

## A ROLE MODEL OF REPENTANCE

On the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, our Holy Church annually commemorates the Venerable Mary of Egypt. We can best describe her as being a "loose" woman in her early years. It is said that she was a beautiful young lady with many suitors. Although she lived a promiscuous life, in the true sense of the word she was not a prostitute, for she didn't accept money in exchange for sexual activity. For Mary, the sensual pleasure she received was payment enough.

Mary was living in Alexandria when she heard of a ship leaving for Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. She went along — not for any spiritual reason — but rather hoping to seek out young men to satisfy her needs. Upon arrival, she decided to go to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to see the Life-Giving Cross, out of curiosity. Three times, Mary tried to enter the church, and each time, an invisible force prevented her from doing so. She finally realized that it was her sinfulness keeping her out. Tearfully, Mary repented, and she heard the voice of the Lord giving her these instructions: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find peace." Obediently, Mary set out for the Judean wilderness, where she spent the next 47 years in prayer and fasting, totally isolated from the rest of the world. When she was next seen by anyone, age and the elements had ravaged her FORMER beauty, but now, her REAL beauty was shining through. The ascetic life that she chose to embrace truly had brought her peace.

While the world is obsessed and impressed with physical appearances, the Lord is much more concerned with our "inner beauty," which is developed and nurtured by living a Christ-like life. Mary of Egypt shows us that this can be attained through true and complete repentance.

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# ST. MARY OF EGYPT



She reflects God's willingness  
to receive the repentant

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

### A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

# SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

**DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026**

**TONE 1 / EOTHINON 9**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT IN TONE EIGHT**

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 rejoices with the angels.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR**

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

**ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

**We Celebrate Today**

On March 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate **Martyr Mark**, bishop of Arethusa, **Martyr Cyril** the deacon of Heliopolis and those with them; and **Martyrs Jonah** and **Barachisios** of Persia and those with them.

On this same day, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

Spirit rose up, flesh melted away erewhile; hide, O earth, the worn bones of Mary's body.

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her



sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!" Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary's lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

Through her intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**+Healing & Recovery** Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Dolores Nossier. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Drew Anderson. Jackson ballinger. Carla Leese.

**+Birthdays & Anniversaries. Mar:** Kaylee Wright (29). Madeline Hull (31). **April.** Evan Fedell (9), Remy Massey, Laura Thomas (12). Nicole Thornton Aramoonie, Misty Jabour (19)

**+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour** are offered today by Lester & Lori Tzotzolas & their family.

**+Next Week's Lenten Prayers @ 6:00pm.** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday **Great**

**Compline.** Wednesday **Presanctified Liturgy.** Friday **Lazarus Canon.**

**+Lazarus Saturday Apr. 4** Orthros @ 9 am, Divine Liturgy @10 am.

**+Palm Sunday** Luncheon is offered by Rhonda & Gary, Potluck dishes. (Seafood allowed).

**+Great Holy Week. Holy Sunday, Monday & Tuesday,** Bridegroom Service @ 6 pm.

**+Holy Wednesday** Apr.8, Unction service, Sacrament of Holy Oil for healing @ 6 pm.

**+Holy Thursday** Apr. 9, Last Supper Liturgy @ 7:30 am. **Holy Thursday,** 12 Gospels & Procession of the Cross @ 5:30 pm.

**+Holy Friday** Apr.10, Royal Hours @ 8:30 am. Un-Nailing Vespers @ 10 am. Lamentation Service & Procession @ 6 pm.

**+Holy Saturday of the Light** Apr.11, Vesperal Liturgy @ 10 am. Sprinkling Bay Leaves.

**+Holy Saturday Evening,** Paschal Service @ 10:00 pm. Followed by Agape Meal.

**+Holy Sunday of Resurrection** Apr. 12, Agape Vespers, Gospels reading @ 11 am. Paschal picnic, Children Egg Hunt and games @ 4 pm.

**The Church Fathers Teach**

**With all your power, ask the Lord for humility and brotherly love, because God freely gives His grace for love towards one's brother. Do an experiment on yourself: one day ask God for love towards your brother, and another day - live without love. You will see the difference.**

**—(St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, XVI.8)**

# DIVINE LITURGY MARCH 29, 2026

\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT\*\*

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

### COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

#### THE EPISTLE

*Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.*

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

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats 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?

#### The GOSPEL

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."