

St Michael's Orthodox Church

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

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April 6, 2025 – 5th Sunday of Great Lent – St Mary of Egypt

This Week

Sat April 5, 6:30pm – Great Vespers (Fr Bill Rusk)
Sun April 6, 9:30am – Divine Liturgy & fellowship (Fr Bill Rusk)
Sun April 6, 4:00pm – Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ All Saints Olyphant
Wed April 9, 6:30pm – Presanctified Divine Liturgy (Fr Bill Rusk)
Fri April 11, 6:30pm – Matins of Lazarus Saturday (Fr John Black)
Sat April 12, 9:00am – Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday
Sat April 12, 6:30pm – Small Vigil for PALM SUNDAY
Sun April 13, 9:30am – Festal Divine Liturgy for PALM SUNDAY
Sun April 13, 6:30pm – “Bridegroom” Matins of Holy Monday

Coffee Hour is offered by: (all coffee hours are Lenten until Pascha)

4/6: Vickie Kravitsky & Charette Radionoff 4/27: Millie Telep & _____ (need
4/13: Susan Schlasta & Deborah Bernosky volunteer)
4/20: PASCHA 5/4: Mat. Dolores & Marilyn Petorak

Prayers

The ill and the afflicted: Fr. Daniel Donlick, Fr Gregory White, Pdn. Gabriel Petorak, Dn Geoffrey LoBalbo, Mat. Myra Kovalek, Gregory Hansen, Olga Krutz, Maryanne Krisa, Michael Krisa, Barbara Mosley, Mary Ann Serafini, Alexis Meholic, Tom Shaw, George Petorak, Sandy Gillott, Debbie Jadick, Susan Schlasta, Evan Kraky, Laura Piwowarski, Karen Abercia, Daniel Kitchura, Mark Klapatch, Gregory Klapatch, Jerry Soroka.

Homebound: John Drutarosky, Theresa Krenitsky, Barbara Palubniak, Peggy Petrilak, Nicholas Mattise, Jerry & Marilyn Soroka, Paul Kostiak, Dolores Brophy, Paul Mosley, Adam & Mary Ann Serafini, Florence Zielinsky.

The newly-departed: Mitered Apr. Daniel Skvir (3/23). Archpriest Paul Harrilchak (3/12). Priest Jonas Worsham (3/8). Mat. Sophia Daniels (3/29). Mat. Mary Shafran (4/1).

Hymns of the Day

Resurrection (Tone 8)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

St Mary of Egypt (Tone 8)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother, / for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; / but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Resurrection (Tone 8)

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, // and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Glory... St Mary of Egypt (Tone 3)

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, O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Now & ever ... For the Mother of God (Tone 6)

Steadfast protectress of Christians, / constant advocate before the Creator; / despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, / but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. / Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, // for you always protect those who honor you!

Today's Scripture

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Brethren: Christ came as a High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood, He entered once into the Most Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling and the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the Blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

At that time, Jesus took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and

they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.” And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Confession & Communion

There should be **no confessions after Holy Wednesday**, except by special arrangement (traveling from out of town, or illness, or shut-in). Please do not expect confession on Good Friday or on Pascha. If this creates a problem for you or for someone you know, please talk to Fr Bill or Fr John ASAP.

Please prepare yourself for a genuine confession. There is no such thing as “absolution” without confessing anything. We promise you, all confessions are “eternally confidential” and there is nothing new under the sun. True repentance begins with honesty and vulnerability. If you are struggling with your feelings about this, please talk to us! We are here to help.

And finally – I have been telling many of you this, but it must be repeated for all: It is against Holy Tradition to refuse Communion for long periods of time without a very good reason. We should be receiving communion every time it is offered, AND we should have a habit of Confession every 1-3 months (at a minimum, 3 or 4 times a year). If you have stayed away from Communion for a long time (for example, since last year), please (A) make a heartfelt confession about this before coming on Pascha, and (B) resolve to correct this by coming to communion more frequently in the future. Your spiritual health matters very much to us. *And do not underestimate the effect your own spiritual health has on the health of the Parish as a whole!*

Announcements

THANK YOU to everyone who has offered donations and prayers for our Flower Drive. So far, prayers have been offered *in memory of*: Henel & Nicholas Myshak, Olga & Andrew Grancey, Alex & Elizabeth Hockin, Rebecca and John Hanchak, members of the Leschak and Keklock families, the Deak & Jubinski Families, Dorothy & Eugene Skorupa, Joseph & Eleanor Siniawa, Robert Furiosi, Paul Sernak, David Essig, Walter Telep. And *for the health of*: Camille Palese, George & Marilyn Petorak, Josh Petorak, Rdr. Jon & Anna Marie Black, Gloria & Tom Shaw and family, and Miles & Roxanne Neutts.

STAY TUNED for some upcoming events from our amazing Events Team!

- Friday May 16: Pizza & Hoagie Sale (Fresh pizzas & Hoagie coupons)
- Sometime in June: A Pasta & Meatball Dinner!