



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 10, 2022

Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

- Sunday, April 10**
10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School after
- Monday, April 11**
5:00 pm Lenten Vespers
- Tuesday, April 12**
9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open
- Wednesday, April 13**
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Fellowship Meal following Liturgy
- Thursday, April 14**
9:00 am Lenten Matins (Morning Service)
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours/Church Open
- Friday, April 15**
7:00 pm Moleben for the Sick
- Saturday, April 16: Lazarus Saturday**
9:30 am Divine Liturgy/Children's Breakfast
5:00 pm Festal Vigil for Palm Sunday
- Sunday, April 17: Palm Sunday**
10:00 am Festal Liturgy / Church School after



Announcements

➤ Thank you to everyone who came to church yesterday for **our annual clean-up day** in preparation for the Paschal festivities. Thank you for being good stewards of our property. Thank you for your love of God's church. Thank you for your selfless devotion and the energy that you put into make our church a better place. May God richly bless you!

➤ **Donations for flowers** are needed to adorn the tomb of our Lord for Holy Week. Please consider giving a small donation. Every bit helps! We appreciate it.

➤ As we near the Great and Holy Passion Week beginning on the evening of Sunday, April 17, please **give special consideration to, especially, the later days of the week: Great and Holy Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.** As Orthodox Christians we have a special duty to accompany our Lord as he goes up to Jerusalem to offer His voluntary passion for the life of the world. Please make every effort to attend as many services as possible, but **especially on Holy Thursday, Friday AND Saturday,** and then culminating in the Holy Pascha. Take off work and school on Great and Holy Friday. Be with Christ. Spend the day in peace.

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none)
Home: George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servant Fr. Igor Soroka; for the health of the Wasilko family. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Victoria Scott; special intention. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, Cindy, Kayla, and baby Roh. From **Irene Kulchock** for the health of Jan Pravlochak. From **Annaliese Mertz** for the departed servants, Grace and Dylan. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Robin Naiser and Rdr. Michael Soroka; private intention. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilкова, Dana Emma and her child to be born. From **Alexandria M. Tirpak** for the departed servant, Amelia; for the health of my family; special intentions. From **Nikki Marsh** for the health of Dmitri Marsh. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Daina, Luba, Polina, Slava, Galina, Marina and Valentina; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Janet, Kristofer and Andriana. From the **Breckenridge family** for the health of Fr. Nikolai, Mila, Tatiana, Holly, Kate, Bill, and Janet.

Thank You

➤ to our April donors, **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$50, Communion Wine \$40, and Incense \$10) for the health of and for the departed members of the Mell and Karavlan families.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: The Crucifixion

Questions to ask/review:

- Where was Jesus when He was arrested? (the garden of Gethsemane)
- What was He doing? (praying)
- What were the disciples doing? (sleeping after failing to stay awake to pray)
- How did Judas betray Him? (kissed His cheek)
- Peter lied about knowing Jesus how many times? (three times)
- Who was the high priest? (Caiaphas)
- The soldiers put what on Jesus? (purple robe, crown of thorns)
- Who condemned Jesus to death? (Pontius Pilate, but with the support of the priests and people)
- Who carried the cross? Why? (Simon of Cyrene; Jesus was not able)
- What are some of the things Jesus said on the cross before He died? ("Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"; to the wise thief: "today you will be with Me in Paradise")
- Who was crucified with Jesus? Why was one thief "wise"? (two criminals, one repented and ask Jesus to "Remember me in your Kingdom")
- What happened when Jesus died? (the earth quaked and the veil of the temple tore in two)
- Who took Jesus's body to his own tomb? (Joseph of Arimathea)
- How are these events remembered in Church on Holy Friday?
- **Suggested activities at home:**
- Read the scripture before bed: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 18-19.
- Practice with your child the Sign of the Cross.
- Sing "Before Thy Cross" song, with prostrations.
- Show your child the cross in your home. Let him choose or make one for his room.

Prayer: Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (with prostrations)

Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 10

Tone 1 Troparion (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!”

Tone 8 Troparion (St. Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother, for you took up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.// Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (St. Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, you became through repentance a bride of Christ.

Having attained angelic life, you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//

Therefore, O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee! (Ps. 32:22)

Epistle of the Sunday (Hebrews 9:11-14)

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?

Gospel of the Sunday (Mark 10:32-45)

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.”

Communion Hymn of Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance! He shall not fear evil tidings! (Ps. 111:6) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Lessons from St Mary

Repent without fear. After 17 years of dissolute living, Mary decides to leave Alexandria and go see the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross in Jerusalem, just for the sport of it, really.

I have never experienced any moment of crisis and epiphany so dramatic, but I have had my share — moments when my failings suddenly come before me with shocking clarity — and these moments are utterly terrible ... very hard to recover from. In Mary’s place, I might have run and hidden. But she displays a right-minded boldness in falling down before an icon of the Theotokos and begging her.

The takeaway: True repentance isn’t for the faint of heart.

“**The kingdom of God suffers violence, and the violent shall take it away.**” Just as Mary had lived a desperately sick life for 17 years, she suffers terrible bouts of double-mindedness and temptation for the first 17 years that she goes off into her exile in the desert. She is wracked by desire — for the flesh, for food, for wine. She is even oppressed by bawdy songs she used to know. She soon had nothing to eat or drink, nothing to wear. She was exposed to the elements and utterly alone, and she must have asked herself many times what she was doing out in the middle of nowhere. But she didn’t give in and she didn’t allow it to make her faith smaller — she fought!

It seems our lot sometimes to suffer from the same sins and feel always as if we fail.

The takeaway: Never give up. St. Andrew’s Canon has this verse about St. Mary: “Thy soul on fire, O Mary, thou hast ever shed streams of tears, to quench the burning of the passions. Grant the grace of these thy tears to me also, thy servant.”