

Sunday, April 5, 2020

5th Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt

**Monk-Martyrs Claudias, Diodore, Victor, Vitorinus and their companions,
Theodora the Righteous of Thessaloniki, Agathopodes and Theodulos the Martyrs
and George the New Martyr.**

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

- # 1 – Του λιθου σφραγισθεντος/With the stone sealed
- # 125 – Εν σοι Μητηρ/In you, O Mother
- # 134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky
- # 218 – Προστασια των Χριστιανων/O Protection of the Christians

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 20:19-31

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or
The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL CANDLE DUTY: Justin Tillich

MEMORIALS

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 40 days Panagiotis Gyftakis | 4 years Leonidas (Louie) Condos |
| 6 mons. Angeliki Karakozis | 7 years Kalliope Dovellos |
| 9 mons. Ioannis Grantsaris | 11 years Stefanos Vavlas |
| 2 years Mary Margaret Bilski | 15 years Paraskevi (Voula) Condos |
| 3 years Ioannis Kavadas | 16 years Anastasia Petalas |
| 3 years Anastasios Yiatras | 16 years Stavros Dovellos |
| | 27 years Maria Vavlas |

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

SERVICE SCHEDULE: There are no scheduled Lenten Services for this week. Sunday Services are not open to the public by the directive of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago until further notice. Sunday's Divine Liturgy for April 5th will be lived streamed beginning at 8:15 a.m. The Cathedral will be open this Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. for anyone wishing to come, say a prayer and light a candle. The Memorial Service for the day will be offered at 10:30 a.m. Please be aware according to CDC and Indiana Government Restrictions that no more than 10 people at a time will be allowed inside the church, and that because of these restrictions no loitering will be allowed.

PONDERING: God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love, not because He needs to receive but because He delights to give.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES have been canceled for this year.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: Classes are canceled until further notice. E-learning will be offered for the next four weeks beginning March 20th.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: **Monthly Meeting** for our St. Helen's Philoptochos on Monday April 6th, has been canceled.

The Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon and Bake Sale has been canceled.

The Spaghetti Benefit Dinner, schedule for May 7th, has been postponed to a later date. More information will be forth coming.

GOYA LAMB RAFFLE: Our GOYA will be raffling off 3 lambs this year for Easter. Tickets for the Raffle are available from individual Goyans or may be purchased on Sunday after church in the lobby. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. The raffle will be held on Palm Sunday, April 12th. Please support the efforts of our GOYA.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS: Applications for the AHEPA, GOYA, Cathedral, Chion Society, Panagiotis Proimos and Novak Family Scholarships, are available in the church office. Deadline for applications is Sunday, May 1st.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES: The Metropolis of Chicago Youth Office has announced that the Jr. Olympics scheduled for May and the Fanari Camp Program that was to be held in June and July have been canceled.

FOOD PANTRY: The call to remember the hungry and needy of the world is a continuous call by our Lord Jesus Christ. Donations of a ham for Easter as well as pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, canned meats, canned tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry beans, lentils are all needed. Other things needed are personal hygiene items, shampoo, and toothpaste, cleaning products, hand soap, dish soap, toilet paper and other paper goods. Cash donations are always welcome.

At this time the Food Pantry will remain open on Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. However, instead of our regular parishioner crew working it, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. If there is anyone 18-40, without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer and work during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

OCMC MISSION APPEAL: Our Sunday School students have been given Mission Boxes and we ask them to be returned to the Sunday School office by Palm Sunday, April 12th. Your support is vital in helping to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ throughout the world.

THE ANNUAL RESURRECTION BALLOON RELEASE that was to be held on Sunday, April 26th has been canceled.

JESUS CLOSET UPDATE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the shelter's we work with in Lake, Porter and La Porte Counties are no longer accepting donations of clothing, bedding, blankets and other household items. Because of this we are forced to shut down our JC's Closet until further notice. Please do not bring any items to church as they pose a health risk for our workers and staff, and we do not have any proper areas to store these items. Thank you to all who supported this Outreach Ministry and we look forward to working with you in the near future.

STEWARDSHIP: Every parishioner should be a supporting member, a steward, of our Cathedral. Everyone should contribute what they can. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to “go on record” as being a believer and a supporter of God’s work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90%. If some of you have not yet returned your 2020 Pledge Form to the church office, please, do so without delay. Also, keep current in your payments. Stewardship pledge should be at least one quarter paid as of April. To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Read on below and check out the link listed. It is a symbolic profession of faith when we all work together and helps our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you.

During this difficult situation and time of separation, we are working hard to make sure you can stay connected to your church. Services are being streamed. Bible studies and youth groups are being held on Zoom. And now, you can support the church from your home! Click the following link to access the Cathedral's online giving page. Make sure you select what type of donation you want to make and if you'd like to cover our processing fees. You also have the ability to enter your stewardship number (listed on your stewardship envelopes) which would help our office a ton!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

TIMELY REPENTANCE: A rabbi was teaching his students a lesson on preparing for death and on repentance. One of the students asked, “Rabbi, when should a man repent?” The rabbi responded, “Repent a day before your death.” His students were confused. “How can a man know the day of his death?” they asked. His answer: “He cannot, and since he may die tomorrow, it is all the more necessary for him to repent today.”

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS RELEASE: The Archdiocese of America has announced the cancellation of Patriarch Bartholomew’s trip to the United States, the cancellation of the Ionian Village 2020 Summer Program, as well as the postponement of the 2020 Clergy-Laity Congress that was to be held in Cleveland, OH this July.

THE SATURDAY OF LAZARUS allows the faithful to begin their final journey with Christ in the last days of our Lord’s life. On Saturday, April 11th, the Church commemorates the greatest of our Lord’s miracles, the resurrection of Lazarus who had been dead for four days. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our church will still be closed to the public. We will be live streaming the Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Lazarus from our Cathedral on this day, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Let us all make that special effort to watch the Divine Liturgy on this day and participate as best we can. This will help us prepare and understand the passion of Holy Week and the anticipation of the Lord’s Resurrection.

MARY OF EGYPT: A MODEL FOR REPENTANCE: St. Mary of Egypt, remembered by the Orthodox Church on the 5th Sunday of the Great Feast, is a shining example of repentance. Great were her sins, but even greater was her desire to make amends for her wicked ways. She was born into a wealthy family in Alexandria. Blessed with amazing beauty, Mary had no time or place for God in her pleasure – driven life. One day, she embarked on a journey to Jerusalem with a group of sailors. Her motivation was by no means spiritual; the trip was viewed by her as a new “opportunity” to live her life as a prostitute.

While walking past the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Mary was moved by curiosity to enter this sacred site. Some invisible force, however, would not allow her to do so. Gazing at an icon of the Theotokos over the door’s entrance Mary suddenly realized how different her life was from the one whose name she carried!

For nearly 50 years after this moving experience, Mary lived alone in the desert beyond the Jordan River. She struggled with her new life, weeping for hours at a time. Finally, Mary found peace with herself and with her God. Near the end of her life, she encountered a monk named Zosimas, who himself was on a Lenten retreat in the wilderness. It is through his writings that the amazing story of Mary of Egypt has been handed down to us.

As we reflect upon the life of Mary of Egypt, may we reflect upon our own life and our own Lenten journey as well! How sincere has our repentance been? Has it been real? Has it been complete? Are we different today than we were when the Great Fast began? While our own story may not be nearly as extreme as hers, hopefully we have all followed Mary’s example of forsaking our sins and returning to the Lord.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT FROM TODAY’S GOSPEL LESSON: When the Apostles James and John approached Christ and requested places of honor in His Kingdom, the Lord replied with these words: **“For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His Life as a ransom for many.”** (Mark 10:45) At the Mystical Supper on Great and Holy Thursday, Jesus put these words into action by washing the feet of His Apostles prior to their final meal together. The washing of feet was a common expression of hospitality in the ancient Middle East. However, slaves and servants normally did it, not by the Master of the house. In performing this humble act, Christ showed His followers what true service really was. In essence, He was teaching them to remember that as His chosen leaders, they must always be willing to serve others.

The profound message in this ultimate act of humility is for us as well. As Orthodox Christians, we, too, are called to serve. It is our sacred duty to show love, kindness, mercy, and charity to all with which we come in contact. In doing so, we are merely imitating the divine example set by our Savior. We must not expect others to reward and honor us. The Lord will take care of that **IF** we have been a true servant to all!

CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK: When you pray do not try to express yourself in fancy words, for often it is the simple repetitious phrases of a little child that our Father in heaven finds most irresistible...One phrase on the lips of the tax collector was enough to win God’s mercy; one humble request made with faith was enough to save the repentant thief.
- St. John Climacus

THOUGHT: Life is progress; look forward to what you shall be rather than back-wards to what you have been.

FINALLY SATISFIED: A person with six children is better satisfied than a person with 10 million dollars. The reason is that the person with the 10 million dollars wants more.