

April 18, 2021

On this day, the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the memory of our holy and venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt. The recorder of the life of this wonderful saint is St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. A hieromonk, the elder Zossima, had gone off at one time during the Great Fast on a twenty-days' walk into the wilderness across the Jordan. He suddenly caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body and with hair as white as snow, who fled in its nakedness from Zossima's sight. The elder ran a long way, until this figure stopped at a stream and called, "Father Zossima, forgive me for the Lord's sake. I cannot turn around to you, for I am a naked woman." Then Zossima threw her his outer cloak, and she wrapped herself in it and turned around to him. The elder was amazed at hearing his name from the lips of this unknown woman. After considerable pressure on his part, she told him the story of her life.

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

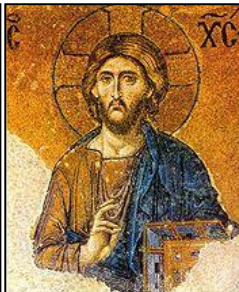
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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, April 18, 2021

ON THIS DAY, THE *FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT*, WE COMMEMORATE *our Righteous Mother, St. Mary of Egypt (522) – SEE TRIODION INSERT ON NEXT PAGE*). WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Father John the Righteous, disciple of St. Gregory of Decapolis; Euthemios the Enlightener of Karelia; Cosmas, Bishop of Calcydon; John the New Martyr of Epiros, and Athanasia the Wonderworker of Aegina. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Thank You for Your Understanding

We welcome our parishioners who pre-registered and are attending services in person today and we also welcome those who are viewing our online video streaming at home. Let us comply with the guidelines we have provided everyone. We appreciate your kind understanding in following them. Fr. George is deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

TODAY's Spiritual Theme for the 5th Sunday of Great Lent:

On this *Fifth Sunday of Lent*, the Church commemorates *St. Mary of Egypt*, so that her example of sincere repentance and great virtues may strengthen the slothful and urge sinners to atone for their sins.

This coming Saturday, we commemorate the Saturday of Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary, were friends of Jesus. The weeping of Jesus over the dead body of Lazarus is a manifestation of Christ's mortal humanity, and his raising him from the dead, an act of immortal and divine power. Orthros will begin at 7:45 a.m. and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00 a.m. Both services will be live video streamed – join us from home!

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn for St. Mary of Egypt – (Hymnal-pp.140-142):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: In you, holy mother Mary, the image of God shone forth, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh. Therefore your spirit rejoices with the angels forever.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you

chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.

Epistle Reading (Hebrews 9:11-14)

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats

and calves, but with His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

Gospel Reading (Mark 10:32-45)

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death; then they will hand Him over to the Gentiles; they will mock Him, and spit upon Him, and flog Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise again." James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." And He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your 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 be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink You will drink; and 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." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you..."
(James 4:7-8)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



Tomorrow is the deadline for several Philoptochos initiatives: purchasing Tsoureki (Easter Bread), adding your name to our Pascha (Easter) Card, and either renewing or signing up for this year's membership support of Philoptochos which oversees Patriarchal, Archdiocese, Metropolis, and our local parish's philanthropic efforts. *For those who have offered their support to these initiatives, I thank you personally and on behalf of our parish family. For those "on the fence", "undecided", or perhaps "too busy", I want to offer one final opportunity to enlist your help by informing you of the impact of supporting our Philoptochos' initiatives. There is no end to human suffering and need. Christ Jesus taught that by offering our love and assistance for those in need, we venerate the image of God in others... yes, those He created in His image and likeness!*

Philoptochos means "friends of the poor" and it is our Orthodox philanthropic response to local, regional, diocesan, archdiocesan, and international charities and support that support many needy charities and outreach efforts, including St. Basil Academy, Souper Bowl of Caring, Fayette

Samaritans, One Roof, Mid-West Georgia Food Bank, Soldiers Angels, Well Spring, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Loaves & Fishes Feed the Homeless in Atlanta, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Christ the Good Shepherd Special Needs Camp, Clergy Education, food, utility, and disaster assistance for needy families and community assistance following floods, tornados, and hurricanes, youth ministry, Social Services Cancer Fund, Autism Assistance Fund, Saint Photios Shrine, Orthodox Christian Mission Center/Support A Mission Priest, Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Retired Clergy/Widowed Presbyters, National Emergency Fund, National Sisterhood of Presvyteres, UNICEF, Medical Fund, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Non-cash support includes food and clothing, as well as prayer shawls and quilts for our elderly and infirm, those who suffer abuse, the loss of their homes, and our courageous military and veterans serving our nation.

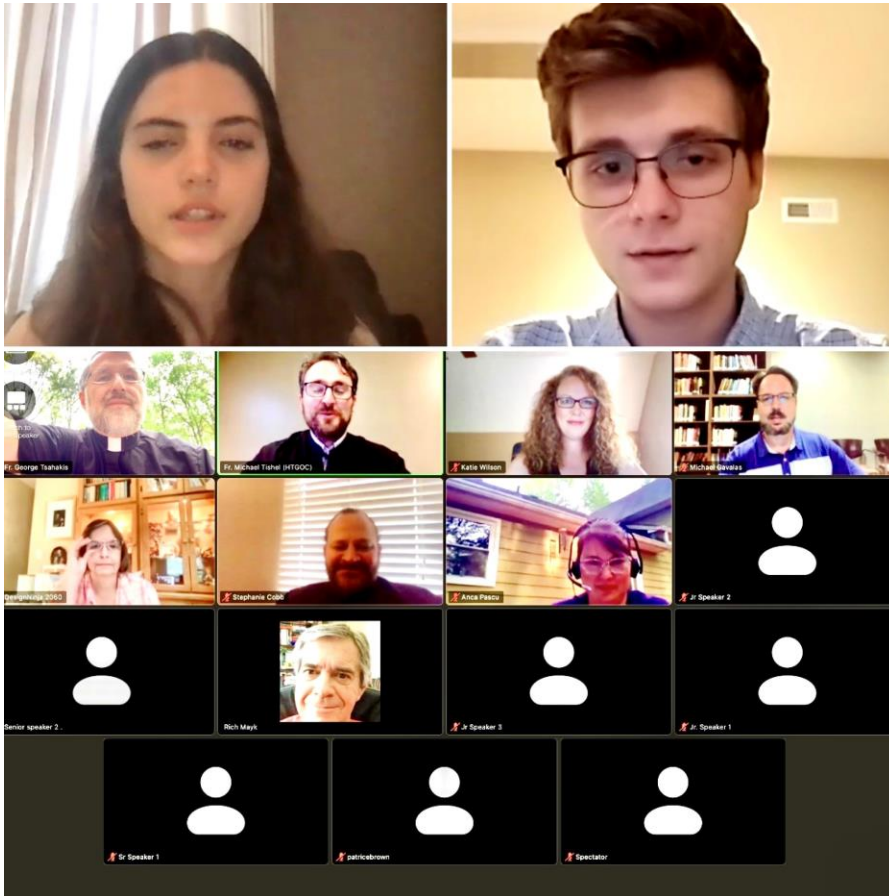
**Our Parish Weekly E-Bulletin is sent out every Monday –
*check it out!***

**Visit our parish website for latest ministry and schedule
updates.**

**Jackie Sarantis maintains office hours on Mondays,
Wednesdays, & Fridays and can assist you, our Parish
Council, Ministry Leaders, & Fr. George.**

**Email/call Fr. George to schedule/discuss Sacramental
Needs, Pastoral Counseling & Schedule Appointment for
Holy Confession on 4/23.**

CONGRATULATIONS!



Dear Stella and Peyton,

We are so proud of you and your presentations again tonight... your well-thought-out speeches following your research, practice, and listening to helpful advice from your parents, siblings, and Katie Wilson encouraged you to offer your best. You both demonstrated a level of competence that will serve you well in the years ahead. Glory and thanks be to God!

Our Lord needs witnesses, and your peace of mind and firm conviction to offer your best were evident tonight. Only once in our St. Christopher history has a student gone to the

Metropolis level before now. You are the second and third students in our parish to have advanced to the Metropolis level.

As a parent, Presbyteria Marinda and I suspect we know how your parents feel... our daughter and your Parish Festival Chair also advanced to the Metropolis level when she (Katie) was a student at Holy Trinity Church in Charleston, SC. The event was in Miami. This year it is in Clearwater.

Congratulations and on behalf of our parish know how proud and thankful we are. God bless you, your families, and all your endeavors. Katie, thank you for spending extra time ensuring the success of our parish festival when so many parishes did nothing and thanks for helping so much to ensure Stella's and Peyton's participation tonight. Emilia and Angelo, Aimee and Victor, thanks for teaching your children the importance of God in our lives and how we can witness His love and truth through the talents we have been blessed to receive and share. Your support and that of their siblings is commended and appreciated.

Faithfully yours,

+Fr. George & Presbyteria Marinda



["Follow" & "Like"](#) our Facebook page. Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

On this the 852nd Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE *(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)*

Sunday, April 18 (5th Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt):

7:30 a.m. Orthros Service 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
1:30 p.m. Virtual Religious Education Lesson for 3 years - 2nd grade
2:00 p.m. Virtual Religious Education Lesson for 3rd - 5th Grades
2:30 p.m. Virtual Religious Education Lesson for Middle/High School

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Today is the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt. This **Synaxarion for the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent** is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. **+Fr. George Tsahakis**

She had been born in Egypt and had lived as a prostitute in Alexandria from the age of twelve, spending seventeen years in this way of life. Urged by the lustful fire of the flesh, she one day boarded a ship that was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she attempted to go into one of the churches to venerate the Precious Cross, but some unseen power prevented her from entering. In great fear, she turned to an icon of the Mother of God that was in the entrance and begged her to let her go in and venerate the Cross, confessing her sin and impurity and promising that she would then go wherever the Most Pure One led her. She was then allowed to enter the church. After venerating the Cross, she went out again to the entrance and, standing in front of the icon, thanked the Mother of God. Then she heard a voice saying, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace." She immediately bought three loaves of bread and set off for the Jordan, arriving there the same evening. She received Holy Communion the following morning in the monastery of St. John the Baptist, and then crossed the river. She spent the next forty-eight years in the wilderness in the greatest torments, in terror, in struggles with passionate thoughts like gigantic beasts, feeding only on plants.

Later, when she was standing in prayer, Zossima saw her lifted up in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the next year on the bank of the Jordan, and she would come to receive it. The following year, Zossima came with the Holy Gifts to the bank of the Jordan in the evening and stood in amazement as he saw her cross the river. He saw her coming in the moonlight and, arriving on the further bank, make the sign of the Cross over the river. She then walked across it as though it were dry land. When she had received Holy Communion, she begged him to come again the following year to the same stream by which they had first met. The next year Zossima went and found her dead body there on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zossima, bury in this place the body of the humble Mary. Give dust to dust. I passed away on April 1, on the very night of Christ's Passion, after Communion of the Divine Mysteries." For the first time, Zossima learned her name and also the awe-inspiring marvel that she had arrived at that stream the previous year on the night of the same day on which she had received Holy Communion – a place that he had taken twenty days to reach. And thus, Zossima buried the body of the wonderful saint, Mary of Egypt. When he returned to the monastery, he recounted the whole story of her life and the wonders to which he had been an eyewitness. Thus, the Lord glorifies repentant sinners. She entered into rest in about the year 530.

St. Mary is remembered today, as we reach the end of the Great Fast, to arouse the energy of the slothful and to urge sinners to repentance, imitating her example. She is also commemorated on April 1. The Righteous Zossima, who buried St. Mary, is commemorated on April 4.

O Christ our God, through the intercessions of our venerable Mother Mary of Egypt, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.