



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, April 5

Akathistos Saturday

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

4:00 P.M. NO SERVICE

Sunday, April 6

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

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

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for soldier +**Volodymyr Tymiak**, given by sister **Natalia Tymiak**

Supplications will be offered for +**Ivan & Eva Salo**, given by **Andrew Salo**

Thursday, April 10

St. Terence and Others

Readings: Gen. 46:1-7; Prov. 23:15-24:5

6:30 P. M. Adult religious class

Saturday, April 12

Lazarus Saturday

Readings: Phil. 4:4-9; Jn. 12:1-18

4:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (McKees Rocks)

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday of the Great Fast

Readings: Phil. 4:4-9; Jn. 12:1-18

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for +**Philip Perkun & Larry Merritt**, given by **Perkun family**

Supplications will be offered for +**John Pyptyk**, given by **family**



The other 10 disciples were angry with James and John for what they had asked Jesus. What was Jesus' answer?

Write all the number 1 letters in order on the lines below.

Then write all the number 2 letters in order, then the number 3 letters and so on.

T	N	A	O	O	O	C	M	S	T	E
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
T	I	F	S	H	T	O	B	E	A	R
4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
E	Y	T	M	L	H	M	E	O	A	Y
3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
T	N	V	R	O	G	E	I	G	T	B
2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
G	R	O	E	H	A	T	E	T	N	H
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
N	O	T	O	P	R	T	S	R	L	H
4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
E	E	E	E	F	P	F	S	O	A	T
3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1
E	R	R	I	P	W	E	S	L	H	D
2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

• T

He was not going to become a conventional political ruler who would satisfy their desires for earthly glory with victory over the Roman Empire. As today's gospel reading shows, even as the Savior predicted His Passion, the disciples James and John were jockeying for position by asking for places of prominence when He came into power. They had no idea what they were asking, of course, for the path to our Lord's Kingdom requires taking up our crosses in union with His great Self-Offering. Doing so has nothing to do with gaining power in the world, but requires persistent, humble obedience whereby we open ourselves to receive the healing divine mercy of the Lord. Through the struggle of reorienting ourselves to the blessedness of a Kingdom not of this world, we will learn not to entrust our hearts to the false gods of this world, but will instead gain the strength to manifest Christ's selfless love for our neighbors. "For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

The weeks of Lent teach us that prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other spiritual disciplines are not tools to help us achieve an earthly goal. Instead, they are simply ways of offering our lives to the Lord for Him to do with as is best according to His love for us. Our great difficulty in embracing them reveals how far we are from fulfilling our calling to become like God in holiness. To recognize that truth and still persist in repentance will inevitably require suffering because we must then embrace the inevitable tension between the current sick state of our souls and the divine blessedness that is our calling. Such suffering is not a punishment, but a natural consequence of enduring the struggle to accept personally our restoration through Christ as His beloved sons and daughters, as His beautiful living icons.

Thanks be to God, St. Mary of Egypt did not allow the hurt pride called shame to keep her from facing the truth about her spiritual state or from taking up her cross in the way that was necessary for her salvation. She did not accept the lie that she simply needed to accept and act on her inclinations in order to be true to herself. Neither did she try to distract herself from them by serving the vain illusions of earthly kingdoms. Instead, she had the humble courage to entrust herself fully to the ministry of the "High Priest of the good things to come...[Who] through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption." Her example shows that absolutely nothing we have done, said, or thought makes it impossible for us to find the healing of our souls through Him. St. Mary of Egypt is a shining example of hope for us all.

We must, however, like her confront truthfully how we have sinned in order to open our hearts to Christ for His healing. We must all do that during this season of Lent in the holy mystery of Confession so that we will gain the spiritual strength and clarity to follow our Lord to His Cross and empty tomb. His own disciples betrayed, denied, and abandoned Him because they wanted a Messiah Who would serve their agendas. As Christ said, "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." Acquiring the spiritual health to serve Him is no small matter and will not happen instantaneously. It has nothing to do with glorifying ourselves or achieving any earthly goal. It does, however, have everything to do with the persistent, humble obedience shown by St. Mary of Egypt. Like her, let us refuse to let anything keep us from confronting our personal brokenness with brutal honesty as we take up our own crosses in faithfulness to the Savior Who offered up Himself on the Cross for the salvation of the world. He alone is our hope and the Victor over death.

Fr. Philip LeMasters is an archpriest of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.



April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Great Fast

Octoechos Tone 5

Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt

Changeable Parts— See the special insert available in the church vestibule.

Announcements:

Today: 5th Sunday of the Great Fast

We celebrate the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast on which we honor our venerable mother, Mary of Egypt. As part of our Lenten journey we focus today on the life of St. Mary of Egypt and realize that it is never too late in life, or in Lent, to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him with sincere repentance.



Today, Pysanky Workshop,
**Sunday, April 6th at 11 AM in
the Church Hall.**

All supplies will be provided.

Lenten Project: support Ukrainian people

During this time of Great Lent, our church is seeking opportunities to serve those in need. We are all witnesses to the devastating war in Ukraine, and many people there require our support. We stand with them because every human life is precious, for which Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross.

Our church has decided to collect medical supplies that can help save lives in Ukraine. We will collect Hemostatic Wound sprays: [BC3 Technologies 2.5oz SEAL Aerosolized Hemostatic Wound Spray – Rapid Bleeding Control - Emergency Preparedness Product - Perfect for Hotels, Emergency Workers, Military & Law Enforcement](#) These items have been specifically requested, and you can purchase them at any time if you would like to contribute to our Easter church project.

The items will be sent to St. George address (3455 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212), and we will ensure they reach those in need. Thank you for your support.

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Barbara Fedora, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla, Dorothy Waslo and Msgr. George Appleyard** (The Willows, 1215 Hulton Rd, Oakmont, PA 15139).

Pyrohy

The total income from our pyrohy sale was **\$2,210.00**. Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work and dedication to this ongoing activity. Please come down and give us a hand with this important fundraiser. Thank you!

Collection- May God bless you...

Total for Sunday, March 30, 2025 was **\$662.75 + \$2,810.00**

(Collection - \$645.00, Loose & candles - \$17.75, Nut Rolls: 600.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church

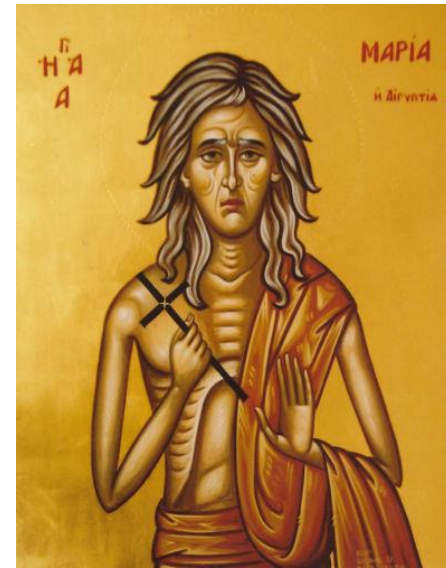


Our Instagram page is official.

Please, check it out and follow - **SaintGeorgeUGCC**

Special thanks to **Victoria Fedora** for developing this page

We hope this will help us to attract more pyrohy customers and maybe even more parishioners



St. Mary of Egypt

Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45

It is easy to fall prey to the temptation of thinking that there is simply no point in trying to reorient our lives toward the Lord because of how profoundly we have weakened and defiled ourselves through sin. Perhaps we—alone among all people—are simply too far gone to find our way home like the prodigal son, we may think. Maybe no amount of repentance would be sufficient for us to receive God's healing mercy. On this last Sunday of Great Lent, the Church calls us to put such foolish and prideful notions out of our minds as we celebrate how our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt became a glorious saint, despite her previously wretched way of life. In her brutally

honest account of her youth, Mary describes how she had from the age of twelve endured the miserable existence of a sex addict. She had refused money for her innumerable encounters with men and said that she "had an insatiable desire and an irrepressible passion for lying in filth. This was life to me. Every kind of abuse of nature I regarded as life." Though we do not know why she left her parents' home at a young age, she may well have been a victim of sexual abuse. She confessed forcing herself on "youths even against their own will" as she sailed to Jerusalem and said that she was actually "hunting for youths" on the streets on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross when she followed the crowds to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

When an invisible force prevented Mary from entering the Church in order to venerate the Cross, her eyes were opened to her wretchedness and she pleaded for the help of the Theotokos in finding salvation. Thus began her almost 50 years of intense ascetical struggle in the desert. By the time Father Zosima stumbled upon her, Mary had become so radiant with holiness that she walked on water, rose above the ground in prayer, was clairvoyant, and knew the Scriptures, even though she had never read them. Pride and self-centeredness had no place in her soul, as she was aware only of her sinfulness and ongoing need for the Lord's mercy. Mary was not focused on achieving any earthly goal, but instead on doing whatever was necessary for her to find healing and restoration as a beloved daughter of the Lord, a living icon of Christ.

We live in an age of superficial religion in which many are more concerned with using their faith to advance earthly agendas of various kinds than with finding the healing of their souls through the difficult journey of persistent repentance. That is not a new problem, for our Lord's disciples betrayed, denied, and abandoned Him because they finally realized that