



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sun, April 18, 2021 : The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt • Saint for the day: Ven. John, disciple of Gregory of Decapolis



Hymns for Today's Service

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!"

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passeth away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoiceth with the angels.

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross.// Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 9:11-14

But 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 Reading - 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

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!*

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.”

This Week's Schedule

This Weekend

SAT, April 17th: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Church Cleanup
5 PM Great Vespers

SUN, April 18th: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy for
St. Mary of Egypt, Church School

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This Week

6th Week of Great Lent

TUES, April 20th @ 4 PM: Lenten Bible Study

WED, April 21st @ 11AM-1:30PM: Church Open for Prayer
6 PM: Presanctified Liturgy

FRI, April 23rd @ 6:30 PM: Great Vespers for Lazarus Sat

SAT, April 24th @ 9 AM: Lazarus Sat. Divine Liturgy,
Parastas for Nancy Valletta

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Next Weekend

SAT, April 24th: 9 AM Lazarus Sat. Divine Liturgy,
Parastas for Nancy Valletta, 5 PM Great Vespers

SUN, April 25th: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy for
Palm Sunday, Church School

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A NOTE ON RECEIVING COMMUNION AT EVENING SERVICES:

Those who would like to receive Holy Communion at evening Liturgies should fast from food and drink from lunch until receiving communion. This excludes anyone who may need more frequent nourishment due to health conditions or the

need to take medications. Do as best you can according to your strength and needs. If you have questions please speak with Fr. Innocent.

SCHEDULE CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA

A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion. Anyone wishing to receive should go to confession at least once during Great Lent. If you have been away from Holy Communion throughout the pandemic be sure to make a confession before receiving Holy Communion. Confession is available before and after services throughout Lent as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer. Please come or set up an appointment for a specific time with Fr. Innocent.

A 4 WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. INNOCENT

JOURNEY THROUGH

OUR LORD'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION

Every Tues @ 4 PM Beginning Tuesday, March 30

Join us in person OR online • Link will be sent by email

Announcements & Meetings

Parish Council Meeting: This month's Parish Council Meeting will be held TODAY following Divine Liturgy.

Bring in your Pussywillows: Anyone willing to harvest pussywillows from your yard or area for our Paschal celebration can now bring them to the church. Spring weather is upon us and they will soon begin to flower. Thanks so much for your help!

Wilkes University Food Drive: We are collecting much needed items for students at Wilkes University. Items needed include: Non-perishable foods, soups, canned fruit, Chef Boyardee meals, personal care items, household items. **The drive ends Sunday, April 25th** (Palm Sunday). If anyone needs their donations or a monetary donation picked up, please contact Colleen at 570-550-7288.

Paschal Flower Donations in Memoriam and For the Health of Our Loved Ones: Continuing our parish family tradition, we will adorn the grave of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Good Friday with fresh Spring flowers as a reflection of our love. These flowers will also adorn the Church on Holy Pascha and throughout Bright Week. On Saint Thomas Sunday, those who donated flowers will be welcome to bring these flowers home to loved ones and shut-ins to brighten their day. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers "In Memory Of" or "For the Health Of" a loved one:

1. Please see the signup sheets in the Church Vestibule.
2. If able, you can mail your donations to the church OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox.
3. Contact Father Innocent with the details if you are unable to do any of the above.

The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

FREE COVID SHOTS AT THE VA: If you are a veteran, spouse, or widow of a veteran you are eligible for a free COVID shot at the VA Walk-in clinic. They are open Mon-Fri 8AM to 1 PM.

"NOT YOUR MAMA'S ZITI" FOOD SALE: Friday, April 23, 11AM -5PM. Orders served hot on the day of the sale. Pre-orders available online (wbholytrinity.org) or by phone (570-825-6540) to "Take & Bake" your order at home. Online or phone order must be placed April 19-21 (Mon - Wed), 10 AM to 4 PM. We ask that pre-orders be picked up no later than 4PM on sale day.

Sizes & Prices:

Small (12 oz) Serving size: single - \$5
Medium - (32 oz) Serving size: a hardy double - \$8
Large - (96 oz) Serving size: 6-8 - \$18

CALL FOR HELP: Anyone willing to help with preparations for the Ziti sale is invited to come Thursday, April 22 at 9 AM.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward
Anniversaries: Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries: Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward, Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda

Altar Server Schedule

Sunday, April 18: Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C, Christopher D, Ephraim N

Sunday, April 25: Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C, Christopher D, Ephraim N

HOLY PASCHA: All servers welcome

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Marni Bachman & Family, Rose Marie, Helen Gudaitis, Mahaffey Family, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Louis Gianuzzi, Betty Serafin

Newly Departed: Archpriest Antonio Perdomo, Mitred Archpriest Basil Summer, Valentina Tomoshosky

On the Church Calendar

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY April 25

Blessing of Palms & Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM
Bridegroom Matins @ 4 PM

HOLY MONDAY April 26

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY TUESDAY April 27

Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM

HOLY WEDNESDAY April 28

Holy Unction (Cathedral) @ 6 PM

HOLY THURSDAY April 29

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM

HOLY FRIDAY April 30

Vespers @ 3:00 PM

Lamentations @ 6:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY May 1st

Vesperal Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

Beginning SAT NIGHT, May 1st

Nocturns @ 10 PM

Paschal Matins @ 10:30 PM

Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:30 PM

Blessing of the Baskets @ 12:45 AM

SUN MORNING, May 2nd

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM

followed by Blessing of the Baskets

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

from Antiochion.org

On this fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy.

A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the

desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary's story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other's presence on their journey.

This humility is an interesting contrast to Mark 10:32-45, the Gospel reading for this Sunday. This Gospel reading reminds us of the squabbling disciples, who are fighting for greatness in this passage. It is interesting that the Church has chosen to offer us the opportunity to study the life of St. Mary, who fought her pride and humbled herself in the desert for most of her life; and then contrast it with the disciples' desire to sit at Christ's right hand in His kingdom. It is as though the Church is saying to each of us, "Here are two approaches to life in the Kingdom of God. Who will you choose to be like?" We all know who we should emulate, but repenting and humbling ourselves as completely as St. Mary did is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Yet here is her life, offered to us as we approach the end of Great Lent, encouraging us to continue to fight the good fight as she did; to abstain from our passions so completely that we learn from Christ Himself and find ourselves humbled when we are in the presence of even the humblest of fellow humans.

Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. Although God can certainly work in and through those who have always lived holy lives (as did Abba Zosimas), He also brings healing and holiness to those of us who repent completely and turn our focus away from the things of this earth and completely on Him (as He did in the life of St. Mary of Egypt). Glory to God who embraces us as we struggle and meets us in that place!

*In you the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother;
For taking up your cross, you did follow Christ, And by your
deeds you did teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passes
away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal.
Wherefore, O righteous Mary, your spirit rejoices with the
Angels.*

St. Mary of Egypt, please intercede for our salvation!