for Jerusalem, offering her body to pay her fare. When they arrived in the Holy City, she followed the crowd that was thronging towards the Church of the Resurrection, it being the day of the Exaltation of the Cross. But, when she reached the threshold of the church, an invisible force prevented her entering in spite of repeated efforts on her part, although the other pilgrims were able to go in without hindrance. Left alone in a corner of the narthex, she began to realize that it was the impurity of her life that was preventing her approaching the holy Wood. She burst into tears and smote her breast and, seeing an icon of the Mother of God, made this prayer to her: "O Sovereign Lady, who didst bear God in the flesh, I know that I should not dare to look upon thine icon, thou who are pure in soul and body, because, debauched as I am, I must fill thee with disgust. But, as the God born of thee became man in order to call sinners to repentance, come to my aid! Allow me to go into the church and

prostrate before His Cross. And, as soon as I have seen the Cross, I promise that I will renounce the world and all pleasures, and follow the path of salvation that thou willest to show me."

She felt herself suddenly freed from the power that had held her and was able to enter the church. There she fervently venerated the Holy Cross and then, returning to the icon of the Mother of God, declared herself ready to follow the path that the Virgin would show her. A voice replied to her from on high: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find rest."

Leaving the church, she bought three loaves with the alms a pilgrim had given her, discovered which road led to the Jordan and arrived one evening at the Church of Saint John the Baptist. After having washed in the river, she received Communion in the Holy Mysteries, ate half of one of the loaves and went to sleep on the riverbank. The next morning, she crossed the river and lived from that time on in the desert, remaining there for forty-seven years without ever encountering either another human being or any animal.

During the first seventeen years, her clothes soon having fallen into rags, burning with heat by day and shivering with cold by night, she fed on herbs and wild roots. But more than the physical trials, she had to face violent assaults from the passions and the memory of her sins and, throwing herself on the ground, she implored the Mother of God to come to her aid. Protected by God, who desires nothing but that the sinner should turn to Him and live, she uprooted all the passions from her heart by means of this extraordinary asceticism, and was able to turn the fire of carnal desire into a flame of divine love that made it possible for her to endure the implacable desert with joy, as though she were not in the flesh.

After all these years, a holy elder called Zosimas (April 4), had gone into the desert across the Jordan for the period of Great Lent, saw one day a human form with a body blackened by the sun and with hair white as bleached linen to its shoulders. He ran after this apparition that fled before him, begging it to give him its blessing and some saving words. When he came within ear-shot, Mary, calling by name him whom she had never seen, revealed to him that she was a woman and asked him to throw her his cloak that she might cover her nakedness.

At the urging of Zosimas, St Mary recounted to him with tears the story of her life and conversion. Then, having finished her account, she begged him to come the following year to the bank of the Jordan with Holy Communion.

When the day arrived, Zosimas saw Mary appearing on the further bank of the river. She made the sign of the Cross and crossed the Jordan, walking on the water. Having received Holy Communion weeping, she said: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation" (Luke 2:29). She then took leave of Zosimas, asking him to meet her the following year in the place where they had first met.

When the year was past, Zosimas, going to the agreed spot, found the Saint's body stretched on the ground, her arms crossed and her face turned towards the East. His tearful emotion prevented him from noticing at once an inscription traced on the ground by the Saint, which read: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of the humble Mary; give what is of dust to dust, after having prayed for me. I died on the first day of April, the very night of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, after having partaken in the Holy Eucharist." Consoled in his grief by having learned the Saint's name, Zosimas was amazed to discover that she had, in several hours, covered a distance of more than twenty days' march.

After having vainly tried to break up the earth with a stick, he suddenly saw a lion approaching Mary's body and licking her feet. On the orders of the Elder, the beast dug a hole with its claws, in which Zosimas devoutly placed the Saint's body.

On his return to the monastery, he recounted the marvels that God had wrought for those who turn away from sin and move towards Him with all their hearts. From the hardened sinner that she had been, Mary has, for a great many souls crushed under the burden of sin, become a source of hope and a model of conversion. This is why the Holy Fathers have placed the celebration of her memory at the end of the Great Fast as an encouragement for all who have neglected their salvation, proclaiming that repentance can bring them back to God even at the eleventh hour.

Troparion — Tone 8

In you, O Mother, was preserved with exactness what was according to the image; 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 for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Archbishop Nathaniel
Subdeacon Theophan
Olga, Marianne,
Mat. Krystyna
Mat. Kathy

Departed:

Protopresbyter Michael
Dallas

Tall Candles

Tall Candles are on order and should be arriving any day. If you would like to sponsor them for a Sunday please see Fr. Joseph

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, April 22

Ven. Vitalis (Vitalii) of Gaza
Genesis 27:1-41
Proverbs 19:16-25

Tuesday, April 23

Greatmartyr George
Acts 12:1-11
John 15:17-16:2

Wed, April 24

Hieromartyr Elijah the Wallachian
Genesis 43:26-31
Proverbs 21:23-22:4

Thurs, April 25

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark
1 Peter 5:6-14
Mark 6:7-13

Friday, April 26

Hieromartyr Basil of Amasea
Genesis 49:33-50:26
Proverbs 31:8-31

Saturday, April 27

Lazarus Saturday
Hebrews 12:28-13:8
John 11:1-45

