

## Great Lent:

The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that **no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents**. Christ himself has come "*to call sinners to repentance*" and to save them from their sins (Lk 5:32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us **that it is never too late in life -- or in Lent -- to repent**. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

The week following the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt is called **Palm or Branch Week**. This week the Church recalls that Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (Jn 11). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On **Friday evening**, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the "**great and saving forty days**" of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

*Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls,  
we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man,  
that we may see the holy week of Thy passion,  
that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of  
salvation for our sake. ... (Vesper Hymn)*

With these words we enter into the annual commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. **It begins on the Saturday of Lazarus**. The double feast of Lazarus' Resurrection and the Entrance of the Lord to Jerusalem is described in liturgical texts as the '*beginning of the Cross*' and is to be understood, therefore, within the context of the Holy Week. The common Troparion of these days explicitly affirms that '*by raising Lazarus from the dead Christ confirmed the truth of general resurrection.*' It is highly significant that we are led into the darkness of the Cross by one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. Light and joy shine not only at the end of Holy Week but also at its beginning; they illumine darkness itself, reveal its ultimate meaning.

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# Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

## *"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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St. Mary of Egypt

### On this day the Church remembers:

#### • 5th Sunday of Great Lent • St. Mary of Egypt

• Martyrs Terence, Pompeius, Africanus, Maximus, Zeno, Alexander, Theodore, Macarius, and 33 others, beheaded at Carthage (3<sup>rd</sup> c.) • Martyrs James (Jacob) the Presbyter, and Azadanus and Abdicius - Deacons, of Persia (ca. 380).

*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, most glorious Mary, you are a Bride of the Kingdom!*  
(Kontakion - St. Mary of Egypt)

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**April 10, 2011**  
**St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**

5th Sunday of Great Lent

| **Tone 5** of the Octoechos. |

Triodion week 9

**Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:****For the health of:**

**Walter Romanofsky**, father of Andrew Romanofsky, on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Readings:**

- Galatians 3:23-29 (St Mary of Egypt)
  - Luke 7:36-50 (St Mary of Egypt)
- Hebrews 9:11-14 (5th Sunday of Great Lent)
- Mark 10:32-45 (5th Sunday of Great Lent)

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And 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 do 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 to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with 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." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**Sunday service:**

9:40 AM – Hours

10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Church School - 9:30 Choir practice - 9:30 Coffee hour after Liturgy

**2011 Services for Great Lent**

Friday, April 15, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 16, 6:00 PM - Vespers - Saturday of Lazarus' Resurrection

**2011 Holy Week Services**

Thursday, April 21, 6:00 PM - Thursday evening service (Friday Matins - 12 Passion Gospels)

Friday, April 22, 2:00 PM - Friday Vespers

Friday April 22, 6:00 PM - Good Friday Service (Called Saturday Matins)

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour downstairs.**

**Announcements:**

- The last **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served this Friday, at 6:00 pm, ending Great Lent.
- **Vespers** will be served on **Lazarus Saturday, April 16th**, at 6:00 pm. This is a good opportunity for confession also.
- **Raffle tickets! · Raffle tickets! · Raffle tickets!**  
**Tickets are now available for our annual Easter basket raffle.** Three baskets will be raffled off on Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>, each containing traditional Slavic Paschal foods. The Sisterhood is asking that each parishioner sell 10 tickets for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each. See Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine.
- Today there will be a **special collection after the sermon**. This collection is for **Plaschinitsa Flowers** and for Pascha basket raffle items.

**Special Announcements:**

- There will be **no General Confession** during Great Lent; Father can hear Confessions before any service. (Arrive early)
- We thank everyone who gave generously toward **recovery efforts in ravaged Japan**. Individual donations may **still be made on-line** at **www.iocc.org**, or by calling toll free: **877-803-4622**. Please be sure to indicate your gift as **"Relief for Japan."**