

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of-

Metropolitan Onufriy + Ukrainian Orthodox Church	Vivian Thomas
Metropolitan Isaiah Archbishop Nathaniel	James Matthew
Archbishop Benjamin Bishop Neofitos of Eldoret	Keith Michael
Mitred-Archpriest Alexander Igumen Leonty	Mari Anna
Archpriest Luke + Holy Wisdom Mission	Rose Abi
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose Deacon Aidan	Gregory John
Subdeacon James Reader Aleksei	William Craig
Jonathan • Anne • Phoebe Joanna • Monika • Elizabeth	Keith
Amal • Patrick • Anna Iraida • Longinus • Nina	

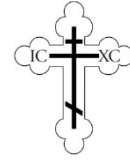
Catechumens Rebecca,
James, Megan,
Minnie, Isla, James,
Isaac, Anna,
Adalie, Everett, Ivey
Emily, David, Gregory,
Christian, Michael

The repose and salvation of-

Patriarch Neofit (3/13)
Mitred-Archpriest Anthony (3/19)
Margarita (3/21)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Sunday, April 21, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt



Monastery of St. John the Baptist near the River Jordan - jerusalem-patriarchate.info

Sundays at 9:05 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy

Today, 5:00 PM – Vespers, at St. Elias, Arvada

This Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM – Catechetical Class

This Friday, April 26, 5:50 PM – Typika + Presanctified Liturgy

This Saturday, April 27, 9:10 AM – Hours + Divine Liturgy

This Saturday, April 27, 5:30 PM – Festal Vigil

Archpriest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Protodeacon John Manutes

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Homily on the Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

Saint Mary of Egypt was a sinner, someone whose sin was known to everyone and not to God alone; perhaps she was the only one who was least of all aware of it because sin was her life. And yet, one day, she wanted to go [into] a church. But when she came to the gate of this church, a power prevented her from crossing the threshold. The Publican had been able to stand there because his heart was broken; Mary of Egypt had no broken heart, and the entrance of the church was forbidden to her. And she stood there, aware that what she was, was incompatible with the holiness of the Presence, the presence of God, the presence of the Mother of God, the presence of all that is holy on earth and in heaven.

And she was so profoundly shaken by this experience that she left all that had been her life, retired into the desert, and with a life which the service books define as 'extreme', fought to conquer her flesh, her soul, her memories - everything that was sin, but also everything that could lead her away from God. And we know how glorious her life was, the kind of person she became.

What lesson can we receive from her life? How often is it that we have knocked at the door of God in the way in which Mary tried to come into His presence? How often have we tried to pray, to be in His presence in silence? How often has our longing been to God, and how often have we felt that between our prayer and Him, between our silence and Him, between our longing and Him there was a barrier which we could not pass. We were crying, praying into an empty sky, we were turning towards icons that were silent; all we could perceive was the Divine absence, and an absence so frightening, because not only could we not reach Him, but we perceived that unless we reached Him, our soul was laid waste, there was within us nothing but emptiness, an emptiness that if it continued, if it became our definitive condition would mean more than death - ultimate separation.

Mary of Egypt confronted with the Divine absence, with God's refusal to allow her into His presence, confronted with a shut door within herself felt that unless the door opened, everything was vain. And she turned away from everything that stood between her and God, and life, and fullness, and exultation.

Isn't she for us an example, a call, an image of what could be the life of each of us? But we may say, Yes, this applied to her, she was a prospective saint... Each of us is called to commune with God in such a way, that God and each of us should become one, that each of us should become partaker of the Divine nature, a living member, a brother, a sister, a limb of Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit, a son and a daughter of the Living God! This is our vocation; but can that be achieved by our own strength? No, it cannot! But it can be achieved by God in us if we only turn to Him with all our mind, all our heart, all our longing, determinably, yes: it is determination, and it is longing, a passionate, desperate longing... And then - and then all things become possible. All things are possible, because God does not call us to more than can be achieved by Him with us and in us.

Let us once more receive inspiration from what we hear, receive inspiration from what we meet face to face in the Gospel, in Holy Communion, in prayer, in the silence in the presence of God. And let us move one step more forward towards the

vision of the love of God made manifest in Holy Week, in the last steps of the way of the Cross, in the final victory of crucified Love, and in the victory of the Resurrection of God. Amen.

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh, 16 April, 1989

Epistles: Hebrews 9:11-14 (Sunday); Galatians 3:23-29 (St. Mary)

Gospels: Mark 10:32-45 (Sunday); Luke 7:36-50 (St. Mary)

** Lenten fast all week; caviar, wine & oil allowed Sat. **

Also this week: *Apostles Nathaniel, Luke and Clement (April 22); Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker, George (April 23); Martyr Sabbas Stratelates ("the General") of Rome (April 24); Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (April 25); Hieromartyr Basil, Bp of Amasea (April 26); Hieromartyr Simeon, the kinsman of the Lord (April 27).*

Troparion – Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, /
Co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, /
Born for our salvation from the Virgin; /
For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, /
To endure death, / And to raise the dead ///
By His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion - Tone 8 (St. Mary)

In thee, O Mother, *was* preserved unimpaired that which is according to God's
image, /
For thou hast taken up the Cross and followed Christ. /
By thine actions thou hast taught us to despise the flesh, for it passes away, /
But to care for the soul, which *is* a thing immortal; ///
And so thy spirit, holy Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion - Tone 5 (Resurrection)

Thou didst descend into hades, O my Savior, / Shattering its gates as Almighty; /
Resurrecting the dead as Creator, / And destroying the sting of death. /
Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, ///
And we all cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

Kontakion - Tone 3 (St. Mary)

Once thou wast defiled with *every* impurity, /
But today through repentance thou hast become the Bride of Christ. /
Desiring the life of the angels, /
Thou hast cast down the demons with the weapons of the Cross: ///
Therefore, O glorious Mary, thou wast made a bride of the Kingdom.