

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
COMMEMORATION OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of Saints Zosimos and Mary of Egypt*

# March 17, 2013

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST;

VENERABLE MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

OUR VENERABLE FATHER ALEXIS, THE MAN OF GOD; MACARIUS ABBOT OF KALIAZIN

PATRICK, THE ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND

## TONE 1

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18 – MARCH 24

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 – OUR VENERABLE FATHERS MARTYRED BY THE SARACENS IN THE MONASTERY OF ST. SABBAS

6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 – THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR BASIL, PRESBYTER OF THE CHURCH IN ANCYRA

9:30 AM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 – SATURDAY OF LAZARUS; THE VENERABLE MARTYR NICON AND 200 OF HIS DISCIPLES  
MARTYRED WITH HIM

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – FLOWERY SUNDAY; PREFEAST OF ANNUNCIATION. OUR VENERABLE FATHER  
ZECHARIAH; OUR HOLY FATHER ARTEMON, BISHOP OF SELEUCIA IN PISIDIA

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

6:30 PM – Great Vespers & Lytia for the Feast of the Annunciation (satisfies obligation for the feast)

### CARDS FOR SALE

*Easter Cards, and various other greeting cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.*

### NEW ALTAR VESTMENTS

Olga Fedunyak will be making a set of altar vestments for the Holy Table and the various furnishings in the front of the church. Envelopes are available if you would like to make a donation to help cover the cost of materials (\$450.00).

We hope to eventually have a bright set made in the future. Would you like to help with that expense as well?

### FLOWER COLLECTION

*Special envelopes are available in the back of the church do help with the purchase of flowers for the Feast of Pascha.*

#### Sunday offering for March 10

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$10.00	4
\$20.00	3
\$25.00	1
\$28.00	1 (loose)
\$40.00	3
\$50.00	2
\$75.00	2
\$100.00	1
\$175.00	1
\$400.00	1
\$1153.00	20 Parishioners

Parishioner Total: \$1153.00

Visitor Total: \$100.00

Average / parish household (40): \$21.07

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2125.00

Shortfall: (\$1240.00)





## FOR CONSIDERATION

*By St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Why is it that much is said and written about the sufferings of holy men and holy women? Because the saints, alone, are considered victors. Can anyone be a victor without conflict, pain and suffering? In ordinary earthly combat, no one can be considered victorious nor heroic who has not been in combat, tortured much or suffered greatly. The more so in spiritual combat where the truth is known and where self-boasting not only does not help at all but, indeed, hinders it. He who does not engage in combat for the sake of Christ, either with the world, with the devil or with one's self, how can he be counted among the soldiers of Christ? How, then, can it be with Christ's co-victors? St. Mary spoke

about her savage spiritual combat to the Elder Zosimus: "For the first seventeen years in this wilderness I struggled with my deranged sexual desires as though with fierce beasts. I desired to eat meat and fish which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also desired to drink wine and here, I did not have even water to drink. I desired to hear lustful songs. I cried and beat my breasts. I prayed to the All-Pure Mother of God to banish such thoughts from me. When I had sufficiently cried and beat my breasts, it was then that I saw a light encompassing me on all sides and a certain miraculous peace filled me."

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## ABOUT THE VICTORY OVER THE LAST ENEMY

*From the Prologue of Ochrid / St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

**"The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor 15:26).**

Man's first enemy is the devil, the second is sin and the third is death. The Lord Jesus conquered all three of these enemies of the human race. By His humility, He conquered the proud devil. By His death, He conquered sin and by His resurrection, He conquered death. In conquering all of our enemies, He invites us to be partakers in His glorious victory. Not only that we conquer but that we win together with Him. Only His power conquers, only His weapons triumph. Alone we are without power and weapons, and our enemies are fearsome. But with Him, we conquer those mightier than ourselves. What is the price that He offers to us for His victory? A meager price, my brethren; for a very paltry price He offers us the most precious victory.

To humble ourselves and to submit ourselves to the will of God, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer the devil for us. To die unto ourselves, to die to fleshly desires and passions, that is the price which He seeks in order to conquer for us. To live for Him and not for ourselves, to receive Him into our hearts, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer death for us. He conquered all enemies openly and completely. This is the price for which He offers His victory to each of us. The Apostle Paul speaks: "But thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:57).





**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква  
Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer  
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

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***Saint Mary of Egypt***

On this, the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we commemorate the blessed memory of Saint Mary of Egypt who passed through this present life as a devout ascetic, that is, in total self-denial and repentance, rejecting transitory earthly pleasures and fixed only on things eternal. On account of this lifestyle, we remember and celebrate Saint Mary of Egypt as the "Penitent Saint." Born and raised in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Justinian (527-656), her lifestyle was not what was mentioned above. In fact, she was a runaway child who went to Alexandria and became a prostitute. Because of this treacherous lifestyle she seemed destined to walk in eternal spiritual darkness. One day, out of curiosity, she joined a group of Christian pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross (September 14). Throughout the pilgrimage she continuously led the others into sin. However, when she tried

to enter into the Church of the Holy Resurrection, an unseen power prevented her from doing so, once, twice, three times, while others around her entered freely. Taking this as a personal sign from God, she was cut to the heart by a profound awareness of her own sinfulness. She immediately repented and decided to change her life, embracing the monastic life. She remained in the desert some forty years, until she peacefully fell asleep in the Lord.

Today, we celebrate the example of her conversion with these words: Once you were defiled with every impurity but today through repentance you have become the Bride of Christ. Desiring the life of the angels, you have cast down the demons with the weapons of the Cross. Therefore, O glorious Mary, you have been made a bride of the Kingdom.