

EPISTLE 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.

TODAY'S READER: MARIA MATHIOS

GOSPEL Mark 10:32-45

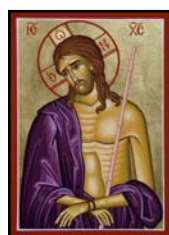
AT THAT TIME, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge 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 want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your 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 of 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 slave 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."

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Resurrectional Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When You had risen from the grave, You also raised those who had died and resurrected Adam; and now Eve is celebrating in Your Resurrection, and the ends of the world keep festival, for Your rising from the dead, O Most-Merciful.



Next Sunday, Great and Holy Week begins. It is the most solemn week of the Church's year — one during which we are reminded of the love of God for us in sending His Son to die on the Cross and Rise from the dead that we might have life forever. Plan next week around the Divine Services. Watch with the Lord. Walk with the Lord. Come and feel His anointing and the healing it brings. Come to the table of the Eucharist and eat the Bread of Life. Celebrate Holy Pascha in great joy! Make time to remember your salvation.



ST. MARY OF EGYPT: MODEL OF REPENTANCE

St. Mary of Egypt is a model of repentance. It is not an exaggeration to say that if the Church fails to repent, our mission will also fail. It will fail not because we will have empty churches. It is quite possible that the churches will be full.

We will have failed, however, because of our own infidelity to that which we have received and to what we have been called by Christ to be. *Only through repentance is the Church continually renewed by the Holy Spirit.* Only by cleansing ourselves will the vision of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church be kept clear. Only by repenting will our theological and eucharistic revival be meaningful and saving. Without repentance the Church, comprised of hierarchs, priests and faithful, will be unable to sustain the blows of a pluralistic and secularistic society - a society which can be accurately termed as post-Christian and even overtly anti-Christian. As a living Church, we are confronted with many temptations and delusions. St. Mary of Egypt is the perfect model of repentance. She totally re-directed her life away from an addiction to sin, and towards God. She faced her inner self with honesty, and called upon the mercy of the Lord. She confessed her sins to Abba Zosima. Unless we ourselves embrace that kind of repentance, even though our Churches be filled every Sunday, they will have no heart. There will be no soul. It will only be a gathering of people. Repentance of this kind, means heeding the words of the Prophet: *"Turn, O man, and be saved!"* . *Holy Mother Mary of Egypt, intercede for us!*

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, Catherine Duble, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Theodosia Karmiris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, and 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios

40 DAY BLESSINGS

A 40 Day Blessing will be given today to **Lucas Emanuel**, son of Michael and Laura Manatos. May God grant him many years!



PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

We believe thee to be full of grace, O glorious Mary, Virgin Mother of Christ, and intercessor for mankind! Great indeed

are the blessings thou hast conferred on us by giving him birth: for the Fruit of thy womb, Christ the Son of God, hath delivered us from the tyranny of our cruel enemy, and hath made us companions in the eternal kingdom. Be thou, therefore, we beseech thee, our advocate; that through thy merits, thy Son may set us free from our sins, and after this life, give us to reign forever in his kingdom. Grant that he, who out of love for thee, called thee to be his Mother, may grant unto us the rich sweetness of his love. Amen

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Theodore Karanikolas (40 Day)**, requested by his family; for **Peter Makris (40 Day)** requested by his wife Fay, son Nick (Lynn), and grandchildren Samantha and Richard; and for **Dr. Neophytos Tsangaris (1 Year)** requested by his wife Mary and is children Theodore, Anne, Toulla, Jeff, Kally, Andy, Joanna, Tim and 12 grandchildren. May their memories be eternal!

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or "shut-ins," so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

ORTHODOX INQUIRY

If you or anyone you may know are interested in embracing Holy Orthodoxy and being baptized or chrismated, please contact Fr. Dimitrios at 301-469-7990 or by email at FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TODAY IS FEED THE HUNGRY SUNDAY Volunteers are needed to help prepare food and deliver it. Please use this as an opportunity to do something for our homeless brothers and sisters during the Great Fast.

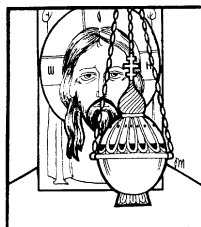
SALT TALKS The SALT Talks (Sunday Afternoon Lenten Talks) will be held **TODAY** from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. These Lenten talks are for students from 12 to 18 years of age and will deal with spiritual messages in the context of their lives and experience.

FIFTY PLUS The next meeting is on **March 24** at 11:30 am in the Founder's Hall. Officer Michael Prather, of the Montgomery County Police Department will speak on "Personal Safety Procedures: Identity Theft and the Scam of Fraud." Guests are always welcomed. Keep in mind as you do your spring cleaning to save any unwanted items for Yiayia's Attic. No clothing or cook books, please.

PASCHA FLOWER FUND Please make a donation to our annual Pascha Flower Fund in order to assist us in making the celebration of the Lord's Rising extra special. Checks may be made out to the Ladies Philoptochos and should specify **Pascha Flower Fund**.

ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL The annual St. George Spring Festival is fast approaching (**April 30, May 1 and May 2**). Many volunteers will be needed. Volunteers are needed for food preparation: Monday, March 22 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, March 23, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to work the festival. Please contact Catherine Sarlis in the Church Office (301-469-7990). Please give of your time to help us prepare for the festival!

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS We are happy to announce that we will be holding our first "Day Circle" meeting for Philoptochos members who cannot make the evening meetings, however, everyone is welcome. This Circle will focus on Crafting for Charity, it will be a "hands-on" outreach! We will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call Lia Kent, 301-762-8976 or email kent_amalia@yahoo.com.

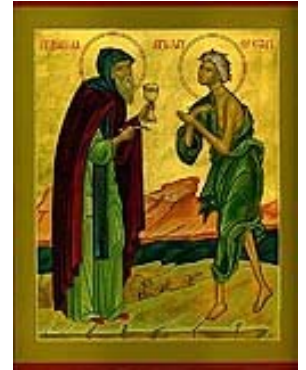


ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

MARCH 21, 2009

SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

(ST. JAMES THE CONFESSOR)



St. Mary lived in Alexandria, Egypt in the Sixth Century (app. 527-565 A.D.). By nature, St. Mary was a woman who loved the flesh and was infamous for her sinful way of life. In the company of people she had led into sin, she traveled to the Holy City of Jerusalem. Through curiosity, or by the saving hand of God, she attended the celebration of the feast of the Holy Cross at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. At the church, she renounced her sinful life and went to a monastery on the banks of the Jordan River. There, she received communion and entered into the Palestinian desert to live the remainder of her life as a hermit and ascetic for Christ. While in the desert she encountered Abba Zozima who gave her Communion and spoke with her. He returned later only to find that she had died after receiving the Holy Gifts. She is a model of true repentance and a great intercessor for those troubled with the temptations and sins of the flesh. The spiritual lesson from the life of Our Holy Mother Mary is one of hope. Her conversion from a life of sin tells us that no amount of past sin and wickedness can keep a truly repentant person from God. Second, Christ himself has come to call sinners to repentance and to save them from their sins. He came for the sick, not only the well. He came for the broken, not simply the "all together." Third, in Saint Mary we see that it is never too late in life, or in Lent, to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him with sincere repentance, even at the eleventh hour. O Holy Mother Mary, star of the desert, pray to God that our souls may be saved! Holy Mother Mary, pray to God for us!

Apolytikion of St. Mary of Egypt

In thee, O Mother, was exactly preserved that which was according to the Divine Image. For thou didst take the cross and follow Christ, and by thy life didst teach us to ignore the flesh, since it is transitory, but to care for the soul as an immortal thing. Therefore, thy spirit, O holy Mary, rejoices with the Angels.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda,
Maryland 20817
Office 301-469-7990 + Fax 301-
469-5945

www.stgeorge.org

Proistamenos:

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas
Email: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org
Rev. Fr. George Khitiri
Email: FrGeorge@stgeorge.org
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus

DIVINE SERVICES THIS WEEK

Thursday, March 25: Feast of the Annunciation Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. followed by a Doxology marking Greek Independence Day.

Saturday, March 27: Saturday of Lazarus Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 28: PALM SUNDAY Orthros 8:45 a.m. Procession of Palms and Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. **Nymphs/Bridegroom Service** 7:00 p.m.