

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

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Send announcements for the bulletin and/or website to bulletin@stjohnorthodox.org

Send announcements to be emailed to all members to announce@stjohnorthodox.org

St. Mary of Egypt - April 10, 2011



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.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, April 10 – St. Mary of Egypt - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Sunday School following Liturgy; Lunch following

Monday, April 11 – Great Compline 6:00pm followed by Study Group at Townsend's

Wednesday, April 13 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts followed by Lenten Meal 7:00pm

Friday, April 15 – Spiritual Circle 9:30am; Little Compline with Canon of St. Lazarus 7:00pm

Saturday, April 16 – Lazarus Saturday – Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Great Vespers 6:00pm

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday - Orthros 9:00am; Divine Liturgy 10:00am; Procession following Liturgy; Lunch following; Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Monday 6:00pm

EPISTLE READERS

April 10 - Tabitha Townsend

April 17 - Sbdcn. Mark (Eric) Townsend

April 24 - Reader Mark Felleggy

May 1 - Joy Corey

CHURCH CLEANING

Week of April 11 - Townsends

Week of April 18 - Felleggy/Holman

Week of April 25 - Corey/Rush

Week of May 2 – Schaefer

LUNCHEON & CLEANUP

April 10 - Team 5 - Poland, Schaefer, Gallatin, Nolan, Johnson

April 17 - Team 1 - Tsalaky, Ayoub D., Ayoub M., Vlahos

April 24 - PASCHA - Potluck:

May 1 - Team 6 - Ayoub, Wood, Bryant

PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING:

Paul Truebenbach, Ed Mattmiller, Vasso Papachristos, Mike Kerr, Katrina (Mike Kerr's wife), Tonja (Lavonne Ayoub's sister), Kh. Cindy Horton, Bonnie (Jenny Dancy's Mother), Susan and parents Co and Lou (friends of Jenny Dancy), Ron Mulder (uncle of Barbara Schaefer) Elena & Vitaly w/reposed son Stefan (friends of Teccas), Russell & Samantha & newly reposed infant (Chelsea Stillman's brother & wife & baby), Teri Hundt (sister of Tiffany Gallatin), Robin and her unborn baby girl (Joanna Townsend's cousin), Inna Epling, Jim Ayres, Moses Kemper, Pam, Susan, Marc (Jenny Dancy's sister-in-law and friends), Crystal, Riley, Emily, Boston, Caleb, Anders and Cindy (family of Bartimaeus), Mike Allen, Tammy (cousin of Nanette Sanman), Patricia, David, Bonnie, Stori, Brooke and Endin (family of Trudy Olinger), Jacob Hunter (Dan Monaghan's cousin in Afghanistan), Pamela Olsen, Mat. Michaela Fenn (wife of Fr. Mark Fenn), Fr. Michael Lewis, Jill Foss (friend of Jeane Wood), Nancy Corey (Ed Corey's sister), Moses Kemper, Jamie Landers, Nikolai Kupcow, Lynda (Michelle Felleggy's mother), George Kucera.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED:

William Brisbane (Nanette's father), Jack (Dianne Nolan's father), Dominic & Pasquale (brother and brother-in-law of Lucille Horton), Milic Milojevic, Wilma Young (Steve Wood's mother), Marvel (mother of Mary Jo Neyman), Michelle Bonasera (friend of John Charles), Gene (Sbdcn. Barnabas' Uncle)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bake Sale Update: We need your help. This Thursday, April 14th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., the ladies of St. John's will be packaging the baked goods for distribution on Saturday, April 16th. We need as many hands as possible to help package on the 14th. If you are able to arrange your schedule so as to be able to come out and help, it would be much appreciated. Please let Joy Corey know if you intend on being there. Also, anything you can do to get the bake sale flyers out to the public would be appreciated. We need to sell all the baked goods, especially since we have cut in half the number of choices of baked items this year. Giving them as gifts for Pascha or using them as hostess gifts when you go to someone's home for dinner is a great way to advertise St. John's wonderful baked goodies. These people might want to order them in the future as a result. If you have not been able to help bake because of work and time restrictions, then purchasing an item or two is a great way to help participate and to feel that you have contributed to the success of the bake sale. God bless everyone and many thanks for your contributions of time, money, supplies, energy and love.

Bishop JOSEPH to Consecrate Holy Myrrhbearing Women Mission Saturday May 7th – banquet following – RSVP asap please

You are invited to join the joyful celebration of the consecration of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women Temple by Bishop JOSEPH on Saturday, May 7th. In addition, there will be a Consecration Banquet following at 1:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bonners Ferry - tickets \$15.00 each. (There is no separate cost for children, but please contact Fr. Gregory or Gayle if financial assistance is needed for your family. We want everyone to share the joy of the festal banquet without financial considerations preventing them from doing so.) Please contact Gayle Goodsen to order tickets and/or with any questions regarding the banquet. She can be reached at 208-267-1915 or by email at gaylegoodsen@yahoo.com by Palm Sunday (April 17th).

Commemorative Booklet for HMB Consecration – DUE by this Monday, April 11th

Whether or not you can be in attendance at the Consecration of Holy Myrrhbearing Women Temple, you may participate by placing a special commemoration advertisement in our celebration booklet. This might be a congratulatory message or it would also be a good way for businesses to advertise too. This handsome keepsake will feature messages from our Metropolitan PHILIP and Bishop JOSEPH. Everyone in attendance and all those who place an ad will receive a copy of this booklet. **Please contact Barnabas Schaefer TODAY if you need more info on prices, etc. nschaefer@abc-clio.com**

St. Herman of Alaska Scholarship Fund - St. Herman's Scholarship Fund has been established to help students who wish to pursue, or are currently pursuing, full time study in an institution of learning (two or four year college or university) or a vocational institute. Each year one or more students, depending upon funding in the scholarship account, will be selected to receive a stipend. In order to be eligible for the stipend, a student should be a member in good standing at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Post Falls or at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Spokane or at Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church in Bonners Ferry, and a full time student at a high school or college with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4 point scale. Academic excellence, financial need and church/community service will be taken into account in the awarding of the stipend. Please see Fr. Basil or Barbara Garbinski for an application form. June 13th is the deadline.

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), who, following the tradition instituted by Saint Euthymios, had gone into the desert across the Jordan for the period of the Great Fast, 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 the monk, who was transported at having at last met a God-bearing being who had attained the perfection of monastic life, the Saint 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.

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 rejoice with the angels.

KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS 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.

THE EPISTLE

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?

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."

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

It's hard to believe but Holy Week is only two weeks away! Try to carve time out of your schedules to attend as many of the Holy Week services as possible! Unless we die with Christ during that last week of His earthly life we cannot expect to truly experience His resurrection victory on Pascha morn! May God grant us all a glorious Holy Week and Pascha! Here is the Holy Week schedule so you can plan ahead. God bless you, good brothers and sisters!

Love in Christ, our Paschal Lamb,

+Fr. Basil

Saturday, April 16

9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Orthros

Divine Liturgy

Great Vespers of Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 17

9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

PALM SUNDAY

Orthros of Palm Sunday

Divine Liturgy & Procession of Palm Sunday

Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Monday

Monday, April 18

7:00 P.M.

HOLY MONDAY

Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Tuesday

Tuesday, April 19

7:00 P.M.

HOLY TUESDAY

Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 20

7:00 P.M.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Pan-Orthodox Service of Holy Unction (Holy Trinity - Spokane)

Thursday, April 21

9:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

HOLY THURSDAY

Vespers of Holy Thursday

Orthros of the Twelve Gospels

Friday, April 22

9:00 A.M.

4:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M.

HOLY FRIDAY

Royal Hours of Holy Friday

Vespers of Holy Friday (Descent From the Cross)

Orthros of Holy Friday (Lamentations)

Saturday, April 23

9:00 A.M.

11:30 P.M.

HOLY SATURDAY

Vespers of Holy Saturday (Christ's Victory Over Hades)

Canon + Rush Procession + Paschal Orthros + Paschal Divine Liturgy & Feast

Sunday, April 24

1:00 P.M.

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Agape Vespers