

# St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church

*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

**Tone 5 / Eothinon 2**

**Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**

**Commemoration of our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt**

*Saints of the Day: Hieromartyr Januarios, bishop of Benevento & companions; Martyr Alexandra the Queen & companions*

## TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We hope your time with us is healing and worshipful. Please note that, although we have much respect for other Christian traditions, Holy Communion is reserved for properly prepared members of the Orthodox faith. Everyone is invited to partake of the blessed bread after the conclusion of the Liturgy. May God's blessing be upon you!

## **\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great\*\***

### DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES

### BEFORE THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

#### FIRST ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul; blessed art Thou, O Lord.

***Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.***

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. ***(Refrain)***

Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy. ***(Refrain)***

Glory... Both now... ***(Refrain)***

#### SECOND ANTIPHON

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

***Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who rose from the dead; save us who sing to Thee. Alleluia.***

The Lord shall reign forever, Thy God O Zion, from generation to generation. ***(Refrain)***

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son of God...

The Rev. Fr. Peter Cox, Rector

The Very Rev. Fr. Athanasius Wilson, Rector Emeritus

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## DURING THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

**Resurrectional Troparion in Tone 5:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE

- 1. Resurrectional Troparion in Tone 5:** Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.
- 2. Troparion for St Mary of Egypt in Tone 8:** In thee O mother was preserved 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 ignore the flesh, for it passes away, but to care for the soul, which is a thing immortal; and so thy spirit, Oh holy Mary, rejoices with the angels.
- 3. Ordinary Kontakion in Tone 2:** O undisputed intercessor of Christians, O mediatrix who is unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us with aid in time, who cry unto thee in faith; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who didst ever intercede for those who honor thee.

## THE EPISTLE

*Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.  
God is known in Judaea. His Name is great in Israel.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)**

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats 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?

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (10:32-45)**

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and 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 scourge Him, and spit upon 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 would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy 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 at 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 servant 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."

## ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All of creation rejoices in Thee O Full of Grace, the assembly of angels and the race of man, O sanctified Temple and spiritual Paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child, our God before the ages; He made Thy body into a throne, and He made Thy womb more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in Thee, O Full of Grace! Glory to Thee.

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## UPCOMING AT ST MARY OF EGYPT

**Food For Hungry People:** This year during Lent we will be raising money for the 50<sup>th</sup> annual Archdiocesan Food For Hungry People & Charitable Outreach drive. There are boxes available in the Narthex for everyone to take home and put their spare change and savings gained from fasting into as alms for this very worthy program, to be turned in at or immediately after Pascha. Once collected, the parish will be sending one check to the Archdiocese in the amount collected. Please turn in any monies collected no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Lenten Vespers:** This evening, we will be hosting the final Lenten Vespers of this year. We need many people to help with setting up the dinner afterwards, assisting with parking, and with the cleaning up afterwards. Please speak with Amal Hanania or Bobbi Cornelius if you want to assist with this event.

**Lenten Services:** Throughout Great Lent, we will be having extra services on weekday evenings to strengthen and encourage us in the endeavor of the Fast. This Tuesday, we will have the final Great Compline, on Wednesday evening we will celebrate the last Presanctified Liturgy of this year, and on Friday evening we will have Little Compline with the Canon of the Raising of Lazarus. All services will be at 6 PM. We will also be having Lenten pitch-ins every Wednesday after Presanctified Liturgy.

**Parish Patronal Feast:** Today, we are celebrating our parish feast day, so if you can attend this special occasion, please make your best effort to attend. As it is our parish feast day, fasting is relaxed and fish is allowed.

**Bishop Anthony Visit:** Coming up on Holy Monday, April 29, our father in Christ, Bishop Anthony, will be visiting us for Bridegroom Matins which is at 6 in the evening. Please make plans to be in attendance so we can show him how much we have grown recently and the need for us to find a new location. There will be a light Lenten meal afterwards and perhaps (depending on his stamina) a Q&A session with Sayedna Anthony.

**Parish Workday:** This coming Saturday, April 27, we will be having a Parish workday to deep clean and beautify the church in preparation for Bishop Anthony's visit, Holy Week and Pascha. We will start at about 12:30 in the afternoon, after Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, and go until about 4 PM. There will be lunch served before we get started.

**Confession:** Now that we are in Great Lent, we all need to go to Confession. Fr Peter is available before or after any of the services for this (except for after Sunday or Presanctified Liturgy) so please let him know when you want to do this. Confessions need to be done prior to the beginning of Holy Week, and as this is coming up next week, it is important to get this done if you have not already. As a reminder to us all, the archdiocese strongly recommends that all Orthodox Christians should partake in the Mystery of Confession at least four times a year.

**Coffee Hour:** Coffee hour is our time of fellowship after the Liturgy. Parents, please, in the interest of maintaining sanitation, take care of your children's plates. We are now scheduling who helps with coffee hour by last name. This week, the families in charge of coffee hour are those in group C, led by Amal Hanania. Next week, the families will be those in group D, led by Carrie Ventura.

**Pascha Pitch-In:** On Pascha night and after Agape Vespers the next afternoon, we traditionally have pitch-in feasts to celebrate the joyous occasion of our Savior's Life-giving Resurrection. There will be a sign-up sheet posted for everyone to sign up for what you want to bring and provide for this, the Feast of Feasts. Also, if you so desire to put one together, Father will be blessing Pascha baskets that typically contain meats, cheeses, eggs, and wine at the end of the Liturgy Sunday morning.

**Adult Classes:** Sunday Bible Study will be after coffee hour today. Tuesday evenings at 7 there is an adult education class that is open to anyone to attend, whether a member of the parish, a catechumen, or even if you're just curious. Please just give Sdn Mark a heads-up that you're coming at [mecteacher@aol.com](mailto:mecteacher@aol.com) so he can have materials prepared. The regular Monday evening class is on break until after Pascha. If you are interested in joining the book study, please speak with either Sdn Mark or Patrick Harry.

**Sunday School:** Sunday School for our parish children is as follows: the younger class (ages 3-6) will leave with Ms. Duncan after Communion, while the older class (ages 7-13) will meet with Mrs. Cornelius during coffee hour. Please allow the children and their teachers to go first for communion so to allow them the most time possible in class.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Community Dinner:** Our next community meal will be on May 10, which is the second Friday, as the first Friday is Holy Friday. The menu is still to be determined. Anyone willing to assist with this or future meals, please contact Amal at (317)445-3508 with your availability.

**Blessing Box:** We continue to be grateful for everyone who assists us with the blessing box pantry. **The most pressing needs currently are chicken ramen, dry pasta, canned meats, mac & cheese, helper meals, canned pastas, pasta sauce, dry rice or beans, canned soup, granola bars, pop tarts, cereal, peanut butter, rice or noodle sides, and toothbrush kits.** Please remember those in need as you do your grocery shopping, as this is one of our (to date, very successful) projects for our community at large. If you are very busy and cannot get food to donate, there is a basket in the narthex where you can give money earmarked for this ministry of our parish.

**Horizon House:** We are pausing the collection of clothes and other items for the homeless until after Pascha.

### **Parish Prayer Requests**

**LIVING:** Archpriest Athanasius, Sdn Mark; Sdn Alexander & Ekaterina (5/20); Thomas; Thomas & Connie; Dylan (4/28); Robert & Bonnie; Larry & Tanya; Amber; Natalia; Chrissy (5/2); John (5/10); Kathy (5/16); Zegeye (5/16); Maya (5/16); Elena (5/20); Victor & Denise

**DEPARTED:** The victims of the terrorist attack in Moscow (5/4): Ellen (5/22)

*Please notify Charles of any new prayer requests by Wednesday for inclusion in the bulletin*

### **SYNAXARION** **(from Antiochian.org)**

On April 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Januarios, bishop of Benevento, and his companions, and the Martyr Alexandra the Queen and her companions.

On this same day, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

#### *Verses*

*Spirit rose up, flesh melted away erewhile; hide,  
O earth, the worn bones of Mary's body.*

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!" Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary's lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom. Through her intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen