



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Apr. 1

Akathistos Saturday

Readings: Heb. 9:24-28; Mk: 8:27-31

9:30 A. M. - 4:00 P. M. Workshop "Christ our Pascha" (Ambridge)

6:30 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Apr. 2

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast/St. Mary of Egypt, venerable

Readings: Heb. 9:11-14; Mk: 10:32-45

9:10 A.M. Third Hour;

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for **+Philip Perkun, 11th anniv. of death (by wife Maria)**

Thursday, Apr. 6

Death of Methodius Apostle to the Slavs

Readings: Gen. 46:1-7; Prov. 23:15-24

7:00 P. M. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (McKees Rocks)

Saturday, Apr. 8

Lazarus Saturday

Readings: Heb. 9:24-28; Mk: 8:27-31

Paska Bread Baking

5:00 P. M. No Great Vespers

6:30 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, Apr. 9

Palm Sunday

Readings: Heb. 9:11-14; Mk: 10:32-45

9:10 A.M. Third Hour/Confession

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of Palms /Myrovanya

Supplications will be offered for **+Helen (Bielyk) Petrushka (by Michael Petruska)**

What should I have in my Easter-Pascha Basket?

Paska- The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

Ham- This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

Sausage- A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

Cheese- Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

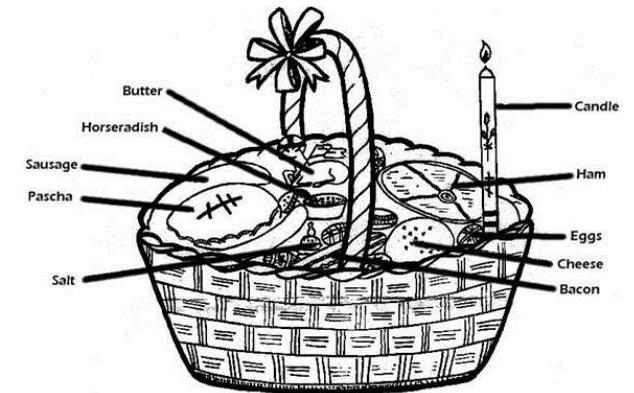
Eggs/Pysanky- Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

Horseradish- A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

Butter- Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which made the symbolism even stronger.

Salt- A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

If your family has never taken a Pascha basket to be blessed, the above Easter-Pascha basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!



Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast- Mary of Egypt



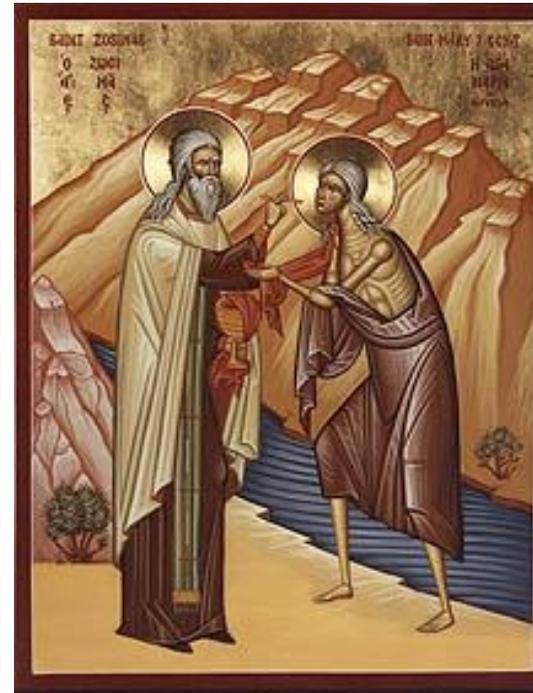
Every year on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast we remember our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. She is known in our Holy Church as the “Penitent Saint” and her story of life has been called “an icon in words of the theological truth of repentance”. As part of our Lenten journey, Saint Mary of Egypt can teach us something very great. As our venerable father Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation, lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but our response is not. But Mary of Egypt responded; through the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness and sanctity of the Mother

of God, and nothing, nothing was too much for her to change her life.

This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is the Great Fast-Lent. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. And today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: “Be sure that God Who could heal the leprous could heal the leprosy which is yours.”

Her example of repentance should be an inspiration to all of us. We have a wonderful opportunity through the sacramental mystery of Penance to obtain forgiveness. The same Jesus who cured the leper with a touch and forgave sins with a word now uses a priest as His instrument to heal and forgive, to teach and console, to correct and encourage. As we near the final days of Lent, the Church gives us the example of Mary of Egypt so that we might not lose hope and to teach us that no sin is too great to be forgiven.

In Scripture we read: “though your sins be red as scarlet, I shall make them white as snow.” We still have time to make a good confession...May the example of Saint Mary of Egypt draw attention to our own need for repentance so that we, too, nourished by Holy Communion, may rededicate our lives to the service of God.



April 2, 2017

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast;
Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt;
Our Venerable Father Titus the
Wonderworker; Passing into Eternal
Life (1959) of Blessed Mykola
(Nicholas) Charnetsky, Exarch of
Volhynia and Confessor
Octoechos Tone 5;

Changeable Part: ***Pages 16-17 in the Booklet of
Changeable Parts (Small white book)***

Announcements:

Thank You dear friends Sincere thanks to all who participated last Sunday in Divine Liturgy and reception on the occasion of my 10th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Heartfelt thanks George parishioners, to our Chant Group for leading the congregation in singing our beautiful Liturgical hymns to our all altar servers for a great help during service. Sincere thanks to our St. John parishioners, kitchen workers who prepared a wonderful reception for all, those who decorated hall. From the bottom of my heart thank you for all gifts and good wishes. May Our Lord reward you all with many happy and blessed years!
Многая Лита! Fr. Ihor, pastor

Today: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

As we continue our Lenten journey we focus on this Sunday on the life of our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. The example of this “Penitent Saint” tells us that it is never too late in life - or in Lent - to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to Him, but their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

Next Sunday: Order of Confession

As part of our preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection – Pascha, we will welcome next Sunday Fr. Walter Wysochansky, retired priest of our Eparchy, who will be here to administer the Sacrament of Confession. If you have not availed yourself of this life-giving Sacrament, please be sure to do so next Sunday as we will celebrate the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem.

Easter Bread-Paska

On Saturday, April 8th, we will prepare Easter Bread (Paska) in our Church hall. The price per a loaf is \$10.00. In the Church vestibule we have a sign-up sheet for placing your orders. I ask you to write down your name and amount of Paska Bread (plain or raisin) you wish to order. You may pick-up your order on Palm Sunday, April 9st, following the Divine Liturgy.

St George Easter Kielbasy Sale – This Year it will be local Kielbasy .

We are asking that parishioners buy kiellbasy for their own use and also sell some of this fine product to friends, neighbors, and colleagues. The price is \$5.00 per pound and order forms are available in the Church vestibule for placing orders. You must place your order in advance in order to purchase this kolbasa. Payment must accompany your order.

The kolbasa will be available for pickup on Sunday, April 9th (Palm Sunday) after the Divine Liturgy. Thanks to all our parishioners for the continued support of this important parish fundraiser.

A Lenten Mission will take place at Sts. Peter & Paul (Ambridge) Mon., April 3, Tues., April 4, and Wed., April 5 from 6:30-7:30pm. Guest speaker is Fr. Joseph Freedy, S.T.L. (Vocations Director for the Diocese of Pgh). Confessions will be available each day at 6pm and after the presentation.

Pyrohy Production During this Lenten Season we are very-very busy with our pyrohy production. Help is very much needed on Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. with scooping and again on Thursday morning starting at 7:00 a.m. we will need your help with the production itself. Please come and give us a hand during the Great Fast with this important parish fundraiser. **Our profit from last week: \$941.00**

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday of March 26, 2017 was **\$1,912.00**

(Collection: \$828.00, Loose & candles: \$80.00, Pyrohy: \$941.00, Soup sale: \$63.00)

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!

****During this week and Holy Week the Mystery-Sacrament of Holy Confession is available before and after each Divine Service or you may contact the parish office to arrange an appointment.***

Let us remember that Holy Confession is a spiritual cleansing and an inventory of our posture before Almighty God. As we prepare to celebrate Pascha let us all experience that liberating feeling that our sins are forgiven.

Help needed: Easter Bread-Paska

It has been a wonderful tradition at St. George's to prepare our delicious Easter Bread-Paska. We wish to preserve this wonderful tradition but this year we are very much in need of your help. We have enough bakers but really need volunteers which will help to clean after.

I ask that you please offer your time next **Saturday, April 8th**, afternoon to continue this wonderful tradition of making Paska Bread.

Please remember that the making of Easter bread-Paska depends on YOU! ONLY if we have enough workers can we continue this St. George's tradition. Thank you!

Our Svyachene-Easter Dinner

This year our Svyachene-Easter Dinner will take place on Sunday, April 23rd, starting at 11:00 a.m. As part of this celebration the children of our Church school will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the parish grounds. We will also have a raffle of different gift baskets and prizes. We also ask you to consider making a donation for the Chinese auction. Tickets for this Easter Dinner are \$10.00 per adult, children (12 and younger) \$5.00. You can obtain tickets for this event before and after the Divine Liturgy in our Church vestibule from our usual ticket sellers.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this happy event.



Daily Observance of the faithful during Holy Week

Lazarus Saturday (this year on April 8th) concludes the Great Fast-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 Eastern 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". (Mark 10:32)

