

## Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

*A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America*

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

860.582.3631 • email: [terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com](mailto:terryvilleorthodoxchurch@gmail.com)

[www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org) • [www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TerryvilleOrthodoxChurch)

## Sunday, April 18, 2021

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Great Lent – Saint Mary of Egypt

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 4. St Mary of Egypt.** Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). Martyrs Victor, Zoticus, Zeno, Acindynus, and Severian, of Nicomedia (303). St. Cosmas, Bishop of Chalcedon, and his fellow ascetic, St. Auxentius (815-820). New Martyr John the New of Epirus (1526). Ven. Evfimii (Euthymius), Enlightener of Karelia; and the Righteous Anthony and Felix.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/04/18>

### Saint Mary of Egypt + + +

Our venerable mother Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of prostitution. She lived during the sixth century, and reposed in a remarkable manner in 522. The Church celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1. Also, she is commemorated on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, the fifth Sunday in Great Lent.

Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve to the city of Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, though she often refused money from the men she had relations with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled, for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church's portico, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos, the Mother of God. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, Mary fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she

overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan. Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery, and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later.

When, a year later, Zosima returned, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature.

Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery. + + +

# PARISH PRAYER LIST

**We pray for all victims of disease, disaster, difficulty, and senseless violence throughout the world, especially in this time of pestilence and civil unrest.**

**+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!***

*First of all, we pray for all the thousands of victims of COVID-19. Memory Eternal!*

## ***Newly Departed***

Mitred Archpriest Basil Summer—acquaintance of the Hopkos	d. 3/26/2021
Archpriest Antonio Perdomo—priest in Texas	d. 4/1/2021
Archpriest Vladimir Lecko—native of Terryville	d. 3/16/2021
Ramona—prayed for at request of Frank G.	d. 3/30/2021
Roger—prayed for at the request of the Hopkos	d. 4/15/2021

## ***Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!***

Gregory Fill	4/18/1918
Gregory Nikolaichik	4/18/1950
Andrew Fedak	4/18/1969
Harry N. Banziruk	4/19/2007
Frank Kiriluk	4/20/1990
Gregory Kaschak	4/21/1927
Leon Gurlowski	4/21/1983
Thomas Raineault	4/21/2002
Sonia Rozyk	4/21/2007
Joseph Naymchik	4/22/1929
Helen Kowaleski	4/22/1979
Richard Kowaleski	4/22/2000
John Bayda	4/23/1954
Anthony Tkach	4/23/1961
Diane Wrettick	4/23/1979
Nadejda Loshoski	4/24/1966
Joanna Pawelchak	4/24/1979

## **THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP**

*First of all, we pray for all those suffering due to the present pestilence which is COVID-19, and those working to alleviate their suffering.*

### ***Persons captive and suffering for the Faith***

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

### ***Those who are sick and suffering***

Archpriest Michael K.—former pastor of our parish; reoccurrence of illness  
Archpriest Peter P.—former pastor in Waterbury; very unwell  
Fyodor (Frank) G.—suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)  
Dolores T.—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment  
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer  
Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin  
Donna—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease  
Dayrl—Ann S.'s niece, Deb W.'s cousin; kidney disease  
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer  
MaryEllen—Louine K.'s daughter-in-law; suffering with Huntington's Disease  
Yelena "Lenna" M.—overcoming, by God's grace, serious health challenges  
Katie and Aubrey—a mother and daughter for whom we have been asked to pray  
Tanya B.—suffering long-term and lingering effects of brain hemorrhage

Mary Lynn—friend of Donna O.; battling breast cancer  
Barbara—friend of Patty N.; unwell and in need of prayerful support  
James B.—husband of a Waterbury parishioner; chronically unwell  
Dorothy F.—Waterbury parishioner; still recovering from a serious surgery  
Rosie D.—ongoing health issues  
Michael "Mike" L.—ongoing health issues  
child George—9-year-old son of a Kenyan Orthodox priest; quite unwell  
Bill M.—has experienced some health issues lately, please keep in prayer  
Paula—friend of Jim L.; struggling with cancer  
Dimitri—brother of Carolyn P.; health issues  
child Hattie—injured in freak accident; request of a family in our parish  
Maryna B.—dealing with some health issues  
Thomas—Patty N.'s nephew; battling cancer  
Wayne—Donna O.'s father  
Sarah—a young woman for whom we have been asked to pray (D.B.)  
Richard—a man struggling with cancer, for whom we have been asked to pray  
Jody—Jacob J.'s father; recovering from significant back surgery  
Sue—acquaintance of the Hopkos; unwell and requiring prayers  
Maria O.—dialysis three times a week; recently injured in fall, now in PA with family  
Joanne—acquaintance of the Hopkos; slow recovery from recent illness  
Stephen—family member of a parishioner; quite ill and in need of prayers  
George K.—our fellow parishioner; unwell at this time  
Lorraine—friend of Joan M.; cancerous blood disease  
Joseph—friend of Jeanne M.; in need of prayers  
Joan—dear and close friend of Carolyn P.; recovering from serious back surgery  
Antonio—brother-in-law of a parishioner; suffering with COVID-19  
Joseph—prayed for at the request of Jeanne M.  
Elaine H.—recovering from hip replacement surgery; our fellow parishioner  
Dianna—Jennifer W.'s mother; suffering some health problems  
Thomas—fighting cancer; father of a friend of the Parish  
Genevieve ("Gen")—prayed for at the request of John K.; facing serious illness  
Jayne—our fellow parishioner; undergoing knee joint replacement surgery

### ***Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities***

Alex—John D.'s brother; suffering permanent effects of stroke  
Dolores—Bob M.'s mother; resident in long-term eldercare

### ***Expectant Mothers***

Katherine and the child to be born of her—Fr. John's nephew's wife and her child

### ***Travelers, Those Soon to be Traveling, and Those Apart from Us***

All those who are traveling, soon to be traveling, or apart from us

### ***Those from among us serving on active duty in the Armed Forces***

Fr. James Parnell, Chaplain (MAJ)—deployed with the CT ARNG  
Joel O.—U.S. Navy; hospital corpsman ("medic")  
Joseph B.—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps  
Joshua P.—husband of a niece of Fr. John's; U.S. Army officer and pilot  
Alexander—relative of Carolyn P.; 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division soldier now home from abroad  
Derek—relative of Carolyn P.; serving in Afghanistan in the U.S. Army  
Ian H.—Fr. David K.'s son-in-law; overseas deployment, U.S. Army

### ***Anniversaries of Marriage***

NONE THIS WEEK

### ***Birthdays***

Alex Wegh

4/18

## **A Prayer of Repentance**

O God, You do not deny Your mercy to the sinners who call upon You. By Your compassion spare us from punishments and the rods of wrath. To praise You for Your mercy, grant us joyful months and prosperous years. By the glorious sign of Your cross guard us from the evil. Lord, may we not be silent from praising you and withdrawn from glorifying You. Lord, do not judge us according to Your righteousness. We confess that we are sinners. If You judge us according to our sins, we cannot hope for eternal life and cannot plead before You and we shall inherit fiery-hell. Therefore, according to Your mercy pardon and forgive our sins. Lord, when You judge us, let our sins not conceal us. When the righteous garb in glory, may we not be naked at the judgment. We confess that we have fallen in sin: Extend Your hand unto us that we may stand again. O compassionate One, who opens the door to all those who repent, have mercy on us as You forgave the thief on Cross at Your side. Amen.

# News and Notes

**THIS WEEK: Wednesday evening, April 21, at 6:30 PM, Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts:** On Wednesday evening, April 21, beginning at 6:30 PM, we will serve, in-person, at Church, the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts. Attendance for in-person services at Church presently requires pre-registration, so that we can manage attendance in compliance with our COVID-19 health safety protocols. If you wish to attend the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday evening, April 21, please, contact Fr. John Hopko to pre-register. We limit attendance to no more than 35 persons, and we require health screening, hand-sanitizing, mask wearing, and social distancing.

**Preparation to Receive Holy Communion at Evening Liturgies:** Please, be reminded that preparation for receiving Holy Communion at the evening celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts includes, among other things, both observing the Lenten fast in general and, also, completely abstaining from all food and drink for at least six hours before the beginning the actual Liturgy. (The actual discipline, historically, is to not eat or drink *all day long* before receiving Holy Communion at an evening celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts.) If you have any questions or concerns, or require clarification regarding these matters, please, contact Fr. John Hopko directly and promptly. Thank you.

**THIS WEEK: Friday evening, April 23, at 7:00 PM, ONLINE, Vespers to mark the end of Great Lent:** On Friday evening, April 23, we will convene online, via video teleconference (“Zoom”), to chant Vespers to mark the end of Great Lent. The necessary link will be sent out via email, closer to the time of the service.

**Schedule of Services Set for Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Holy Pascha:** Please, see the section of this bulletin where the schedule of services for Lazarus Saturday (April 24), Palm Sunday (April 25), Holy Week (April 26 to May 1), and Great and Holy Holy Pascha (May 2) is listed.

**NO Bible Study Sessions, until after Pascha:** Our schedule of liturgical activities, combined with needing some additional time to schedule the hearing of confessions, and to accomplish other necessary activities and tasks leading up to Holy Pascha, means that our weekly Bible Study is going on hiatus until after Holy Pascha. Please, watch this space in the bulletin for information about the return of Bible Study, after Pascha.

**Donations to the Parish:** Please, continue to support our parish during this challenging time. Donations to the Parish may be submitted via checks made out to and mailed to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329. Also, a PayPal Donation “button” (<https://www.terryvilleorthodoxchurch.org/donatenow>) is located on our parish website to make online donations possible. Our parish is registered as a charity with PayPal, so we have slightly lower fees connected to the use of that means of receiving donations. For us, PayPal’s fees are 2.2%, plus \$0.30 per transaction. (So, for example, a donation of \$100.00 given via PayPal will realize us actual income of \$97.50.)

## Schedule for rest of Great Lent, Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright Week

**NOTE: All IN-PERSON services will be managed in concurrence with our Parish's present public health safety protocols.**

**Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 PM:** IN-PERSON – Divine Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts

**Friday, April 23, 7:00 PM:** ONLINE via ZOOM – Vespers to conclude Great Lent

**Lazarus Saturday, April 24, 9:15 AM:** IN-PERSON – Divine Liturgy

**NO** evening Service on Saturday, April 24

**Palm Sunday, April 25, 9:15 AM:** IN-PERSON – Divine Liturgy, with the Blessing of Palms and Branches

**Great and Holy Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 PM:** IN-PERSON – “Bridegroom” Matins

**Great and Holy Thursday, April 29, 10:00 AM:** IN-PERSON - Vespers and Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper of Our Lord with His Disciples

**Great and Holy Thursday, April 29, 7:00 PM:** IN-PERSON - Matins of Great and Holy Friday, with the Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

**Great and Holy Friday, April 30, 3:00 PM:** IN-PERSON – Vespers, with the Rite of Entombment

**Great and Holy Friday, April 30, 7:00 PM:** IN-PERSON – Matins of Great and Holy Saturday, with verses from Psalm 119 read over the Tomb of our Lord, and the Procession with the Winding Sheet (*Plaschinitsa, Epitaphios*) of Our Lord

**Great and Holy Saturday, May 1, 10:00 AM:** IN-PERSON – Vespers and Liturgy, with the 15 Old Testament Readings, the Changing of the Colors from Dark to Bright, and the First Gospel Reading announcing the Resurrection of our Lord

**Great and Holy Saturday, May 1, 11:30 PM:** IN-PERSON – Midnight Office, Procession, Matins, and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha

**UNFORTUNATELY, Fr. John has been called for JURY DUTY beginning on Monday morning, May 3, so we will not schedule any services for Bright Week at this time. It may happen that Fr. John's jury duty will be cancelled or postponed. When we know more, we will update you.**

# Readings from Holy Scripture

*Scripture Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, which is the Sunday on which, each year, we commemorate the memory of St. Mary of Egypt*

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

Brothers and Sisters: When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls 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 Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark (Mk. 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 spit upon him, and scourge 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 want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your 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 slave 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."

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