

The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul

March 18, 2018



Saints Peter & Paul UOC
8410 West 131st St.
Palos Park, IL 60464
Rev. Vasyl Sendeha — Rector
www.sspeterandpauluoc.net
Rev.vasyl@yahoo.com
708-361-5165

St. Mary of Egypt

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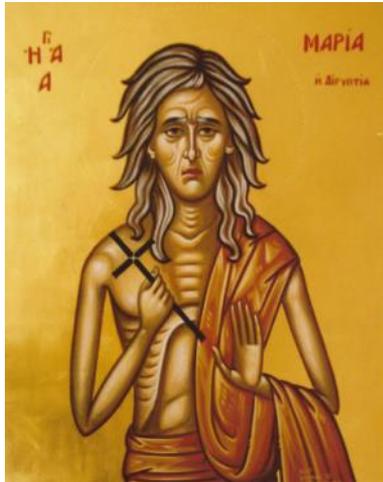
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*"O Lord, open
Thou my lips.
and my mouth
shall show
forth Thy
praise"*

Today, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, is for the Orthodox Church the Sunday of Saint Mary of

Egypt - she whose story has been called "an icon in words of the theological truth of repentance" (Sr. Benedicta Ward). We have heard this story many times. It is a simple one: the sinful woman becomes the penitent, and the least worthy is revealed as God's chosen treasure. It offers us familiar words about the power of faith, and familiar inspiration in the heroic actions of St. Mary herself. But it is, above all, a disturbing story. In the end, it haunts me far more often than it comforts me. Today, I would like to explore where the heart of this story lies, and

why it is given to us especially to remember it on the Fifth Sunday of Lent each year.

The story of Mary of Egypt as it is written for the church is really three separate stories: The story of Mary's life, the story of the priest Zosimas, and the story of their experience together. Without doubt, the action and thrills come in Mary's story, which she tells to Zosimas when he finds her wandering in the desert. She had been a wanton harlot from her youth, not for money, she told Zosimas solemnly, but "out of insatiable desire". One day she saw the crowds of pilgrims preparing to go to Jerusalem, to celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. It sounded like fun. She went along, announcing to her fellow-travellers, "I have a body and that will serve as both fare and food for me". The trip was an eventful one, as Mary explored the outer limits of lust and passion with her companions (both those who were willing and those who were not, she added.)

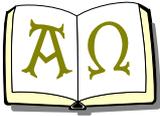
In Jerusalem, when the day of the Feast came round, Mary too set off for the church, drawn by the energy of the crowds thronging to venerate the True Cross. But something happened. At the doors of the church, at its very threshold, Mary was driven back "by some kind of force". Trying as she might, she could not enter, although those around her went in with no difficulty at all. Then she understood: it was her own self that prevented her entrance, the sinfulness of her life that held her captive outside the church. Praying fervently to the Virgin Mary, with her heart open and clear, Mary begged forgiveness and again sought entry at the church. She remembered it like this, "A great terror and stupor came over me, and I trembled all over, but when I came to the door which until then had been closed to me, it was as if all the force that had previously prevented me from entering now allowed me to go in. So I was admitted without hindrance, and went into the holy of holies and I was found worthy to worship the mystery of the precious and life-giving Wood of the Cross. Thus, I understood the promises of God and realized how God receives those who repent.

Guided then by a vision of the Theotokos, Mary left at once for the desert beyond the Jordan river, for there, her vision told her, she would find rest. On the way, she stopped at a church built on the river banks; there she washed herself in the Jordan, receiving thus her baptism, and partook of the Eucharist in that church, all the while utterly alone. From there, she came to the desert, led still by the vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her new life was

Liturgical Schedule

Today

Fourth Sunday of the Great Lent. Tone eight.
Great Lent. Food with Oil Venerable John
Lestvichnik. Martyr Conon of Isauria (2nd c.). St.
Nicholas (Velimirovich), bishop of Ochrid and
Zhicha, Serbia (1956) (Serbia). Martyr Conon the
Gardener of Pamphylia (251). Virgin-martyr Irais
(Rhais) of Antinoe in Egypt (3rd c.) and with her
Martyr Archelaus and 152 Martyrs in Egypt. Sts.
Basil (1249) and Constantine (1257), princes of
Yaroslavl.



Hebrews 6:13-20

Mark 9:17-31

Ephesians 5:9-19 (Venerable John Lestvichnik)

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Venerable John Lestvichnik)

Reader of the Hours - open

Reader of the Eng. Epist.– Ray Fischer

Reader of the Ukr. Epist.– open

Wednesday, March 21

Pan Orthodox Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:00pm at St. Luke Orthodox
Church (OCA) Palos Heights, IL

Friday, March 23

Akathist to the Mother of God at
6:30pm

Saturday, March 24

Vespers & Confessions at 5:00pm

Sunday
March 25

Fifth Sunday of the Great Lent. Tone one.
Great Lent. Food with Oil Venerable Mary of
Egypt Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of
Sigriane (818). St. Alexander confessor priest
(1933). Righteous Phineas, grandson of Aaron
(1500 B.C.). St. Gregory the Dialogist, pope of
Rome (604).



Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 10:32-45

Galatians 3:23-29 (Venerable Mary)

Luke 7:36-50 (Venerable Mary)

Reader of the Hours - open

Reader of the Eng. Epist.– open

Reader of the Ukr. Epist.– Halyna Kashpar

begun.

A powerful story, indeed! here was a woman of true courage, a woman who had the courage to know herself. She lived life with a perfect freedom and a perfect love that few of us could match. Prior to her conversion, she embraced life with her whole heart, with her whole body, with her whole self - with the sheer power of her love for life (not for money, she had said, but for the love of it). Once an early bishop of the church had seen such a harlot in Antioch, and had lamented to his priests, "if only we would adorn our souls for the Lord with half the care this woman has shown in adorning herself for Satan!" (Bp. Nonnos, from the Life of Pelagia). Mary knew herself and understood herself in all of this, again in a way that few of us could match. Hers was a life of total honesty, in the sense of that old adage, "to thine own self be true." It was in fact her very honesty that brought her to her conversion.

At the doors of the church, Mary had hesitated - the first time in her life she had ever hesitated before doing exactly what she desired. At that moment, her honesty enabled her to see beyond herself. And there, beyond herself, she found God. Her conversion was immediate; but so, too, was the grace that answers genuine repentance. For in that single moment on the steps of the church, Mary was both changed in herself, and found worthy in the eyes of the Lord. Her response was entirely in character: with perfect freedom and perfect love, Mary turned the whole of herself to God - her heart, her body, her very life. With the huge courage that had once enabled her to lead her life of sin with clear self-understanding, she now lived her life in the presence of God. The desert became her home, the place where she found her rest. Her conversion and turn to the life of solitude were unknown to any other living being, until after forty-eight years the priest Zosimas came and found her.

Church Humor

A police man pulls 3 nuns driving in a car at about 20 miles an hour. So he pulls them over and lets the traffic get by. He then asks them "Do you know the speed limit." They answer, "Yes" and they point towards the 22 freeway sign and say

"We were going 22 miles per hour. The policeman shakes his head and says, "No, that's the freeway sign... the speed limit sign is over there." And with that he points to the correct MPH sign.

"Ohhh..." said all of the nuns until the nun in the back starts cracking up.

"What's wrong" asks the police man...

The nun replies, "Well, you should have seen us yesterday on the 135!"

Parish Council

Parish Council meeting is every third Sunday of the Month.
Next meeting is TODAY after the Coffee Hour.
Representatives from parish organizations must be present.

Festival 2018

The spring is almost here and the prep work for the Festival 2018 is starting. Sunday March 18, after Divine Liturgy is the **meeting of the Festival Committee**. The chairs of the Festival Stations are asked to attend. If you are interested in helping out, join in.

Sisterhood of St. Anne

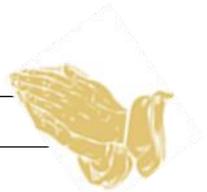


We are in a great need of volunteers!!!
If we do not have enough help we would have to cease our operation!!!

We need your Help!

Pierogy working days are:

Sunday Mar 25—make cheese balls
Monday Mar 26- 8:00am—Noon
Tuesday Mar 27- 8:00am—Noon
Wednesday Mar 28 - 8:00am—Noon
Thursday Mar 29 sale Noon— 4:00pm
Every Little bit Helps!
If you can come for one hour or two
Your Help Will be greatly appreciated!



Prayer Corner for the Month of March

We ask all of you to remember in your prayers the following individuals, who are in need of God's healing and grace: Loraine Ehlert, Alla Grzynski, Margaret, Eleanor, Ethel Smith, Michael P, Stephanie Luchyn, Catherine Hladky, Andrew Hladky, Wally and Ann Podlecki, Valentina Schacht, Susan Hendrixson, Rayan, Dean Manson, Vera Beggs, Pavlo & Polina, Barbara Patronik, Elias, Roxana, Irene, Katheryna Czerniak, Lilian Cepynsky, Josephine Hobert, Anthony Bendy, Katie Bruce, Maria Omelian, Patti Faye, Toni Marie Klavin, Hazel Gardiner, Michael Kimak, Chloe Mckinney, Yuriy Zmysly, Paul Jr & Dorothy Seliga, Wolodymer Kashpar, Nick Kapusta, Priest Vasyl Dovhan, Priest Bazil Zaveruha, Priest David Clooney, Frankie, Zachary, Orest, Alexander, Paul, Dolores.

Eternal Light



In memory of Olga Beck by Tony Beck & Susan Ziegler
— \$100.00

Seven Day Vigil Candles



For the health of Victoria
For the health of our mother Eleanor by Masur Family
For the health of our children Markian, Alec & Hanna
by Masur Family
For the health of Orest S. by Julius Machnikowski
For the health of Andriy, Volodimer, Uliana, Nadia, Constan-
tin by Jim
For the health of Volodimer
For the health of my ill parents Polina & Pavlo in Ukraine
by Halyna Kashpar
For the health and quick recovery of Maria Omelian
by Fr. Vasyl

In memory of newly reposed in the Lord sister Na-
talia in Kazakhstan by sister Tamara
In memory of newly reposed friend Natalia by
Kashpar Family
In memory of Boris, Evhenia, Ulia, Maria & Yaro-
slav by Jim
In memory of father and father in law Ivan by Kashpar Family
Michael Cheroim and His Family in loving memory of his sis-
ter Alexandra Pawlenko
In memory of Lubomyr Cepynsky by his Wife Lillian Cepyn-
sky
In memory of Boris, Evhenia, Julia, Maria and Jaroslva by
Lilia Melnik



Remember Our Shut-ins

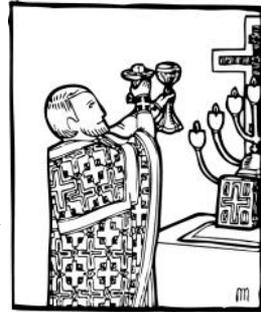
Vera Beggs, Josephine Hobert, John Spivak, Stephanie Luchyn,
Gerald Nemeth, Tony Zerebny. *If you or someone that you know
is admitted to the hospital, nursing home or is in need of pastoral
care, please let me know. Fr. Vasyl*

Donations in honor

In honor of Noreen Neswick's 85th Birthday
 Many blessed years in health, happiness!
 Jim & Donna Nevels — \$50.00

Pan Orthodox Pre-Sanctified Liturgies

The Orthodox churches of the Palos area will come together to celebrate the Presanctified Liturgies of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays of Lent at 7:00pm. Each parish will take turns to welcome local Orthodox clergy and laity and provide a Lenten potluck dinner after the Liturgy. Also, a brief Lenten reflection will be offered by one of our priests. Please mark your calendars.



THIS Wednesday, March 21st at 7:00 pm
 St. Luke Orthodox Church (OCA)
 10700 S. Kean Ave
 Palos Hills, IL 60465
 Reflection by Fr. Vasyl Sendeha

Pan-Orthodox Akathist to the Mother of God
Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm
 St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
 6330 W. 127th St. Palos Heights, IL 60463

Monthly Memorial Panahyda

Today: In memory of my Mom, +Helen Wolsko on the third anniversary of her passing into eternity and my Dad, +Peter, on the 40th anniversary of his passing into eternity. Requested by Pat Wolsko.



In memory of my father, Wasyl Wanshula on the anniversary of his passing into eternity by Liliana Roviario

Coffee Hour Schedule



We kindly remind to provide and set aside snacks/food/ drinks for our children who attend Sunday School.

Today -- Larson, Pierog and Zmysly families (Lenten)

March 25 -- *Open volunteers needed (Lenten)*

April 1 -- PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH – UOL

April 8 -- PASCHA – coffee only

April 15 -- St. Thomas Sunday LAMB & CHICKEN ROAST

April 22 -- Mary Lamantia and Maria Iordanov

April 29 -- Janet / John Beck and Pat /Mike Beck

If you would like to volunteer for the Coffee Hour or need to change your scheduled date, please see Dr. Harry Oryhon call 708-301-5565 or email harrymolars@aol.com

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Know your community's Lenten options

Local business-owner, Feda, of "Simple Taste" serves mouth-watering, homemade Mediterranean Cuisine with several options to observe a healthy and true Lent.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox parishioners can Show This Coupon** when dining in, at "Simple Taste", during Lent, for **FREE FALAFELS!

Hours: 7 days/week; 10am-10pm

Location: 12246 S. Harlem Avenue, Palos Heights, IL 60463

To name a few delicious dishes:

~Baba Ghanoush (eggplant garlic tahini)

~Fresh Hummus and Pita Bread

~Quinoa pilaf, freekah pilaf, basmati rice

~Salmon, Tilapia, Sea bass, & Shrimp

~Grape Leaves

~Many flavorful and filling salad entrees

~Vegetarian Plates & Kabobs

~Lentil soup