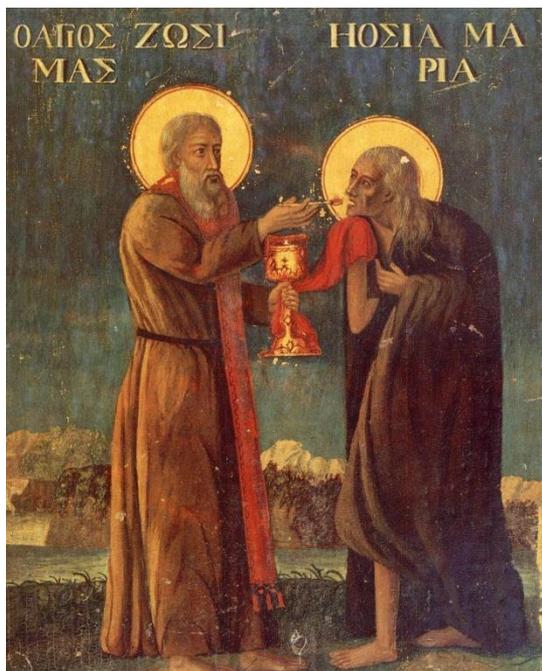


Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania + Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



St. Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of Great Lent

April 18th, 2021

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

1725 Holy Cross Ln
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701-2749
www.holycrosswilliamsport.org

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Reynolds, Pastor
Office: 570.322.3020
(c) 717.576.3503
Email: priestseraphim@protonmail.com

Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29
Gospel: St. Mark 10:32-45; St. Luke 7:36-50

A warm welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

++Presanctified Liturgy – Wednesday, Apr 21st @ 5:30pm (9th Hour @ 5:20) Begin your Eucharistic fast after your noon meal. We will have a light Lenten potluck Fellowship to follow in the Hall, so please bring something to share.

++Lazarus Saturday Matins – Friday, Apr 23rd @ 5:30pm

++Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy – Saturday, April 24th @ 9am

***Palm Sunday Great Vespers – Saturday, Apr 24th @ 5pm**

***Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy (w/procession) – Sunday, Apr 25th @ 10am (Hours @ 9:40am)** Lenten Fellowship after in the Hall

++Bridegroom Matins – Sunday, Apr 25th @ 5:30pm

Our Giving – April 11th, 2021

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,976.00
Candle Offerings – \$84.00 / Pascha Flowers - \$50.00
Love Offerings - \$170.00 / Love Gift - \$150.00

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have **properly prepared themselves** by **fasting, prayer [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], recent confession**, and who were *at least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with each other too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

Taste the Presence

Taste the Presence of Christ Beside You

We all need a good dose of silent prayer each and every day. Finding that perfect place in your home that can become your cave, or prayer closet, will afford you that sacred space wherein you can go deep into the heart and connect with God. That place wherein you can close off your family, your worries, your job, your distractions, and go deep into your heart wherein you will find the peace that comes from Christ.

The Jesus Prayer is the perfect prayer, for it is a prayer of adoration and praise, and a prayer that proclaims that Jesus is Lord and, as God, can grant mercy upon you. The simple prayer which invokes the Holy Name of Jesus can transform your life, and take you into the very Heart of God. This prayer is known as the Prayer of the Heart for the very reason that it is of the heart.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.” Said with the aid of a Prayer Rope (thus bringing your body into the action of the prayer), this prayer accomplishes Saint Paul’s admonition that we should “pray always”. It is a prayer that takes

you out of yourself and into communion with Christ. It is a prayer that can change your life because through this prayer you can taste the presence of Christ beside you.

Love in Christ,

Abbot Tryphon

All Merciful Saviour Monastery, Vashon Island, WA.

This Life of Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt was written down in the seventh century by Saint Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, some hundred years after the repose of the holy Mary, who fell asleep in the Lord April 1, 522. It is one of the most beautiful and edifying lives of a saint. Its obvious and stated purpose is to glorify God and to feed the souls of its readers. St. Sophronius lifts up the life of blessed Mary as a most wondrous example of repentance for all the faithful. Indeed, the Church has lifted up this life before all the faithful on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, the Sunday before Palm Sunday. It is both a challenge and an inspiration to us. It shows us what a human being is capable of when she works with the all-powerful saving and forgiving grace of our all-loving God.

This life should not discourage us by the superhuman efforts of glorious Mary; it should instead give us hope and the will to take courage to begin our repentance. As we go along the compunctionate path of repentance, God will give us the strength to go deeper and deeper into our souls, opening our whole life to Him so that He can heal, restore, and glorify it by uniting it to Himself. To Him be the glory for ever. Amen.

Pray to our venerable Mother Mary that she will not forsake us but that she will bear with our weaknesses, even our lack of repentance, and will always stand with us and uphold us with her holy prayers, that she will always intercede for all those who honor her.

--Father John Townsend, Rector
Saint Mary of Egypt
Atlanta, Georgia

“In prayer, freely tell the Lord God all your needs, with perfect humility and reverence, with firm hope of being heard, with complete love, with warm sincerity, and, if our prayer is not answered quickly, with grateful patience.”

Metropolitan Gregory (Postnikov) of St. Petersburg
How to Live a Holy Life p.107

“The Lord desires the salvation of each and every person. But not everyone wants to be saved. In word they all desire it, but in deed they reject it. How do they reject it? Not through sin, because there were many great sinners, like the thief, Saint Mary of Egypt and others. They repented of their sins and the Lord forgave them, and thus they achieved salvation. The ones who perish are the ones who sin but do not repent and only justify their transgressions.”

Abbot Nikon Vorobiev
Abbot Nikon Letters to Spiritual Children p.120

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Mat. Theodora (Ressetar), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Mat. Seraphima (Hunter) & Mary (Federoff) and the children to be born of them, Helen Maybo, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis & Donna Kadenas

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Mitred-Archpriest Basil Summer +3/26, Archpriest Antonio Perdomo +4/1, Archpriest George Morelli +3/17, Archpriest Vladimir Lecko +3/16, Archpriest Viktor Tseshkovsky +3/15, Neven Stanisic +3/22, Peter Georges +4/15