

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT: St. Mary of Egypt

April 1, 2012

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is



recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle): But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Mark 10:32-45 (Gospel): Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to 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 on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their

great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Services & Activities:

Sunday, April 1 *St. Mary of Egypt*

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Mission Vespers: 4:00 pm All Saints, Olyphant

Wednesday, April 4 3:00 pm Akathist

5:00 pm Confession

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Lenten Pot Luck

Friday, April 6 6:00 pm Confession

7:00 pm Vespers for Lazarus

Saturday

Lazarus Saturday, April 7 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Confession 6:00 pm Great Vespers/Litija

for Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 8 *The Glorious Entrance of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem; Palm Sunday*

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm Mission Bridegroom Matins: St.

Tikhon's Monastery

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS! PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS FOR COFFEE AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY.

EASTER BAKE SALE SIGN UP SHEET IS ON THE CANDLE DESK. BAKING WILL BE DONE THE WEEK OF APRIL 2ND. SIGN UP EARLY.

MANY YEARS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO NIKOLA AND JELENA LALOVIC ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR HEALTHY 9 LB. 1 OZ. BABY BOY PETER ON MARCH 24.

MANY YEARS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL AND JOAN NIBBLING ON THEIR SIXTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TODAY.

HOLY CHRISM FOR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA (OCA) will be prepared by Metropolitan Jonah and the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA this year at St. Tikhon's Monastery beginning with prayer at 8 a.m. on Holy Monday April 9 and continuing with stirring of the Holy Chrism and the reading of the Holy Gospel continuously until Holy Wednesday. The Holy Chrism will then be cooled until it will be carried into the Holy Altar of the Monastery during the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy Holy Thursday morning, April 12.

Please remember in your prayers all of the parishioners of All Saints, their families, neighbors, and friends, especially Conor, Laura, Michael, Justin, Liam, Andrew, Allen, Cory Joseph, Michael, George, Gregory, Patricia, all those serving in the Armed Forces, (including Michael), all missionaries (including Christina), all clergy, monastics, and seminarians, the sick and suffering, those in nursing homes, hospitals and prisons, especially for those for whom we have been asked to pray, **and all the departed members and family members and friends of All Saints, the newly departed:**

(among them Ann Peregrim, Olga Paulishak , Lieutenant General John Yeosock, Susan Scochin, Matushka Natalie Kiryluk Breyan, John Sanko,

Cynthia.). If you would like Fr. Gabriel to remember the living or the departed at the Divine Liturgy, please give the names to Fr. Gabriel to remember at the Proskomedia.

PUSSY WILLOWS: Please gather pussy willows for next Sunday, PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 8.

WHITE ALTAR COVERS NEEDED. Please give your donations to Joni Rezanka.

PLEASE HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR! PLEASE FORM A NEW COFFEE HOUR TEAM OR JOIN A COFFEE HOUR TEAM! This is an important part of our parish outreach. See Julie Cohen. Thank you to the Puthorosky & Specht families for coffee hour today and to the Bandru & Lalovic families for coffee hour next week.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN NANTICOKE RELIEF FUND: A dedicated checking account has been established and checks should be made out to "St John the Baptist in Nanticoke Relief Fund." His Grace further encourages the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania to be generous in their support of this cause. Thank you to those who donated last Sunday. Donations are still being accepted.

(Cupcake fundraiser www.facebook.com/conspicuouscupcakes).

T SHIRTS (ALL SAINTS) AVAILABLE \$10 EACH & RECONSECRATIO ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE \$3 OR 2 FOR \$5.

LOTTERY DRAWING every two weeks: \$100 to church, \$50 each Friday and Saturday. First Prize \$35: John Rebeck; Second Prize \$20: Sonia Prestys; Third Prize \$15: Alex Grunza

SPONSORSHIPS: Bulletin (\$30): in memory of Timothy Naughton ;Web-Site (\$25): Linda Stuchlak; Shut-in mailings (\$25): Linda Stuchlak –Thank you to all of our Donors and Sponsors!

SAMPLE PLEDGE CARDS: Please prayerfully consider handing in your pledge card as soon as possible to help us with budgeting for 2012.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: 3/25/12:\$1017.00 ; LOOSE COLLECTION: \$88.15;Second Collection (Chrissy Semon): \$100.00; BAKE AND LENTEN SALE: NET \$4,075; Bunny Cake: Stephanie Stafursky.

St. Mary of Egypt left her parents at the age of twelve to go to Alexandria, where she spent the next seventeen years in debauchery. Living on charity and linen-weaving, she nevertheless offered her body to any man, not being forced to it by dire necessity...consumed by the fire of a desire that nothing was able to appease. One day, seeing a crowd of Lybians and Egyptians moving towards the port, she followed them and set sail with them for Jerusalem, offering her body to pay her fare. When they arrived in the Holy City, she followed the crowd that was thronging towards the Church of the Resurrection, it being the day of the Exaltation of the Cross. But, when she reached the threshold of the church, an invisible force prevented her entering in spite of repeated efforts on her part, although the other pilgrims were able to go in without hindrance. Left alone in a corner of the narthex, she began to realize that it was the impurity of her life that was preventing her approaching the holy Wood. She burst into tears and smote her breast and, seeing an icon of the Mother of God, made this prayer to her: "O Sovereign Lady, who didst bear God in the flesh, I know that I should not dare to look upon thine icon, thou who are pure in soul and body, because, debauched as I am,...But, as the God born of thee became man in order to call sinners to repentance, come to my aid! Allow me to go into the church...as soon as I have seen the Cross, I promise that I will renounce the world and all pleasures, and follow the path of salvation that thou wilt show me." She felt herself suddenly freed from the power that had held her and was able to enter the church. There she fervently venerated the Holy Cross and then, returning to the icon of the Mother of God, declared herself ready to follow the path that the Virgin would show her. A voice replied to her from on high: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find rest." Leaving the church, she bought three loaves with the alms a pilgrim had given her, discovered which road led to the Jordan and arrived one evening at the Church of Saint John the Baptist. After having washed in the river, she received Communion in the Holy Mysteries, ate half of one of the loaves and went to sleep on the riverbank. The next morning, she crossed the river and lived from that time on in the desert, remaining there for forty-seven years without ever encountering another human being or any animal. During the first seventeen years, her clothes soon having fallen into rags, burning with heat by day and shivering with cold by night, she fed on herbs and wild roots. But more than the physical trials, she had to face violent assaults from the passions and the memory of her sins and, throwing herself on the ground, she implored the Mother of God to come to her aid. Protected by God, who desires nothing but that the sinner should turn to Him and live, she uprooted all the passions from her heart and was able to turn the fire of carnal desire into a flame of divine love that made it possible for her to endure the implacable desert with joy. After all these years, a holy elder called Zosimas (April 4), who, following the tradition instituted by Saint Euthymios, had gone into the desert across the Jordan for the period of the Great Fast, saw one day a human form with a body blackened by the sun and with hair white as bleached linen to its shoulders. He ran after this apparition that fled before him, begging it to give him its blessing. When he came within ear-shot, Mary, calling by name him whom she had never seen, revealed to him that she was a woman and asked him to throw her his cloak that she might cover her nakedness. At the urging of the monk, who was gratified to have at last met a God-bearing being who had attained the perfection of monastic life, the Saint recounted with tears the story of her life and conversion. Having finished her account, she begged him to come the following year to the bank of the Jordan with Holy Communion. When the day arrived, Zosimas saw Mary appearing on the further bank of the river, make the sign of the Cross and cross the Jordan, walking on the water. Having received Holy Communion weeping, she said: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...(Luke 2:29). She then took leave of Zosimas, asking him to meet her the following year in the place they had first met. When the year was past, Zosimas, going to the agreed spot, found the Saint's body stretched on the ground, her arms crossed and her face turned towards the East. He noticed an inscription traced on the ground by the Saint, which read: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of the humble Mary; give what is of dust to dust, after having prayed for me. I died on the first day of April, the very night of the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, after having partaken in the Holy Eucharist." Consoled in his grief by having learned the Saint's name, Zosimas was amazed to discover that she had, in several hours, covered a distance of more than twenty days' march. Having vainly tried to break up the earth with a stick, he saw a lion approach Mary's body and lick her feet. On the orders of the Elder, the beast dug a hole with its claws, in which Zosimas devoutly placed the Saint's body. On his return to the monastery, he recounted the marvels that God performs for those who turn away from sin and move towards Him with all their hearts. From a hardened sinner, Mary has, for a great many souls crushed under the burden of sin, become a source of hope and a model of conversion. This is why the Holy Fathers have placed the celebration of her memory at the end of the Great Fast as an

encouragement for all who have neglected their salvation, proclaiming that repentance can bring them back to God even at the eleventh hour.

*****Traditional Orthodox Fasting Rules for Great Lent until Pascha, April 15, 2012)*****

Weekdays: Fasting from Meat, Poultry, Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Olive Oil, Wine.

Saturdays & Sundays (Holy Thursday, April 12): Wine & Olive Oil Permitted. **Palm Sunday, April 8:** Fish, Wine & Olive Oil Permitted