

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Face Book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

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## *BULLETIN OF MARCH 25, 2018*

### **SUNDAY/MARCH 25**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great & Holy Fast**

#### **Annunciation of the Theotokos**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

4:00p.m. Vespers at St. Simon of Cyrene Mission  
in New Brunswick & 4:00p.m. Vespers at Holy  
Trinity Church (with Abp. Michael) in Rahway

### **MONDAY/MARCH 26**

7:00p.m. Vespers

### **TUESDAY/MARCH 27**

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

### **WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28**

9:30a.m. Akathist to Passion; Confessions

6:30p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

### **THURSDAY/MARCH 29**

7:00p.m. Holy Unction Mystery  
(*Confession & Communion in last two  
Months required to receive this Mystery*)

### **FRIDAY/MARCH 30**

7:00p.m. Matins; Confessions

### **LAZARUS SATURDAY/MARCH 31**

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Work Party for  
Palms & Willows after Liturgy

3:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

### **PALM SUNDAY/APRIL 1**

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30p.m. Bridegroom Matins



### **Offerings Week of March 25**

Relics Candle: in honor of St. John of San Francisco; for the parishioners of the parish;

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of Michael, Justina, Anastasia, Rosalie & Ivanna; for the health of Daria and Mindy (birthdays).

Flowers: for the Theotokos.

Litya Breads: for the health of Katherine.

### **Synodicon: Memory Eternal!**

Mar. 26, 1931 Anna Mogilevsky

Mar. 26, 1958 Henry Knaff

Mar. 27, 1971 Anna Shwhala

Mar. 27, 1985 Steven Pawlik

Mar. 29, 1942 John Kudelko

Mar. 29, 2007 Anastasia Kornacki

Mar. 30, 1959 Julius Kisel

Mar. 30, 1968 Pauline Bulat

Mar. 31, 1931 George Andrejko

Mar. 31, 1985 Alexander Rudzina

### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

Coffee Hour Hosts prepare foods that are simple so you are not absent from the Divine Liturgy. It is only after Communion, that we should leave the church and attend to food preparations.

Mar. 25 *Fish Permitted*

Mar. 25 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

Apr. 01 *Fish Permitted*

Apr. 01 Chirnoaga, Moldoveanu, Vajda & Sue

### **Counters Schedule**

Mar. 25 Larissa M. & Paulina N.

Apr. 01 Rebecca O. & Ekaterina M.

### **Ushers Schedule**

Mar. 25 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Apr. 01 Timothy S. & Peter B.

### **Readers Schedule**

Mar. 25 Daniel T. / Apr. 01

### **Pussy willows**

Please bring them to the lower hall.

**Thanks to All For the Fine Foods  
at our deanery Vespers last Sunday**

### **The Mysteries of Confession & Holy Communion**

All the faithful should receive these two Mysteries in this Pre-lent/Lent Period (February-March months). This includes children of Confession age. Reminder that Confessions are not scheduled during Great & Holy Week (April 1-7) but is possible for College Students returning home. To receive Holy Communion on Palm Sunday (April 1<sup>st</sup>) and thereafter, you must have gone to Confession in either February or March.

### **New Church Flooring Donations Received**

**(8 offerings on 3/11)** \$500, \$1,000, \$300, \$700, \$1,000, \$3,000, \$500 and \$50.

**(11 Offerings on 3/18)** \$50, \$25, \$1,500, \$100, \$100, \$200, \$2,000, \$100, \$1,000, \$300 and \$500. The Lord bless your offerings!

### **Summer Camps Registrations Underway**

St. Andrew's Camp and St. Tikhon's Camp. Now is the time to register. A great opportunity for our children to bond with other Orthodox children.

### **Great & Holy Friday – April 6**

The State of NJ recognizes Orthodox Good Friday as an official day for religious observance. Parents simply need to write a note to the teacher, claiming religious observance for an excused absence.

### **Bright Monday Festal Meal – April 9**

Please be in touch with Lisa Keller in regards to foods you will bring. This is also an excused day for religious observance in State of NJ for school children. Just write a note. For everyone, take the day off and celebrate Pascha as a Parish Family.

### **2018 Great & Holy Week Task Sheet**

Help out when and where you can. Sign-up.

### **Great & Holy Friday & Saturday Vigil**

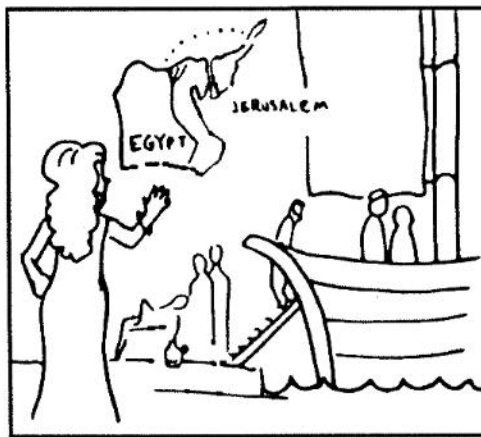
There are 12 "Vigil Watches" in these two days. A sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand.

### **Names Day Greetings**

St. Mary of Egypt/5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: Mary Lily Su & Mary Zaria Raymond – Many Blessed Years!

∞  
**THE LIFE OF  
 ST.  
 MARY  
 OF  
 EGYPT**  
 ∞

marymerciest.blogspot.com



MARY WAS FROM EGYPT, AND SHE LIVED A LIFE OF SHAME. ONE DAY SHE GOT ON A BOAT TO GO TO JERUSALEM.

SHE WANTED TO GO IN THE CHURCH TO SEE THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS...



...BUT SHE COULDN'T GO IN! SHE SAW AN ICON OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND WEPT FOR ALL HER SINS.

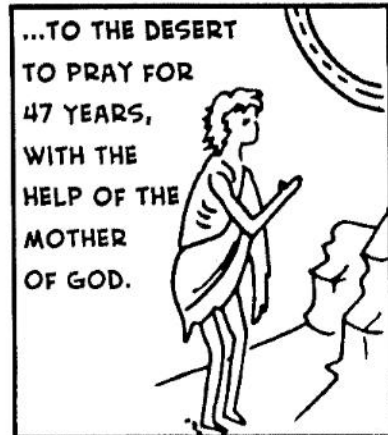
SHE HEARD A VOICE FROM THE HEAVENS...



∞  
*"Cross the Jordan to find glorious rest."*  
 ∞



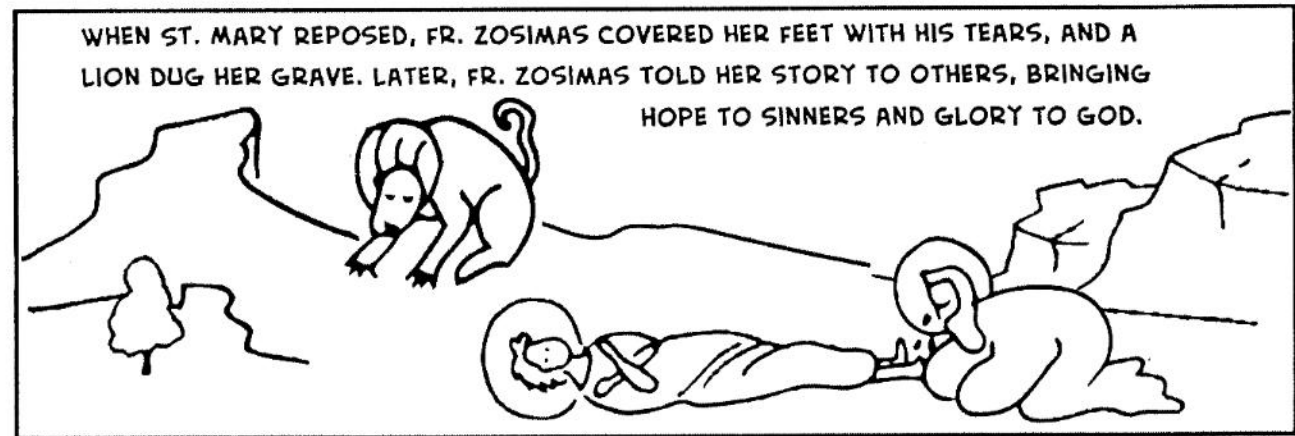
...SO SHE WENT ACROSS THE JORDAN...



...TO THE DESERT TO PRAY FOR 47 YEARS, WITH THE HELP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD.



SHE MET FR. ZOSIMAS IN THE DESERT. WHEN HE BROUGHT HER HOLY COMMUNION SHE WALKED ACROSS THE JORDAN AS ON DRY LAND.



WHEN ST. MARY REPOSED, FR. ZOSIMAS COVERED HER FEET WITH HIS TEARS, AND A LION DUG HER GRAVE. LATER, FR. ZOSIMAS TOLD HER STORY TO OTHERS, BRINGING HOPE TO SINNERS AND GLORY TO GOD.

**HOLY ST. MARY OF EGYPT, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!**

### ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

#### Q. How does Confession help prepare me to receive Holy Unction and Holy Communion?

A. Each Sacrament in the Orthodox Church has its own unique function in bringing about the healing and restoration of man, who, as we read in Genesis, was tricked by the serpent and became sick and subject to death having been infected with the poisonous venom of sin. According to the Fathers, Confession is the first step on the road to healing, for through Confession man can spit out the devil's deadly poison and purge himself from sin. Then once the poison has been expelled, the spiritual and physical wounds left by the bite can be healed through the anointing of Holy Unction. And through the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, the Sustenance of eternal life, man can regain his strength and return to health of body and soul. Yet, just as anointing a snake bite with oil and feeding a man healthy food, will not bring about healing unless the poison is first removed, so too the reception of Holy Unction and Holy Communion will not profit a man unless he first purges himself of sin through Holy Confession.



#### Q. How often should I confess my sins?

A. One should confess one's sins and spit out the devil's poison whenever one is spiritually bitten to the point that one's health is in danger. One may reach this point from a single deadly bite, such as murder, adultery, fornication, or some other very serious sin, or from a series of lesser bites, such as anger, overeating, judging others, or lustful thoughts. As a general rule, the frequency of one's confession should depend on the amount of poison with which one has been infected.



#### Q. Is it necessary to confess every time I receive Holy Communion?

A. If one receives from the Holy Chalice infrequently, say once or twice a year, then yes, one should go to confession each time before receiving Holy Communion. However, for the frequent communicant, one who receives Holy Communion every Sunday, it is not necessary to confess one's sins before each time one receives, that is, unless one has fallen into a serious sin.

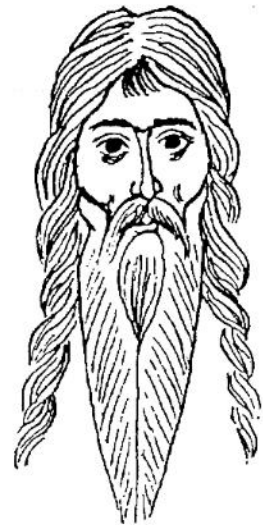
In such cases, one should not approach the Chalice until one has first confessed one's sin and fulfilled the advice or penance of one's father confessor. Finally, although it is not necessary for the frequent communicant to confess his or her sins each time he or she approaches the Chalice, confession should be made at least during each of the four fasting seasons, lest the poison received over time through small sins lead to the same spiritual death as that which comes through a single deadly bite.

### WISDOM FROM THE FATHERS

"Every day you provide your bodies with good to keep them from failing. In the same way your good works should be the daily nourishment of your hearts. Your bodies are fed with food and your spirits with good works. You aren't to deny your soul, which is going to live forever, what you grant to your body, which is going to die." - *St. Gregory the Great*

"Beguiling and deceptive is the life of the world, fruitless its labor, perilous its delight, poor its riches, delusive its honors, inconstant, insignificant; and woe to those who hope in its seemingly good things: because of this many die without repentance. Blessed and most blessed are those who depart from the world and its desires." - *Elder Nazarius*

"When anyone is disturbed or saddened under the pretext of a good and soul-profitting matter, and is angered against his neighbor, it is evident that this is not according to God: for everything that is of God is peaceful and useful and leads a man to humility and to judging himself." - *St. Barsanuphius the Great*



### 3 Rules For Keeping On The Straight Path

#### After Confession and Holy Communion

By St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

Our inner spiritual lives never get into the proper order all of a sudden. What is always required and what lies ahead is intensified labor over oneself, by assimilation of good intentions and by the enabling grace through the Mysteries of Confession and Communion. This work and effort is directed towards destroying the disorder that reigns inside; in its place it establishes order and harmony, after which follows inner peace and a continual joyful mood of the heart.

Do not think, however, that for this you must re-do everything, or bind yourself to a lot of rules. Absolutely not. Two or three little rules or precautions, is all you need.

Rule One: it is necessary to get in the habit of unceasing remembrance of God, along with fear and reverence. Be with the Lord no matter what you do; and turn to Him with your whole mind, trying to conduct yourself as you would in front of a king. You will soon get into the habit, just don't give up or break off. To make it easier to acquire the habit of remembrance of God, there is a special method for fervent Christians; that is, the unceasing repetition of a short prayer of two or three words. Most common is "Lord have mercy," or "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." If you have never done it, begin doing it now from this moment on. Whether you are walking, sitting, eating, going to bed, repeat over and over the prayer. From long practice of this, the words will fasten themselves to the tongue, so that they will repeat themselves. Do not forget to combine this prayer with reverence.

Rule Two: Do not do anything that your conscience prohibits; and do not omit anything that it says to do, whether great or small. Follow your conscience undeviatingly, and with such perseverance that you would not allow yourself to do anything against it even if you were to die. The more decisively you act, then the more powerful your conscience will become. The more powerful your conscience becomes, the more completely and forcefully it will inspire you with what is necessary and steer you away from what is unnecessary in words, deeds and thoughts, and the more quickly your inner being will be put in order.

Rule Three: Supplement the first two rules with this third one – be patient. You must spiritually work and not give in to pleasing yourself or the world. There will be constant opposition to any good spiritual work you have begun. You must overcome this; therefore, you must exert more force and consequently, be patient. Clothe yourself in this all-powerful armor and never allow your spirits to fall when you encounter misfortune. Everything will come with time. Be encouraged in your patience through this hope. This is what happens to be borne out by the experience of all people who have sought and accomplished salvation.

Three simple rules: remembrance of God with reverence; obey your conscience strictly and arm yourself with hope through patience. May the Lord bless you to be so inclined and to be in this frame of mind.

#### ON THE POWER OF LOVE

St. Nikolai Velimirovich

A scholar attracts by his knowledge, a wealthy man by riches, a handsome man by beauty, an artist by his skill. Each of these attracts a limited number of individuals. Only love attracts all human beings. The attraction of love is unlimited. And educated or uneducated, rich or poor, skilled or unskilled, beautiful or ugly, healthy or sick, and young or old - all want to be loved. Christ spread His love on everyone, and lovingly drew all to Himself. With His great love he encompassed even the dead, long decomposed and forgotten by men.





## DAILY OBSERVANCES OF THE FAITHFUL DURING HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday concludes Great Lent. This celebration remembers Christ's raising of Lazarus from the dead and the promise of universal resurrection for all. Lazarus Saturday provides a bridge to Holy Week during which the Church services remember Christ's last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.

In the Orthodox Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week. Each day is designated in the service books as "great and holy." There are special services every day of the week which are fulfilled in all churches. Earthly life ceases for the faithful as they "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem".

### LAZARUS SATURDAY, THE DAY BEFORE PALM SUNDAY

On this day the rising from the dead of St. Lazarus, the righteous friend of Christ, is celebrated. Holy Week begins with the phrase: "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany", John 12:1. His arrival coincided with the Jewish Passover. It started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of Nisan in commemoration of the freeing of the Hebrew people under the leadership of Moses, from the slavery of the Egyptians by the miraculous act of God. The Church relates preparation and redemption to the events of this week.

Six days before the Passover a feast was given for Christ in Bethany of Judea where Christ had stopped on His way to Jerusalem. Lazarus, His friend, and his sisters were present. A short time earlier Christ had risen Lazarus from the dead, thereby gaining the respect and faith of the people, but also the hatred of the fanatics. The Church names this day the "Saturday of Lazarus" in remembrance of the resurrection of Lazarus and its promise of universal resurrection for all men. The Church connects this celebration, by anticipation, with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem: "We carry the Symbols of victory and cry Hosanna in the highest".

*The readings are Hebrews 12:28-13:8 and John 11:1-45.*



### PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday celebrates the glorious and brilliant feast of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Zechariah had prophesied the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem, saying: "Rejoice greatly ... O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King comes unto Thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass", Zech. 9:9. The contemporary Jews associated this prophecy with the expected Messiah. This action of Christ testifies to His nature as Savior, but with the definite declaration that His Kingdom: was not of this world. The news that Christ was in Bethany provoked a general enthusiasm of acceptance, but also of indignation among the High Priests, who had decided to kill Christ. The main road leading to Jerusalem was covered with palm trees. The multitudes,

with palm branches in their hands, spread their cloaks on the road as a show of respect, crying out: "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord". All the actions and words of the people and, of Christ had a Messianic meaning readily recognized by the Jews of that time. As usual, Christ went immediately to the Temple, where He prayed and taught. That evening He departed for Bethany.

A custom of distributing branches of palms to the people in the Church prevails to this day, commemorating the victory of Christ against the evil powers.

*The Epistle reading is Phil. 4:4-9, and the Gospel reading is John 12:1-18.*