

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org Website: www.ssppoc.org

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF APRIL 14, 2019

SUNDAY/APRIL 14 *Wine & oil*

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

St. Mary f Egypt (+530)

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

Church School & Teen Class

4:00p.m. Vespers at Holy Cross in

Medford with Abp. Michael

Lazarus Saturday – April 20, 2019
Lazarus Saturday holds a very special place
in the liturgical calendar. It is outside the
40 days of Great Lent; it is also outside of
Great & Holy Week. Together with Palm Sunday,
it constitutes a brief, joyful prelude before the
Days of the Passion.

MONDAY/APRIL 15

7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/APRIL 16

7:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

6:30p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

7:00p.m. Holy Unction Service

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

7:00p.m. Matins; Confessions

LAZARUS SATURDAY/APRIL 20

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy *Wine & oil*

11:00a.m. Work Party with Palms

3:00p.m. Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil & Confessions



PALM SUNDAY/APRIL 21 *Fish, wine & oil*

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

Church School; Coffee Hour

6:00p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Offerings Week of April 14

Relics candle: in honor of St. John Maximovitch; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia, and Ivanna; in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Jerome, John, & Ann Marie.

Olive Oil: in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families; in memory of John; for protection and guidance from God in going about the task of selling the house with a quiet spirit and not with anxiety

Wine: for the health of Anton, Crsitina, Sebastian, Cristian & Stefan; in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Sasinca, Alexandru, Gabriela, Maria, Elena, Petre, Maria, Elena, Ilie, Aurelia and their family.

Flowers: in honor of the Theotkos, our Great Protectress; for the health of Nicholas (birthday); for the protection of Manle & Dale, wedding anniversary.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Apr. 15, 1961 Lazar Elik
Apr. 15, 2012 Helen Gregovitch
Apr. 16, 1991 Vassily Seminuk
Apr. 17, 1957 Peter Dutko
Apr. 18, 1936 Martha Dzioba
Apr. 18, 2001 Mary Spotts
Apr. 20, 1934 Metropolitan Platon
Apr. 20, 1947 Charles Lazaruk
Apr. 21, 1919 Eva Chkhata-Zydiak
Apr. 21, 1935 Peter Chromoho

Coffee Hour Schedule

From March 17 thru Apr. 21

No meat, fish or dairy products

Apr. 14 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona
Apr. 21 **Fish permitted**
Apr. 21 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina
& Sarchisian

Counters Schedule

Apr. 14 Ciprian C. & Jill P.
Apr. 21 Irina S. & Lisa K.

Ushers Schedule

Apr. 14 Jerome S. & Adrian M.
Apr. 21 Dennis F. & Robert E.

Readers Schedule

Apr. 14 Zachary S. / Apr. 21 Ciprian C.

Names Day Greetings

St. Mary of Egypt/5th Sun of Great Lent:
Lily Mary Sue & Zaria Mary Raymond
Many Blessed Years!

Check On-Line Calendar on website

Apr. 20/Sat. 11:00a.m. Work Party for pussy willows and Palms.

Apr. 21/Sun. Palm Sunday (Western Easter)

Apr. 22/Mon. Great & Holy Week Begins

Apr. 26/Fri. Youth Good Friday Program, 6:30p.m to 9:00p.m. (supper, reading, crafts)

Apr. 28/Sun. Holy Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

Apr.29/Bright Mon. Festal Parish Meal after 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

May 01/Wed. 7:00p.m. Paschal Vespers with Abp. Michael at Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus

May 06/Mon. 6:30p.m. Paschal Memorial at cemetery (Rain date: Tues. 6:30p.m.)

May 11& 12/ Sat. & Sun. 225th Anniversary of Orthodoxy in America – Rocky Hill Church

May 11/Sat. No Vespers in Manville, 5:00 Vespers at Mother of God Church in Princeton.

May 12/Sun. Banquet Celebration in Princeton on 225th Anniversary of Orthodoxy in America

May 16/Thurs. Parish Council Meeting 7:00p.m.

May 24-27/ Fri. – Mon. 115th Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Monastery of St. Tikhon

May 25/Sat. Entrance into Church of Timothy Z. & Daniel D.

June 01/Sat. 10:00a.m. Workshop for Parish Council Members at Ss. Peter & Paul, So. River

June 1&2/Sat. & Sun. Archbishop Michael Visitation to our parish

2019 Lenten Charities

- St. Philaret Poor Basket: for local charitable needs.
- OCMC Mission boxes: for mission work throughout the world. – *Return boxes on Palm Sunday, April 21*
- St. Andrew's Camp Offering: for new building of our NY-NJ Diocesan Camp. – *collection ends Palm Sunday, April 21*

Our Vestibule Stand Has a Variety of New Religious Items

Before or after a service check them out. You may speak with Katherine Mantzafos. Booklets are for sale for Great & Holy Week and Pascha Services.

Registration Is Now Open for Orthodox Summer Camps

- St. Tikhon's: July 7-13 (one week)
info@sttikhonscamp.org
- St. Andrew's: June 30-August 03
www.saintandrewscamp.org
 - Art Week: June 30 – July 06
 - Horse Week: July 07- July 13
 - Music Week: July 14- July 20
 - Ecology Week: July 21- July 27
 - Teen Week: July 28- Aug. 03

50th Anniversary of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) – Opening Symposium May 11-12 You Are Invited!

The Church of the Mother of God in Rocky Hill will host a symposium celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the Missionaries from Valaam Monastery to America and the kickoff of the 50th Year of Granting Autocephaly to the OCA. Metropolitan Tikhon of Washington and Bishop David of Alaska, will be make presentations.

Increase of Prices for Graves in Cemetery

The present cost of a grave for a parishioner is \$1,200. As of June 1, the new cost will be \$1,500. For purchase of grave, see Father James.

The Mysteries of Holy Confession and Holy Communion During the Forty Days of Lent

All the faithful – adults as well as children of Confession age – ought to have partaken of these two Holy Mysteries in this Triodion Lenten Season – that began on Feb 17th. Confessions are not scheduled in Great & Holy Week (April 21-27). Confessions should be made no later than Lazarus Saturday, April 20th. College students, returning home from out of State, may make arrangements any time for their Confession, including Great & Holy Week.

The Mystery of Holy Unction – April 18th

On this evening, at 7:00p.m., we will celebrate the Holy Mystery of Holy Unction. Those of the faithful that wish to be anointed must have already received Confession and Holy Communion sometime in the period of the Lenten Season (Feb. 17, 2019) to the present date of April 18th.

The State of NJ Recognizes Religious Holydays That Are Excused For Students

Parents are reminded that Orthodox Holy Thursday (Apr. 25) Holy Friday (Apr. 26) and Bright Monday (Apr. 29) are days in which students are entitled to official absence for religious observance. All you need to do is for the parent to have a written note submitted to the school.

Great & Holy Week Task Sheet: Apr. 21-27

Please see this list on the vestibule stand and help out in those areas you can.

Vigil Watch Sheet: Great & Holy Friday and Great & Holy Saturday

There are 12 Watch Periods – commit yourself to one of them. Sign-up sheet is on the vestibule stand.

Bright Monday – Parish Family Celebration, April 29th

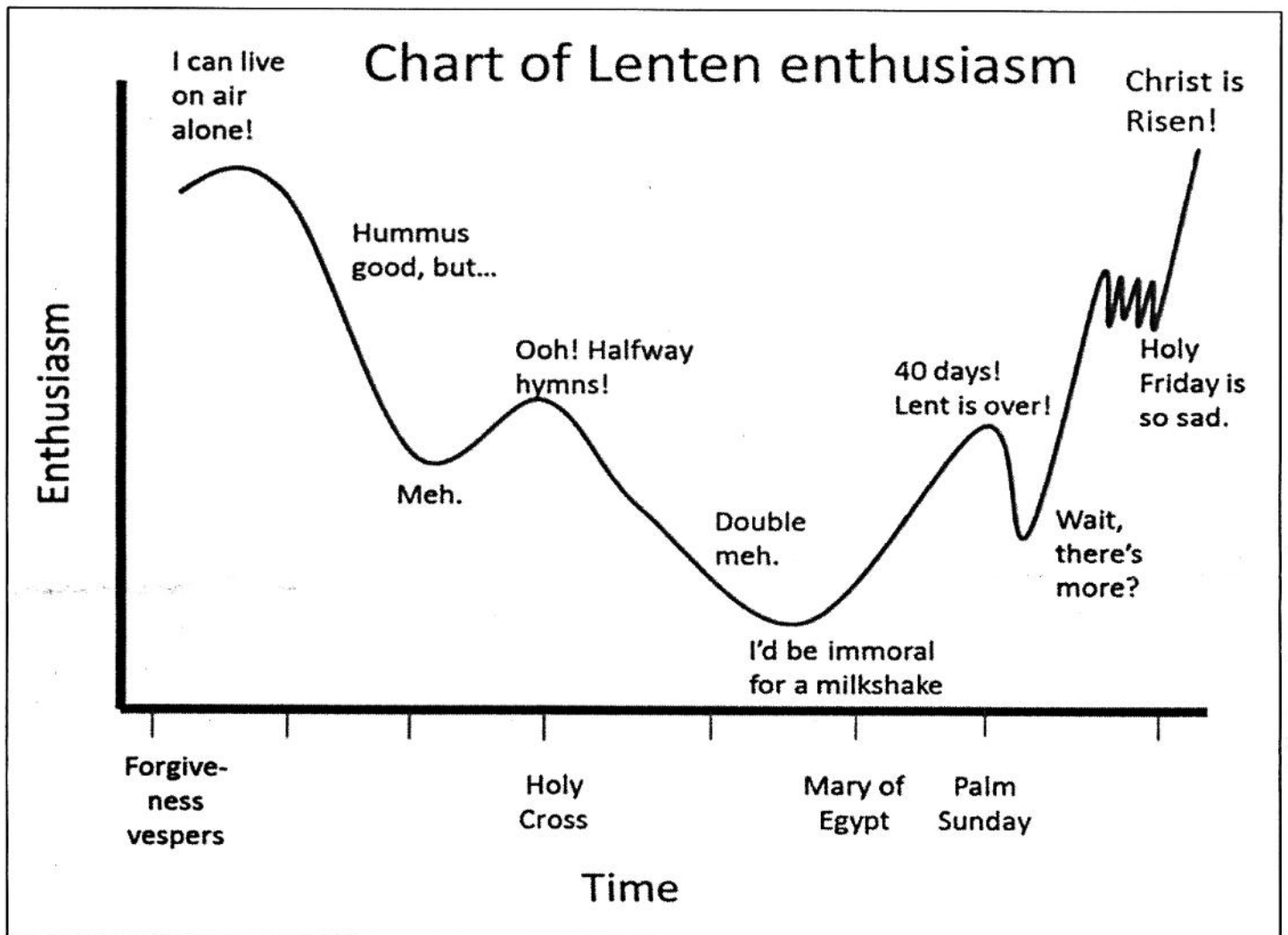
On this day we have the Divine Liturgy at 9:30a.m. with a procession and festal meal. Please join us and speak with Lisa Keller in regard to foods.

Scrip Fund-Raising Program

This is an on-going fund raiser. By purchasing these cards for your own use or as gifts, the church receives back a percentage. All kinds of cards: Weis, Shop-Rite, Dunkin Donuts, Wawa, Walmart, Bed, Bath & Beyond, etc. etc. See Larissa Mattei or Pam Stone.

Preparing for Pascha – April 28th

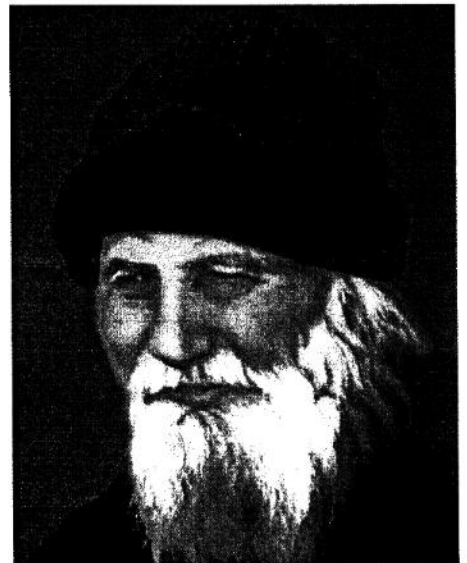
Pious folks do their shopping, cleaning, baking (we all have freezers) presently, so they are free to participate in the evening services of Great & Holy Week, April 21-27. Be Pious!



FROM "WOUNDED BY LOVE"

By Elder Porphyrios

Take delight in all things that surround us. All things teach us and lead us to God. All things around us are droplets of the love of God—both things animate and inanimate, the plants and the animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset and the starry sky. They are little loves through which we attain to the great Love that is Christ. Flowers, for example, have their own grace: they teach us with their fragrance and with their magnificence. They speak to us of the love of God. They scatter their fragrance and their beauty on sinners and on the righteous. For a person to become a Christian he must have a poetic soul. He must become a poet. Christ does not wish insensitive souls in his company. A Christian, albeit only when he loves, is a poet and lives amid poetry. Poetic hearts embrace love and sense it deeply.



Make the most of beautiful moments. Beautiful moments predispose the soul to prayer; they make it refined, noble, and poetic. Wake up in the morning to see the sun rising from out of the sea as a king robed in regal purple. When a lovely landscape, a picturesque chapel, or something beautiful inspires you, don't leave things at that, but go beyond this to give glory for all beautiful things so that you experience Him who alone is comely in beauty. All things are holy—the sea, swimming, and eating. Take delight in them all. All things enrich us, all lead us to the great Love, all lead us to Christ."



St. Mary of Egypt

Venerable Mother, Desert Ascetic, Patron Saint of Penitents

In Egypt, a few centuries after people started becoming Christians, there lived a young woman who was convinced that she should live only to satisfy herself. Her name was Mary, but her young life was very different from that of the Mary we hear so much about in the Orthodox Church, the Virgin Mary.

This other Mary ran away from her parents and her home when she was 12. She traveled from place to place and took on a lifestyle that was very harmful to her. She supported herself by spinning thread and making cloth, but the rest of the time she spent just trying to satisfy herself, something that no matter how hard she tried, she seemed unable to do. She was very *vain* and only wanted to have a good time, to do whatever she enjoyed and to tempt others to that life.

One day she noticed a group of people heading onto a boat bound for Jerusalem. Seeing an opportunity to attract some new people to her carefree life, Mary joined them on the boat. She spent some time with these new friends, *indulging* in the pleasures she was used to, but when they all arrived at the Church in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Elevation of the Cross, Mary, unlike the others, was prevented by something from entering the church.

She pressed into the crowd going through the doors, but each time she got close she felt as if she was being physically pushed back. She tried and tried but while others were able to enter the church, Mary was unable to pass through the doors. Looking up above the doors she saw the icon of the other Mary, the Virgin Mary, and Mary from Egypt felt ashamed.

Suddenly she saw how different her life had been from that of the faithful, obedient Mary. She knew that she wanted to change. She could feel inside a deepening desire to grow closer to God, but she did not know what she should do. She began to pray, to weep, and to beg that other Mary to guide her.

The next time Mary from Egypt moved forward with the crowd she was not kept from entering the church and she was able to join in the worship. In fact, while she was in the church a voice told her to travel to the desert beyond the Jordan River, where she would find peace.

That night, having been given some small loaves of bread, Mary prayed and received Communion at the Church of St. John the Baptist, by the Jordan River. From there she crossed over the river in a small boat and entered the desert, and into a very different life.

Mary lived alone in the desert for many years, praying, weeping and seeking God. She was hungry. She became ill. But still she *persevered* and finally she found peace from her sins and from the memories of her former life.

Meanwhile, a very pious monk named Fr. Zossima had been praying to meet a holy person. Wandering in the desert Fr. Zossima came upon Mary from Egypt. She was quite elderly by then, and had not encountered other people for all her years in the desert. She told Fr. Zossima her story and asked him to pray for her. She then requested that he bring her Communion during the next Lent and meet her by the Jordan River.

The next year Fr. Zossima arrived at the banks of the Jordan River and watched Mary walk across on the water to meet him. She took Communion and then asked Fr. Zossima to visit her again the next year, but to come to the place deep in the desert where they had first met. Again she asked him to pray for her.



Quote

In my thoughts I returned to the ikon of the Mother of God which had received me and to her I cried in prayer. I implored her to chase away the thoughts to which my miserable soul was succumbing. And after weeping for long...I used to see light at last which seemed to shine on me from everywhere. And after the violent storm, lasting calm descended.

- from the Life of our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt, Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville, NY

Date Born

Circa 344 in Egypt

Date Died

Circa 421 in the Trans-Jordan desert, Palestine

Commemoration Date

April 1 and fifth Sunday of Great Lent



The next year, when Fr. Zossima ventured deep into the desert to find Mary, she was in the place where she told him she would be, but she was dead. A note written in the sand told him that she had died right after receiving Communion the year before. How did her body get to this place, many days' walk away? Fr. Zossima was very sad, but wanted to bury Mary. He was not strong enough to dig her grave, but a lion arrived and helped him. At the end of her life Mary from Egypt had become more like the Virgin Mary. Humble and obedient Mary from Egypt, who was a great sinner, became a great saint who we remember as Mary of Egypt.

Troparion (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, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the Angels.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

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!

References

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Icon of Mary of Egypt and Fr. Zossima <http://oca.org/FSicons-churchyear.asp?SID=4&Section=lentcommemorations>

Iconogram of Mary of Egypt <http://www.iconograms.org/sig.php?eid=900>

Modern day church of St. John the Baptist at the Jordan River <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sarfrazh/7070105513/>

Key Terms

Vain - overly proud and self-absorbed

Indulging - giving in to something

Persevered - persisted and/or continued in something, even in the face of great obstacles

