

March 29th, 2026

5th Sunday of Great Lent — Tone 1

St. Mary of Egypt

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle 321-ctr)

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 47)

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."

Many Years!

newly illumend!

Elijah, Sarah, Eden, and Victoria

anniversaries

9th - Harold & Dee Eurich

birthdays

- 3rd - Madalyn Schulte
- 3rd - Cris Brooks
- 4th - Zach Stevens
- 5th - Nicole Fischer
- 6th - Larry Don Meier
- 8th - Jedidiah Leithead
- 8th - Brileigh Gardner
- 9th - Chris Dumler
- 10th - Brilee Herron
- 11th - Polly Mikita
- 12th - Butch Sakala
- 13th - Robin Mikita
- 17th - LeAnn Perry
- 17th - Ashlynn Stevens
- 18th - Darla Leithead
- 18th - Riggin Fuchs
- 25th - Lacie Leithead
- 30th - Rebecca Mikita
- 31st - Alex Baril
- 31st - Morgan Mikita

Calendar

- March 29nd Sunday
— Mission Vespers, 6:00p
(St. John the Baptist, ColoSpgs)
- April 1st Wednesday
— Holy Unction, 6:30p
- April 3rd Friday
— Akathist | Study, 6:30p
- April 4th Saturday
— Catechumen Baptism /
Baptismal Liturgy, 9:30a
— Vespers, 6:30p
- April 5th Palm Sunday
— Divine Liturgy, 9:30a

St. Mary of Egypt

Saint Mary of Egypt (†522) is one of the most powerful examples of repentance in the Orthodox Church. A native of Egypt, she ran away from home at age twelve and lived for seventeen years in Alexandria as a prostitute, driven by insatiable lust. During a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a miraculous event led to her profound conversion. She then crossed the Jordan River and spent the remaining forty-seven years of her life in the desert, battling her passions through prayer, tears, and ascetic struggle until she was sanctified by God's grace. Her life, recorded by St. Sophronius of Jerusalem, was revealed to the monk Zosimas and continues to inspire the faithful, especially during Great Lent.

The Story of Mary's Attempt to Enter the Church in Jerusalem

When the holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable Cross arrived, Mary continued her wanton ways, seeking young men in the city. At daybreak she saw crowds heading to the church and joined them out of curiosity.

As the time for the Elevation of the Cross drew near, she tried to enter with the people. With great effort she reached the doors, but when her foot touched the threshold, an invisible force pushed her back. She was brushed aside by the crowd and left standing alone on the porch.

Thinking it was perhaps due to her womanly weakness, she pushed her way back into the throng and tried again. No matter how hard she struggled, she could not cross the threshold. Others entered freely, but she alone was prevented. This happened three or four times until she was exhausted.

Finally, she withdrew to a corner of the church portico. Then the truth struck her: it was her sins that barred her from seeing the Life-Creating Wood of the Cross. Grace touched her heart. She began to weep bitterly, lamenting her life, and beat her breast.

Looking up, she saw an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Turning to the Virgin with tears, she prayed: "O Lady Virgin, who gave birth to God the Word in the flesh! I know I am unworthy to look upon your icon. Yet I know God became Man to call sinners to repentance. Help me, O All-Pure One. Let me enter the church to behold the Cross on which your Son was crucified for the redemption of sinners, including me. Be my witness before your Son that from this moment I will never again defile my body with impurity. As soon as I have seen the Cross, I will renounce the world and go wherever you lead me."

Filled with confidence in the Mother of God's compassion, Mary left her corner, joined the crowd once more, and entered the church without hindrance. She venerated the Holy Cross, kissed the ground, and returned to the icon to renew her vow. A voice from heaven then said, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest." This dramatic encounter at the church threshold marked the turning point of her life, transforming a shameless sinner into a saint through divine grace and heartfelt repentance.

For the full story of Saint Mary of Egypt, see:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/04/01/100963-venerable-mary-of-egypt>

Troparion | Tone 1 (Resurrection)

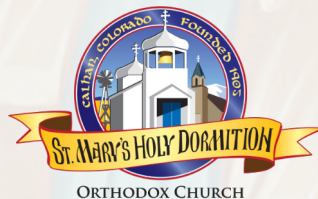
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Troparion | Tone 8 (St. Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion | Tone 3 (St. Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.



Prayer List

Living: Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana, Dcn. Herman Combs & Family, Dcn. Tikhon Krueger & Family

Carol, Charlie, Anita, Chad, Jan, Harold, Libbie and the Infant Lawrence, Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Tony, Diane, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard ✕ Meryl, Tammy, Litsa, Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Nauvlet, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, Makenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy.

Departed: Jack, Melvin

Those with child: Mka. Lindsey

Those who are confined: Basil, Hannah, Theodore

Commemorations

St Mary of Egypt, Hieromartyr Mark Bishop of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon of Heliopolis and those with him, Venerable John the Anchorite of Egypt, Saint Eustathius the Confessor Bishop of Bithynia, Venerable Mark Jonah and Bassa of the Pskov Caves, Saint Nikéatas of the Roslavl Forests

Sports!

Following the agape meal in the hall today, you are all warmly invited to the Calhan school gymnasium to participate in the weekly gathering of parish faithful, for sporting activities. Begins at 1p and will repeat every Sunday until further notice. Come out for the fellowship!

Great Lent Classes

Sunday's after Liturgy through Lent, Fr. George will offer classes based on the book 'Great Lent' by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

Mission Vespers

The final Mission Vespers of the Lenten season will be held this evening (6:00p March 15th) at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Colorado Springs.

Many Years!

The Parish of St. Mary's Holy Dormition Orthodox Church is truly thrilled to welcome the beautiful Guscott family: Elijah, Sarah, Eden, and Victoria — welcome home! It brings us great joy to see you illumined in Christ and now part of our spiritual household. We look forward with glad hearts to growing together, supporting one another, and serving Christ side by side as one family in the faith. It is so good to have you with us! May God grant you many years!