

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT EAST
SUNDAY OF MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary and Father Zozimos

Saint Mary of Egypt

On a pilgrimage through the desert, a priest-monk named Father Zozimos encountered a most fascinating and inspiring woman whom we know today as Saint Mary of Egypt. Saint Mary, Zozimos recalled, seemed to be “walking upon air.” Upon approaching this woman, she asked for his blessing and told him of her life.

Saint Mary was born in Egypt in the sixth century and by the age of twelve had already dedicated her life to the pursuit of debauchery and excess. By her own admission, she spent the next seventeen years of her life attempting to satisfy every carnal appetite in any way possible. This intention led her to seek passage on a boat bound for Jerusalem where, out of curiosity, she followed the crowds to the threshold of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. As she attempted to follow the crowd into the Church, she was

stopped at the doorway by an invisible force. At this moment, her sinfulness was revealed to her and she made a promise to the Mother of God that if she was permitted to enter the Church she would dedicate the rest of her life to God.

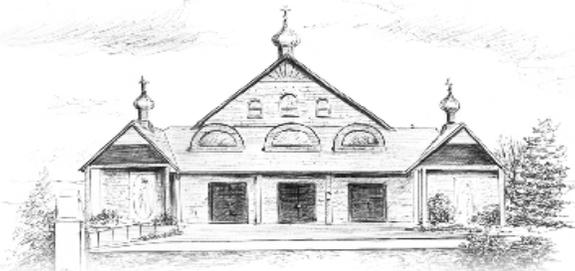
After her dramatic conversion she withdrew to the desert where she spent the remaining years of her life in self-denial and repentance. Towards the end of her life she met the priest-monk Zozimos, whom she petitioned to visit her on regular occasions in order that she might be nourished with Holy Communion before she died.

May the example of Saint Mary draw attention to our own need for repentance so that we, too, nourished by Holy Communion, may rededicate our lives to the service of God.

St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church

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JOURNEY TO THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

—Ten Things to Remember for Lent—

(United States Catholic Conference of Bishops)

Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

It's a time to fast. Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

Lent reminds us of our weakness. Even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the Cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

April 3, 2022

Christ is Among Us!

Liturgy Schedule

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Monday | April 4 | No Service | | |
| Tuesday | April 5 | 8:00 a.m. | Lenten Devotions with Sermon | |
| Wednesday | April 6 | 7:00 p.m. | Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts († Joseph Wegas by Berni Hliviak) | |
| Thursday | April 7 | No Service | | |
| Friday | April 8 | 7:00 p.m. | Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts († Christine A. Kobus by Vasickanin Family) | |
| Saturday | April 9 | 9:00 a.m. | Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy | |
| | | | Vigil Liturgy | |
| | | 4:00 p.m. | † William Babin by Family | |
| Sunday | April 10 | Palm Sunday | | |
| | | 10:30 a.m. | Intention of the Parishioners | |
| | | | Altar Servers | Lectors |
| April 9 | 4:00 p.m. | M. & T. Ebert | J. Foreman | G. & J. Huntz |
| April 10 | 10:30 a.m. | L. Tinter & G. Dudick | N. Sabo | J. Carrig & K. Strobel |

(Volunteer Altar Servers needed for Lenten Services.)

Breathe in God's spirit—Exhale God's love.



Next week is **Palm Sunday**. Palms and pussy willows will be blessed at the

beginning of liturgy on Saturday and Sunday. You'll be invited forward to receive these symbols to hold during the service.

Confession Opportunities

There are some additional times available for the Sacrament of Confession.

April 9...3:00-3:45

Palm Sunday...9:30-10:15

Good Friday...following Vespers till all are heard

Holy Saturday...2:00-3:30

(Confessions are always available by appointment.)

Good Friday "All Night Vigil"



The **Good Friday All-Night Vigil** sign-up poster can be found in the vestibule. Time slots run from **9:00 p.m. on Good Friday through 2:00 on Holy Saturday**

afternoon. Many people find this to be an excellent opportunity for meditation, prayer or spiritual reading.

Volunteers Needed

⇒ We need 12 people to hold the candles for the 12 gospels on Good Friday morning. Contact **Jack Pinchot** to volunteer **(440-237-4587)**.

⇒ The tomb will be assembled **Wednesday, April 13 at 4:00**. We need four volunteers to help **Chuck Churavy**. Please contact him at **440-537-7786** if you are able to assist.



St. Thomas Potluck

Our annual **Thomas Sunday Potluck** is scheduled for **April 24**

right after liturgy. Please sign the sheet posted on the vestibule bulletin board by April 18 and indicate what you will be bringing (dessert, salad, side or vegetable.) The **Men's Club** will provide the main dish. This year we are honoring volunteers **Nick and Marie Ihnat**.



Our final **Lenten Fish Fry** takes place on Friday. Serving will be from **3:30-6:30**. Patrons can dine-in or take-out. The menu can be found on the vestibule desk and on our website.

Contact **Pat Lesnick** if you'd like to volunteer **(216-973-1430)**. We are hoping to soon restart the First Fryday Fish Frys...stay tuned for details!

BLESS Group

The **BLESS Group (Byzantine Ladies Encountering Sacred Sources)** will hold the last session of its "**Lenten Book Study**" on **Monday at 7:00** in the Education Center Conference Room. Contact **Darlene Hritz** for information **(440-237-5237)**

Advisory Bd./Finance Commission

The **Advisory Board and Finance Commission** will hold a joint meeting on **Monday at 7:00**.



We're looking for a few hands to help give the church a good cleaning before Easter. Call **Marie Ihnat** at **330-314-2323** for information.

Please Pray

Please pray for our sick/suffering especially **Joe Popik** (Marymount); **Florence Orris** (Parma); **Ron Kwiatkowski** (home); **Diane Balasz** (home); **Mary Jo Keshock** (home) and **Carol Vasil** (home).



The next **Forever Young Club** (55 and over) gathering is **Wednesday, April 20 at noon**.

Denise Doroney will speak on skin care for men and women (products will be available.) The sign-up sheet can be found on the vestibule bulletin board. The cost for lunch is \$10. Contact **Joan Rozum** at **440-845-5468** for more info.

Divine Mercy Sunday

We are once again hosting Divine Mercy Prayers at **3:00** on **April 24**. You are encouraged to attend.

Your Weekly Offering

March 27, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday: | \$2,439.00 |
| e-giving: | 185.00 |
| Student Envelopes: | 20.50 |
| Cash: | 96.00 |
| Candles: | 81.00 |
| Holy Days: | 183.00 |
| Flowers: | 100.00 |
| Building Fund: | 50.00 |
| Easter: | 300.00 |
| In Memory Barbara Troyan : | 5,000.00 |
| Landscaping Donation: | 600.00 |
| Total: | \$9,054.50 |



Outdoor Spring Cleanup

The **Men's Club** is sponsoring a **Spring Cleanup** around the church property this Saturday from **9-noon**.

Please bring a rake or shovel. If you are able to help, sign the sheet on the vestibule bulletin board. Call **Ray Pfeil** with questions at **440-838-5744**.

ByzanTEEN Gathering Tonight

Cleveland area **ByzanTEENS** will meet tonight (**Sunday**) at **5:00** in the Education Center. **Father Cyril Pinchak SJ** and **Father Lukas Mitro** will lead the session. There will not be a gathering on Easter Sunday.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who participated in S.O.M.E. Friday. Alms collected will be given to the **St. Joseph Outreach**.

Community News

The **Garfield Hts. Knights of Columbus** are sponsoring dinners on the following Wednesdays for \$10. (Takeout only...curbside pickup)

April 6—Chili w/Baked Potato (Reservations by April 3) Call 216-662-2277 x 2

April 20—Chicken Paprikash (Reservations by April 17) Call 216-662-2277 x 3

Someone you know may need this information:

Alternatives to Abortion—

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Loving God, we pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. Give them courage in this attack against them and enlighten their hearts.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen

Outreach Assisting Ukraine

When the **St. Joseph Outreach** Clothing Distribution Room closed, many people asked what would happen to all the clothes. Fortunately, a local Ukrainian church was contacted and last week they picked up 147 large boxes of adult and children's clothing. The boxes should arrive in the Ukraine in four to five weeks.



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PARISH INFORMATION

ACTIVITY CENTER/PAVILION/PARTY CENTER RESERVATIONS:

216-749-6232

CONFESSIONS: 45 minutes before liturgies for half an hour and by request

LADIES' AUXILIARY: 2nd Sunday of the month after liturgy

MEN'S CLUB: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

A-OK CLUB: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

FOREVER YOUNG CLUB: 3rd Wednesday of the month (12-2)

COFFEE SOCIAL: Every Sunday after liturgy

EASTERN CATHOLIC FORMATION (ECF) CLASSES:

Sundays 9:00 a.m.–10:20 a.m.

BULLETIN INFORMATION DEADLINE: Tuesday noon

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