

MOTHER
MARY OF
EGYPT



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF APRIL 14, 2019

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all our visitors! It's good to have you with us!

Holy Week & Pascha Sign-Up Sheet

In the back of the church there are sign-up sheets for helping with the preparations for Holy Week/Pascha as well as the Paschal Meal, following the Midnight Service. All invited!



Flyers for Holy Week and Pascha

Are available in the back of the church. Please take and post them.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH

St. Mary of Egypt

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hr.

MONDAY, APRIL 15TH

7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH

6:00p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

7:00p.m. Matins

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

Lazarus Saturday

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, APRIL 21ST

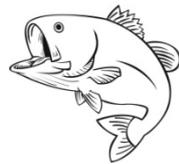
Palm Sunday

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hr.

7:00p.m. Bridegroom Matins



Festive Fish Meal

On Palm Sunday, there will be a traditional Bakaliaro fish dinner offered to all. Please stay and join in the fellowship and food. Thank you to those who are providing the dinner! Want to help? Please see Rdr. George Kaloroumakis.

Holy Unction – Wednesday, April 24th

This Sacrament of the Church (James 5:14), effectual for the healing of soul and body, is made available to all Orthodox Christians during Holy Week as having been humbled by the Fast and having made a good Confession, we are at this time most receptive to the grace of God. If you haven't yet scheduled your Confession, please do so as soon as possible.



Did You Know?

Usually children make their first confession around age 7 or 8. If you have any questions about this, please just ask Fr. John.

Parish Center / Grounds Clean-up Day

Thank you to all who helped - your assistance was greatly appreciated! May the Lord bless you for your labors!



Parking Lot Expansion – Goal Reached!

Appreciation is extended to all who made donations to backfill and grade the areas next to the new parking spaces and exit road. May the Lord bless you for your generosity!



The Hall Refrigerator

Is being replaced by a generous donation. If you are interested in the old one, please see Larry Perrone. May the Lord bless the donors!

Choir Practices for Pascha

Today will be the final of the short choir practices for Holy Week & Pascha. All choir members are asked to please stay.



LAST CHANGE: Presanctified Liturgy!

Wednesday, April 17. Taste and See that the Lord is Good!

Have Something on Your Mind?

Fr. John is available via: 302-537-6055 or frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org.



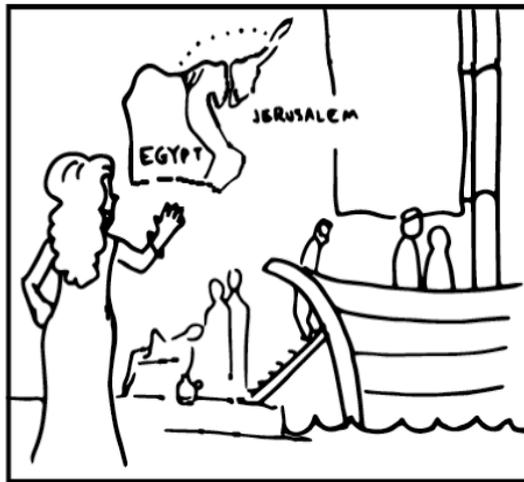
On God's Patient Search

I think that God was seeking my repentance. He did not desire the death of a sinner, but awaited my conversion.

St. Mary of Egypt (5th Century)

+	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 3/31	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 3/31	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	26,537	1,639	28,176	6,935	200	6,935	EARMARKED	13,719	4/14	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones
EXPENSE	27,783	9,261	37,044	800	0	800	SAVINGS	12,000	4/21	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
NET	-1,246	-7,622	-8,868	+6,135	+200	+6,335	BUILDING	5,000	4/28	Megan Wilkinson
									5/5	Rdr. George Kaloroumakis

∞
**THE LIFE OF
 ST.
 MARY
 OF
 EGYPT**
 ∞
 manymercies.blogspot.com



MARY WAS FROM EGYPT, AND SHE LIVED A LIFE OF SHAME. ONE DAY SHE GOT ON A BOAT TO GO TO JERUSALEM.

SHE WANTED TO GO IN THE CHURCH TO SEE THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS...



...BUT SHE COULDN'T GO IN! SHE SAW AN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND WEPT FOR ALL HER SINS.

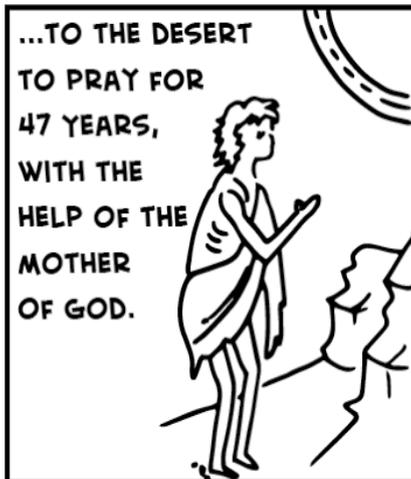
SHE HEARD A VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS...



∞
"Cross the Jordan to find glorious rest."
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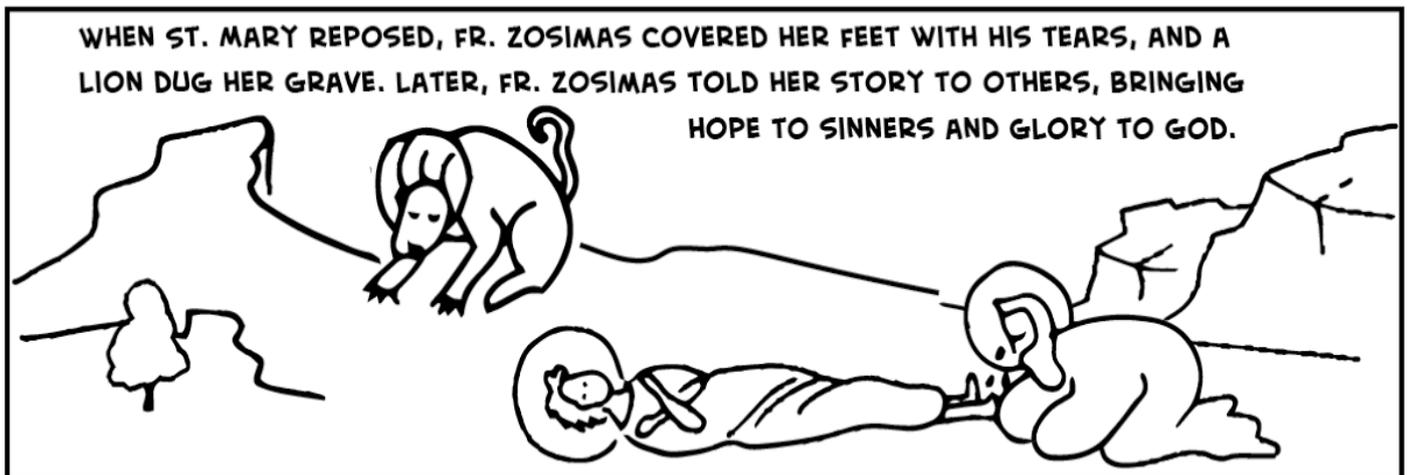
...SO SHE WENT ACROSS THE JORDAN...



...TO THE DESERT TO PRAY FOR 47 YEARS, WITH THE HELP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD.



SHE MET FR. ZOSIMAS IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION SHE WALKED ACROSS THE JORDAN AS ON DRY LAND.



WHEN ST. MARY REPOSED, FR. ZOSIMAS COVERED HER FEET WITH HIS TEARS, AND A LION DUG HER GRAVE. LATER, FR. ZOSIMAS TOLD HER STORY TO OTHERS, BRINGING HOPE TO SINNERS AND GLORY TO GOD.

HOLY ST. MARY OF EGYPT, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!



DAILY OBSERVANCES OF THE FAITHFUL DURING HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday concludes Great Lent. This celebration remembers Christ's raising of Lazarus from the dead and the promise of universal resurrection for all. Lazarus Saturday provides a bridge to Holy Week during which the Church services remember Christ's last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.

In the Orthodox Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week. Each day is designated in the service books as "great and holy." There are special services every day of the week which are fulfilled in all churches. Earthly life ceases for the faithful as they "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem".

LAZARUS SATURDAY, THE DAY BEFORE PALM SUNDAY

Services: Friday @ 7:00pm and Saturday @ 9:00am

On this day the rising from the dead of St. Lazarus, the righteous friend of Christ, is celebrated. Holy Week begins with the phrase: "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany", John 12:1. His arrival coincided with the Jewish Passover. It started on the 15th of the month of Nisan in commemoration of the freeing of the Hebrew people under the leadership of Moses, from the slavery of the Egyptians by the miraculous act of God. The Church relates preparation and redemption to the events of this week.

Six days before the Passover a feast was given for Christ in Bethany of Judea where Christ had stopped on His way to Jerusalem. Lazarus, His friend, and his sisters were present. A short time earlier Christ had risen Lazarus from the dead, thereby gaining the respect and faith of the people, but also the hatred of the fanatics. The Church names this day the "Saturday of Lazarus" in remembrance of the resurrection of Lazarus and its promise of universal resurrection for all men. The Church connects this celebration, by anticipation, with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem: "We carry the Symbols of victory and cry Hosanna in the highest".

The readings are Hebrews 12:28-13:8 and John 11:1-45.



PALM SUNDAY

Services: Saturday @ 6:00pm and Sunday @ 9:00am

Palm Sunday celebrates the glorious and brilliant feast of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Zechariah had prophesied the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem, saying: "Rejoice greatly ... O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King comes unto Thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass", Zech. 9:9. The contemporary Jews associated this prophecy with the expected Messiah. This action of Christ testifies to His nature as Savior, but with the definite declaration that His Kingdom: was not of this world. The news that Christ was in Bethany provoked a general enthusiasm of acceptance, but also of indignation among the High Priests, who had decided to kill Christ. The main road leading to Jerusalem was covered with palm trees. The multitudes, with palm branches in their hands, spread their cloaks on the road as a show of respect, crying

out: "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord". All the actions and words of the people and, of Christ had a Messianic meaning readily recognized by the Jews of that time. As usual, Christ went immediately to the Temple, where He prayed and taught. That evening He departed for Bethany.

A custom of distributing branches of palms to the people in the Church prevails to this day, commemorating the victory of Christ against the evil powers.

The Epistle reading is Phil. 4:4-9, and the Gospel reading is John 12:1-18.



WHICH IS BETTER? THE WAY OF MARY OR THE WAY OF MARTHA?

An anonymous Desert Father was questioned about whether it is better to live the solitary life of contemplation and poverty or to devote one's life to helping others and providing material support to the needy. His answer goes to the heart of the debate whether it is better to follow the way of Mary or that of Martha.

The brethren said, "There were two brothers who were the sons of a merchant and their father died and they divided their inheritance between themselves. Unto each one, there came five thousand dinars. One of the brothers divided his inheritance among the churches, and the monasteries, and the poor, and he himself became a monk, and he chose for himself a life of continual silence, and fasting, and prayer. Now the other one built a monastery for himself, and gathered brethren to him, and he took care of the strangers, and the poor, and the sick, whom he received and relieved.

"When the two brothers were dead, there was questioning among the brethren about them, and they went to Abba Pambo and asked him, 'Which manner of life and conduct was the more excellent and exalted?' And having learned from God, he said unto them, 'They were both perfect, and in my sight they appear to be of equal merit.' Explain to us now the old man's words, for how can the man who is destitute, and the man who hath possessions be equal in merit?' The old man said, 'Since the whole life of these brethren was please to God, and since whatsoever they did they did it for God, with an upright aim, and since the aim of each was the same, they appeared to be in the old man's opinion of equal merit before God.'"

A RESPONSE TO THE DIAGNOSIS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

The notable hieromonk Ambrose (formerly priest Alexey Young) was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease*, indicating a loss to our Church. But here is how he wrote about it:

"From a purely spiritual standpoint I want to share with you the insight I believe God gave me from the time of my diagnosis. My greatest and overriding sin—indeed, even vice—has always been pride. Pride of mind, of 'knowing better' and judging others inappropriately, sometimes thinking of them as being less than I am. This is a most grievous sin, and one that many people don't even recognize in themselves, but it is the one sin that will, above all, consign us to hell if we don't overcome it! It was the sin of Satan, the sin of Adam and Eve.

"I understand fully how I got this way. I have throughout my life been inordinately proud of my mind, my intellect, my ability to think clearly about difficult and complicated things, to speak and write well, understand, process, and explain difficult things, etc. Growing up, I wasn't good at sports, I wasn't attractive to the ladies, I couldn't dance, I was an intellectual bookworm and loner, I had no other skill than my brain, and I used it and developed it as far as I possibly could, although actually I wasn't particularly academically brilliant, as all of that just seemed like some kind of superficial 'game' to me. But that was my path in life. And although I have put these gifts to the service of Christ and the Church, as best I could, the pride has still been there.

"Now the Lord has offered me a chance to mortify and humble down that pride, by accepting without complaint the slow crumbling of my mind. And I do accept this, with my whole heart, even if with the occasional tear, as a gift from Him for my salvation. So it sometimes 'feels' as though this dying of various parts of my mind is also a dying of self, a dying of ego, a dying to pride. And isn't that the purpose of spiritual life, after all, anyway? The Lord looked down and saw that I wasn't going to do it any other way, and so, because He loves me very much (unworthy as I am) and wants me to be with Him forever, He offered me this incredible opportunity to die to self. I see this as a great, if sometimes painful, blessing!"

* Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills, and eventually the ability to carry out the simplest tasks.

