

St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of Lent

Saint Zosimas was a monk from childhood in a monastery near Caesarea. At age fifty-three, he began to believe he had attained spiritual perfection. But an angel appeared and said, "No one is righteous. Go to the Jordan monastery and learn how many paths lead to salvation."

Obedying the angel, Zosimas went to the Jordan monastery and found monks of deep silence and unceasing prayer. As Great Lent approached, the monks followed their custom: after Holy Communion, they went into the desert alone until Palm Sunday. Zosimas joined them, hoping to meet someone holier than himself.

After twenty days, he saw a figure burned dark by the sun with white hair. At first afraid, he made the Sign of the Cross. The figure fled, calling out, "I am a woman and I am naked. Throw me your cloak that I may speak with you." She then addressed him by name and identified him as a priest, though they had never met.

After covering herself, she and Zosimas both bowed, each asking the other to bless. She insisted he bless her as a priest. Zosimas asked her to share her story for God's glory. She agreed with tears.

She said, "I was born in Egypt. At twelve, I ran away to Alexandria and lived in sin for seventeen years. Though poor, I gave myself freely to lust. One year, I joined pilgrims going to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Cross, offering myself in exchange for passage. In Jerusalem, I continued in sin.

"But when I tried to enter the church for the feast, an invisible force stopped me. After many failed attempts, I wept and saw an icon of the Theotokos above the entrance. I begged her to let me see the Cross and vowed to repent. Then I was allowed in.

"Before the icon, I promised to go wherever the Theotokos would lead. I heard a voice say, 'If you cross the Jordan, you will find peace.' A man gave me three coins. I bought bread, received Communion at the church of Saint John by the Jordan, and entered the desert. I have lived here forty-seven years.

"For the first seventeen years, I battled intense temptations—memories of wine, food, music, and lust. I wept, lay on the ground, and prayed constantly. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, I was given peace. Since then, she has helped me in all things."

She had lived on three loaves of bread and wild plants. Her clothing had long since worn away. She suffered from cold, heat, and hunger, yet was sustained by God's Word: "Man does not live by bread alone."

Though uneducated, she quoted Scripture fluently, saying, "Perhaps God teaches those who turn to Him." She asked Zosimas not to reveal her story until after her death and to return next Holy Thursday with the Eucharist.

A year later, she crossed the Jordan by walking on the water, received Communion, and said, "Now let Your servant depart in peace." The next year, Zosimas found her dead, with a message: "Bury the body of humble Mary." A lion appeared and dug her grave. Zosimas buried her, glorifying God.

Saint Sophronius later recorded her story, saying, "May those who read it receive a portion with Saint Mary and all who please God."

Text & icon from oca.org



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

215-954-9286



Father James Thayer

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April 6, 2025

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

COMMEMORATIONS:

EUTYCHIUS, PATRIARCH OF
CONSTANTINOPLE, 120 MARTYRS OF PERSIA,
GREGORY OF SINAI, PLATONIS THE NUN OF
NISIBIS

Tone 8 - Eothion 8

Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT - Tone 8 - 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

ORDINARY KONTAKION - Tone 2 - 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.

TODAY:

ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m.

Ft. Washington Mission Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy

Choir Concert: Passion & Resurrection of Christ, 1:30 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week

Next Week (April 13):

COFFEE HOUR:	All the "Marys" of St. Philip	Palm Sunday Potluck (please contribute)
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Kristi Moore	Gabriela Plesa
ALTAR CANDLES:	Gamble-Natalie's Birthday	Gohl-Caleb's Birthday
USHERS:	Dan M. & Radu C.	Todd Moody & Chris H.
CLEANING TEAM:	Radu C., Mary T., Daniel F., Tony M.	Catechumens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Kendra M., Mark, Morgan	Eric M. & Zach W.

Mark Your Calendar:

Palm Sunday
April 13

Holy Thursday
April 17

Foot Washing Liturgy, 9:30 am
12 Gospels Orthros, 6:30 pm

Great & Holy Friday
April 18

Royal Hours, 9:30 am
Burial Vespers, 4:00 pm
Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 pm

Holy Saturday
April 19

Liturgy, 9:30 am
Midnight Office & Procession, 11:00pm

Holy Pascha
April 20, 2025

Paschal Orthros, 12:00 am
Paschal Liturgy, 1:00 am
Basket Blessing & Fellowship, 2:30 am
Agape Vespers, 2:00 pm
We live from Pascha to Pascha!

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please take one of the Food For Hungry People collection boxes (available in the Narthex) to your home and at Pascha bring them back filled to help our archdiocese food distribution program.

APRIL OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Cleaning Supplies

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land	+Mary +Haritos +Pani Susan +Paula +Evangelos +Sabry-Joseph
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine Displaced faithful of Southern California.	
Archpriest Joel Dn. Michael Denis-Patrick John Nun Sergeia Doris Michael John James Steven Paraskevi Elizabeth Michaela Nicholas Elias Mary Genevieve Maria Constantinos Gabriel Mary Coca-Lucia	(April Parish Diptychs) +Vasilios +Frederick +Mary +Vaseleka +Carl +Niemeh +Mary +Haydieh +Justin +Calin +Stavros +Marianne
	<u>Catechumens</u>
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians Those searching for spouses Engaged Couples Families trying to conceive Expectant mothers New mothers and their babies Those searching for jobs and housing The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	Lucretia Ryan Michael Kassandra Rose Jasper Catherine Matthew Matthew Mary Carol Morgan Meghan John Steven Bobby Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Caroline

This Week:

Mon, April 7:	Presanctified Liturgy, 7:00 a.m. Confessions, 8:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Great Compline, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Tues, April 8:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 11:00 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m. SoM Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Wed, April 9:	Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 8:00 p.m.
Thurs, April 10:	Confessions, 11:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 12:00 p.m. Confessions, 1:30 p.m. Great Compline, 6:30 p.m. Twelve Baskets Full, 6:30 p.m.
Fri, April 11:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Fasting Potluck, 11:00 a.m. Confessions, 3:00-6:30 p.m. Canon of Lazarus, 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week, 7:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Sat, April 12:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Baptismal Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 11:15 a.m. Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m. Great VESPERS & Artoklasia, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Sun, April 13:	PALM SUNDAY (HOLY WEEK) ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m. Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m. Palm Procession, 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:45 Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 3/29: 93

Liturgy 3/30: 348

Wed Presanctified: 85

Fri Presanctified: 44

OFFERINGS 3/30: Candles, \$529.55 Collections, \$521. Flowers, \$60. Book Shelf Ministry, \$44. Building Fund, \$1,000. Classical School, \$1,466.40 Needy Fund, \$176.44. Pastoral Discretion, \$1,000. Stewardship, \$2,508.48. Total received: \$7,156.38.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!