

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd Lansing NY

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr James Worthington, Rector 315-706-6185

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MARCH 29, 2015

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1. St Mary of Egypt. Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (ca. 364). Ven. John, Anchorite, of Egypt (4th c.). St. Eustathius the Confessor, Bishop of Bithynia (9th c.).

EPISTLE: GALATIANS 3.23-29: We were tutored by the Law, but now we are heirs to the promise of Christ.

HEBREWS 9.11-14: The blood of Christ cleanses us so we may serve the living God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 7.36-50: A sinful woman anoints Christ with her tears and is forgiven her sins.

Mark 10.32-45: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

HOURS: Eileen/Genevieve. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

EPISTLE READER: Ivan. **NEXT WEEK:** Available.

COFFEE HOUR HOST: Worthington Family. **NEXT WEEK:**

LENTEN READERS: There is a sign-up sheet for the readers that are needed for the Lenten services. All skill levels are invited to read at any of the services.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next class will be this Tuesday, March 31st at Unwind Coffee Shop in the Ithaca Mall. We will be reading and discussing chapter 16 of the Gospel of St John: The Farewell Discourse (Part II - cont.), incl. Persecutions, Paraclete, Joy, Prayer, etc. Invite your friends to join us. The complete syllabus is available on the information table and online.

LANSING FOOD PANTRY: March & April are special grant months for the Lansing Food Pantry. All donations received between March 1st and April 30th help earn grant money from the Feinstein Foundation, which has committed to donating \$1 million to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country. The amount granted is in relation to the amount of food and money received during this period. Please consider donating, or bringing food to church to share with our neighbors.

PASCHA FLOWERS: To contribute to the purchase of flowers to adorn the church for Pascha, there are envelopes available at the information stand.

Fr James' contact information: Cell: 315-706-6185 Email: adelphotheos@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: The first meeting will be today after the Divine Liturgy. The Agenda will be to establish purposes and goals/focus, plan for purchasing new altar server robes and to schedule future meetings.

MEALS FOR THE JOHNSONS: To help out the newborn and her family, Casey is organizing a schedule to bring meals to the Johnsons once the new baby arrives. If you would like to help prepare and deliver meals, see Casey.

CONFESSIONS: In this cleansing time of the year, it is good for us to partake of the sacrament of Confession. Please have your confession heard before the Vigil of PASCHA. An appointment can be made at any time that is convenient for you, or before and after most services.

PASCHAL CHARITY: Once again, we will be putting together a basket of Paschal treats to give to a special and deserving family. We will be mailing a basket of goodies to the Baker family. See Liane for more details and to offer something to give.

PASCHAL PREPARATIONS: Things to think about: Pussywillows, Vigil at the Tomb, Clean up crew for Paschal Meal.

LENTEN VESPERS: We are hosting the parishioners of St Catherine's Church for Lenten vespers tonight, with a potluck meal to follow. In the tradition of our legendary hospitality, please bring something to share tomorrow evening – an appetizer, salad, main dish or Lenten dessert.

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H

Apr Herman S

Apr John C

Apr Thomas E

Apr Michael T

Apr Stephen M

Dn Symeon

Abbess Silouana

Mother Raphaela

Mother Christophora

Mat Cecelia

Mat Katya

Mat Dorothy

Joshua

Brittany & Isaac

Gretchen

Peter

Marriane

Terrence

Helen

Judy

Gretchen

Mary & Susan

John & Carmine

Nathan

Leah

Helen

Lindsey

Susanne H

Elizabeth

Mary

Joe A

Daniel

Andrew and family

Harold

Wilhemina

Gordon

Elizabeth

David

Madeline

Shirley

Larry

Christina

Jim & Kim

Rachel

Constantine & Maria

Gaetan

Jean

Christine

Samuel

Iconographer Helena

Catechumens: Elliott &

Daniel

Children: Caleb,

Christopher E, Anthony

Mia and Isabel,

BIRTHDAYS: None..

ANNIVS: None.

NAMESDAYS: None.

REPOSED:

Priest John

Apr Alexander

Rdr Gregory

Daniel

Ada

Walter

Lillian

Joseph

Marie

Joseph

Laura

Martha

Stanley & Helen,

Taissia

Steluta

Theophan

Lynda

Florence

James

James R

Vasily

Modecai

NEWLY REPOSED:

Protopresbyter Thomas,

Priest Matthew.

ANNIVERSARIES: None.

FB Check-in



SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

MARY OF EGYPT SUNDAY, MARCH 29: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour, Fundraising Committee Meeting

6 PM Mission Vespers with St Catherine's GOC at Holy Apostles

TUESDAY, MARCH 31: 8:30 Akathist To St Innocent of Alaska

6 P Choir Rehearsal at Casey's House

7:45 Know Your Faith at Unwind Café in Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1: 8:30 Lenten Matins

6 PM Akathist

7:45 Cornell OCF in Anabel Taylor Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: 8:30 Lenten Daily Matins

8 PM Ithaca Collage OCF in Mueller Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 3: 8:30 Lenten Daily Matins

6 PM Presanctified Liturgy

LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 4: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Church Cleaning

6 PM Great Vespers and Choir Rehearsal

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

7 PM Bridegroom Matins (Beginning of Holy Week)

On the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

The Fifth Sunday celebrates *St. Mary of Egypt*, the model of penitents. Her life, recounted by St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem — it is read on Thursday in the fifth week — sets before us a true verbal icon of the essence of repentance. In her youth St. Mary lived in a dissolute and sinful way at Alexandria. Drawn by curiosity, she journeyed with some pilgrims to Jerusalem, arriving in time for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. But when she tried to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre with the others, an invisible force thrust her back at the threshold. This happened three or four times. Brought to sudden contrition by this strange experience, she prayed all night with tears to the Mother of God, and next morning she found to her joy that she could enter the church without difficulty. After venerating the Cross, she left Jerusalem on that same day, made her way over the Jordan, and settled as a solitary in a remote region of the desert. Here for forty-seven years she remained, hidden from the world, until she was eventually found by the ascetic St. Zosimas, who was able to give her Holy Communion shortly before her death. Some modern writers have questioned the historical accuracy of St. Sophronios' narrative, but there is in itself nothing impossible about such a story. In the year 1890 the Greek priest Joachim Spetsieris found a woman hermit in the desert beyond the Jordan, living almost exactly as St. Mary must have done.

- From Met Kallistos Ware in the Lenten Triodion

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
SUNDAY OF ST MARY OF EGYPT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: ST MARY OF EGYPT

Troparion Tone 1 (*Resurrection*)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure ^body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your ^Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

Troparion Tone 8 (*St Mary of Egypt*)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
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 instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion Tone 3 (*St Mary of Egypt*)

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//
Therefore O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Prokeimenon Tone 1

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)
Tone 4: God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. (*Ps 67/68:35*)

Alleluia Verses Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me..
v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps 17/18:50)
v: I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication. (Ps 39/40:1)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:
the assembly of Angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –
our God before the ages.
He made your body into a throne,
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.
Glory to you!

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (*Ps 111/112:6b-7a*) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE END OF GREAT LENT

Friday of the 6th week ends the Holy Forty Day Fast. In the services for this day we sing: "Having completed the forty days that profit our souls, we ask You, O Lover of man: Grant us also to behold the Holy Week of Your Passion, that we may glorify Your mighty acts and Your ineffable plan for our sakes" 1). Together with these in the service for this day the Holy Church prepares her children to worthily commemorate Lazarus raised from the dead and especially the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem, appealing: "Having completed the Forty Day Fast that is pleasing to our soul, let us cry out: Rejoice, O City of Bethany, the home of Lazarus, rejoice Martha and Mary, his sisters. For tomorrow Christ will come, by His word to give life to your dead brother". "Those who are in the deserts and on the mountains, and in the caves, let us gather together carrying palms 2), to meet the King and the Master: for He comes to save our souls"; "For this meeting we carefully go, offering branches of virtue to Him".

LAZARUS SATURDAY AND PALM SUNDAY

The week following the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt is called Palm or Branch Week. At the Tuesday services of this week the Church recalls that Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (*Jn 11*). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On Friday evening, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the "great and saving forty days" of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls, we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man, that we may see the holy week of Thy passion, that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of salvation for our sake. ... (Vesper Hymn)



Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as "the Resurrection and the Life" who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before his own suffering and death.

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! Like the children with the branches of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! (Troparion).

Christ—the Joy, the Truth and the Light of All, the Life of the world and its Resurrection—has appeared in his goodness to those on earth. He has become the Image of our Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all (Kontakion).

At the Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday the baptismal verse from Galatians: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (*Gal 3:27*) replaces the Thrice-holy Hymn thus indicating the resurrectional character of the celebration, and the fact that Lazarus Saturday was once among the few great baptismal days in the Orthodox Church Year. Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah-King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, he entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (*Zech 9:9; Jn 12:12*). The crowds greeted him with branches in their hands and called out to him with shouts of praise: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel! Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven "to destroy him, to put him to death" (*Lk 19:47; Jn 11:53, 12:10*).

LIFE OF ST MARY OF EGYPT

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. The *Life of St. Mary of Egypt* is read during Great Lent along with the Great Canon of St. Andrew.