

# Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

(5th Sunday of Great Lent)

Saint Zosimas (April 4), a Palestinian monk near Caesarea, lived in asceticism from youth to the age of fifty-three. Then a thought troubled him: that he had attained perfection. "Is there anyone who has surpassed me?" Immediately an angel rebuked him: "You have struggled well, but none is righteous (Rom 3:10). Go to the Jordan."



There Zosimas found monks who prayed constantly, spoke little, and lived in deep repentance. During Great Lent, they would depart into the wilderness alone, carrying little, eating roots, and returning on Palm Sunday without speaking of their struggles.

Following this custom, Zosimas journeyed deep into the desert and, after twenty days, beheld a mysterious figure—sun-darkened, hair white like fleece. When he pursued her, she fled, then called him by name, asking for his cloak. Realizing her spiritual insight, he trembled. She revealed herself as a woman and a great ascetic.

This was Mary of Egypt. Once enslaved to extreme sin in Alexandria, she had attempted to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre but was invisibly prevented. Repenting before an icon of the Theotokos, she vowed to change. After venerating the Cross, she went into the desert, where she struggled fiercely for seventeen years against passions, until divine grace brought peace. She lived there forty-seven years, sustained by God alone.

Mary spoke Scripture though she had never read it, prayed in the air, and knew hidden things. She asked Zosimas to return the next year with the Holy Mysteries. When he did, she crossed the Jordan walking on water and received Communion, saying, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace."

A year later, Zosimas found her reposed. A lion helped him bury her. Returning, he shared her life, and many were edified.

Thus God reveals that true holiness is not self-perfection, but repentance, humility, and communion with Him.

Edited Text & Icon adapted from oca.org



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan SABA*



*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*

215-954-9286



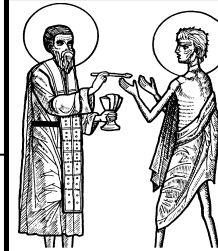
*Father James Thayer*

215-692-0890

March 29, 2026

## ST. MARY OF EGYPT

(5TH SUNDAY IN GREAT LENT)



### COMMEMORATIONS:

MARK, BISHOP OF  
ARETHUSA, MARTYR CYRIL  
THE DEACON AND THOSE  
WITH HIM, THE HOLY  
MARTYRS JONAS AND  
BARACHESIUS, EUSTATHIOS  
THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF  
BITHYNIA

**Tone 1 - Eothinon 9**  
**Orthros Gospel:** St. John 20:19-31  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11-14  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. Mark 9:32-45

**TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 1 -** While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding thy most pure Body, thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto thee, O Giver of life: Glory to thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to thy kingdom! Glory to thy providence, O thou who alone art the Lover of mankind!

**APOLYTIKION OF 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.

### TODAY:

- ◆ **ORTHROS & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.**
- ◆ **DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.**
- ◆ **Choir Rehearsal, 12:35 p.m.**

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

www.st-philip.net (215) 721-4947

Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 12:30pm - 5:00pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

## Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week: COFFEE HOUR: All the "Marys" of St. Philip PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala ALTAR CANDLES: - - - USHERS: TBD CLEANING TEAM: Teens COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Kendra M., Hannah B., Daniel C. Andrew & Becky BULLETIN DISTRIBUTOR: Sam Park	Next Week (April 5) Romanian Coffee Hour Kristi M. & Sissy H. Gamble - Natalie's Birthday TBD Nick M., Gabe & Tabitha, Shirley D., Sarah M. Carolyn D., Eric M., Justice H., Liara TBD
--	---

### Mark Your Calendar

#### Holy Wednesday Highlights

*April 8*

3:00 p.m. - Last Confessions  
 4:00 p.m. - Holy Unction  
 6:00 p.m. - Mystical Supper Orthros

#### Holy Thursday

*April 9*

9:30 a.m. - Vespers Liturgy  
 6:00 p.m. - Passion Gospels Orthros

#### Holy Friday

*April 10*

9:30 a.m. - Royal Hours  
 4:00 p.m. - Burial Vespers  
 6:00 p.m. - Lamentations Orthros

#### Holy Saturday

*April 11*

9:30 a.m. - Proto-Anastasis Liturgy (with Baptisms)  
**11:30 a.m. - Paschal Vigil & Agape Meal**

#### Great & Holy Pascha

*Christ is risen!*

*April 12*

12:00 p.m. - Agape Vespers & Egg Hunt

#### FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please take one of the Food For Hungry People collection boxes (available in the Narthex) to your home and at Pascha bring them back filled to help our archdiocese food distribution program.

### MARCH OUTREACH COLLECTION:

Baby Care Item

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the Middle East Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered, St Tikhon's Seminary, St Raphael School, and those to whom they reach out. N.I. Magdalene Athena Natalia Marina Natalie Carol-Anna Elizabeth Wadih Matushka Cecilia Louise-Ruth Joanne Nancy-Anna Elizabeth Sister Anka Hieromonk Silouan Aristides Catherine Christine Maria John James Paraskevi Daria Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries N.O.P Isaac, Priest Nathan, Deacon Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples Families struggling to conceive Expectant and new mothers and their babies Those in mourning The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	+Patriarch Ilia +Christine +Sze-Tatiana +Virgil +Raisa (March Parish Diptychs) +Najib +Lorraine +Julia +Helen +Dina +Robert +Adele +Mary +Haritos <hr/> <u>Catechumens</u> Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, and John T Robert S Carolyn D Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaele S Jeff & Jasmin, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P James B Nicole P Dylan H Ryan M Tyler H Mission Chapel: Christopher M & Nailah O Sean & Natalie, Rosalie & Abel K David S Inactive: Jasper, Asher, Andrew, Michael, Kassandra

## This Week:

<b>Mon, March 30:</b>	Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 a.m. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
<b>Tues, March 31:</b>	Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Wed, April 1:</b>	Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m. FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Thurs, April 2:</b>	Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Compline, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m. FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Fri, April 3:</b>	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Fasting Potluck, 11:00 a.m. Confessions, 3:00 p.m. Little Compline & Lazarus Canon, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sat, April 4:</b>	<b>Lazarus Saturday</b> Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Grades 2&3 First Confession, 11:00 a.m. Catechism Class, 4:30 p.m.. Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Sun, April 5:</b>	<b>Palm Sunday (Holy Week Begins!)</b> Orthros, Palm Blessing & Confessions, 8:45 a.m. Hierarchical Liturgy & Procession, 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 12:30 p.m. Bridegroom Orthros, 6:00 p.m.

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Flower offering envelopes are available on the literature table in the Narthex. Thank you!

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 3/21: 114      Divine Liturgy 3/22: 266  
 Annunciation Vespers: 108      Annunciation Liturgy: 146  
 OFFERINGS 3/22: Candles, \$440. Collections, \$924. Flowers, \$120. Book Shelf, \$180. Needy Fund, \$38.22. Pastoral Discretion, \$97.52. Stewardship, \$16,586.62. Teen Fund: \$110. Teen OMYT: \$1,500. Mission Chapel, \$4,392. Women's Fund, \$60. Capital Improvement, \$150. Building Fund: \$5,378.21. Total received: \$29,976.57. Cemetery: \$1,000.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!