

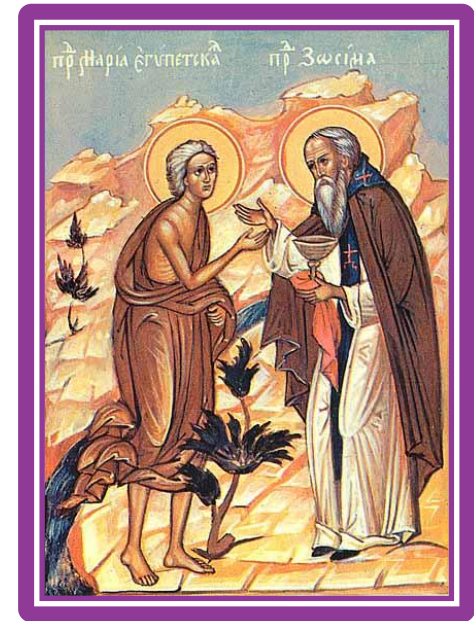
# Saintly Notes

## St. Mary of Egypt (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent)

The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Once, during the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], a certain priest-monk (Heiromonk), the Elder Zosimus, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan, a twenty-day trek. Suddenly, he caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body whose hair was as white as snow and who began to flee from the sight of Zosimus. The elder ran for a long while until this person crouched down in a brook and cried out: "Abba Zosimus forgive me for the sake of the Lord. I cannot face you for I am a naked woman." Zosimus then tossed his outer garment to her which she wrapped around herself and then showed herself to him. The elder was frightened upon hearing his name spoken from the mouth of this woman he did not know. Following his prolonged insistence, the woman related her life story. She was born in Egypt and at the age of twelve began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria where she spent seventeen years in this perverted way of life. Driven by the adulterous flame of the flesh, one day she boarded a boat which was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she wanted to enter the church in order to venerate the Honorable Cross but some invisible force restrained her and prevented her from entering the church. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the All-Holy Mother of God in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross, all the while confessing her sinfulness and uncleanness and promising that she would go wherever the All-Pure One would direct her. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan river. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She fed on vegetation. Afterward, when she stood for prayer, Zosimus saw her levitate in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the following year on the shore of the Jordan where she would then come to receive it. The following year, Zosimus arrived on the shore of the Jordan in the evening with Holy Communion. He wondered how this saint would cross the Jordan. At that moment, in the light of the moon, he saw her as she approached the river, made the sign of the cross over it and walked upon the water as though upon dry land. After Zosimus administered Holy Communion to her, she begged him to come the following year to the same brook where they had first met. Zosimus came and discovered her lifeless body on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zosimus, bury the body of the humble Mary on this site; render dust to dust. I died on April 1, the same night of the saving-suffering of Christ, after having received Communion of the Divine Mysteries." Thus, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint, Mary the Egyptian. St. Mary is also commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of the Honorable Fast (Fifth Sunday in Lent). The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. (*The Prologue from Ochrid*, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent  
(Commemoration of Our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt)

March 21, 2010



# Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

(Commemoration of Our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt)

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC  
(www.allsaintsnc.org)  
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest  
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest  
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

March 21, 2010

## The Saints Whom We Remember

Venerable-confessor James the New, bishop of Catania;  
Thomas, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Michael

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday:** 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Presanctified Lit.; 8:00p Lenten Soup Supper  
**Thursday:** 6:30p Eve. Div. Liturgy for Annunciation; 8:00p Potluck  
**Friday:** 6:30p Lazarus' Canon  
**Saturday:** 10:00a Div. Lit. for Lazarus; 12:00noon Ch. Sch. Lunch and Palm Cross making and youth confessions; 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** (Palm Sunday) 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy; 5:30p Bridegroom Orthros

## Third Antiphon

for the Resurrection  
Tone 8

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

## Little Entrance

† *Entrance Hymn:* "Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia."

† *Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 8):* See above.

† *Troparion for St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 8):* Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

† *Troparion for All Saints (Tone 4):* As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy *martyr's* blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people,

grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

† *Kontakion for Ordinary Sundays (Tone 2):* O Protection of Christians that is not put to shame, unchanging Mediation before the Creator, despise not the voice of the sinners' prayer, but in that thou art good, come quickly to help us who call upon thee in faith. Make speed to intercede and make haste to supplicate, O Theotokos, who dost ever protect those that honor thee.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us . . .

## Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

## Alegalynarion

St. Basil Liturgy

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace . . .

## Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

## Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg, Aidan Labrozzi.

## Special Attention

- **Services This Week.** Please note that we will celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy on Wed. evening followed by a soup supper. Then on Thursday evening we celebrate an Evening Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, followed by a potluck supper. On Friday in place of the Akathist Hymn we will pray the Canon of St. Lazarus. Please plan to attend these services and the special Palm Sunday services on the weekend (see below).
- **Ground Breaking DVD's.** Copies are available on the Narthex table and can be purchased for \$20. All proceeds will be put in the building fund. If you cannot find a copy of the DVD, please talk to Fr. Nicholas.
- **Building Project Update.** Our new temple has taken even more shape this past week. The education wing has a roof and Densglass panels in place. Work is progressing rapidly. You may see pictures of the different phases of our project on our website (www.allsaintsnc.org). Please continue to pray for good weather and for the safety of the workmen.
- **Service Changes.** Please note that while Fr. Nicholas is recovering from wrist surgery the liturgical services may be changed or cancelled. The message on the Church phone and email alerts will be updated accordingly.
- **Note the Palm Sunday Weekend Coming Up.** On Saturday at 10:00a we celebrate the Liturgy for St. Lazarus and the Church School students will participate in their annual lunch and palm making activities as well as have an opportunity for confession with Fr. Nicholas (children only). On Palm Sunday we will process with the palms and celebrate the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in anticipation of Pascha. Then on Sunday evening we begin our Holy Week schedule with the Bridegroom Orthros at 5:30pm.

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenon:**

Make your vows to the Lord our God, and perform them.

*God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.*

### †**Epistle: Heb. 9:11–14 (RSV)**

Brethren, 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?

### †**Gospel: Mark 10:32–45 (RSV)**

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 scourge Him, and spit upon 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 would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy 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 servant 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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## A Word from Our Fathers

“The Lord frequently hides from us even the perfections we have obtained. But the man who praises us, or, rather, who misleads us, opens our eyes with his words and once our eyes are opened our treasures vanish.”

“The flatterer is a servant of the devils, a teacher of pride, the destroyer of contrition, a vandal of excellence, a perverse guide. The prophet says this: ‘Those who honor you deceive you’ (Isa. 3;12)”

*(St. John Climacus; The Ladder of Divine Ascent)*

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