

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of the Annunciation of the Mother of God -- March 25th*



### ***Flower Collection***

Special envelopes are available in the back of the church do help with the purchase of flowers for the Feast of Pascha.

### ***Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale***

Next Sunday, March 28th will be our annual Pre-Pascha Pancake Brunch and Bake Sale.

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

Preparations are underway for the celebration of our Parish's 50th anniversary. There is a lot of work to be done in the way of planning, sending out of invitations and various other tasks.

### ***St. Mary of Egypt***

St. Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she had been with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem and is read during Great Lent along with the Great Canon of St. Andrew. – OrthodoxWiki.org

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK – 2010

## GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY – ВЕЛИКИЙ СЕРЕДА – MARCH 31

6:30 PM – MYSTERY OF HOLY ANOINTING

## GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY – ВЕЛИКИЙ ЧЕТВЕР – APRIL 1

9:30 AM – MATINS OF BETRAYAL

6:30 PM – VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL  
(HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE AFTER THE SERVICE)

## GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – ВЕЛИКА П'ЯТНИЦЯ – APRIL 2

9:30 AM – MATINS OF THE PASSION (12 GOSPELS)

5:30 PM – 6:15 PM HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE

6:30 PM – VESPERS OF THE PASSION AND THE PROCESSION WITH THE SHROUD  
(HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE AFTER THE SERVICE)

## GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY – ВЕЛИКА СУБОТА – APRIL 3

9:30 AM – JERUSALEM MATINS

(HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE AFTER THE SERVICE)

## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – PASCHA – APRIL 4

### ВОСКРЕСІННЯ ГОСПОДА НАШОГО ІСУСА ХРИСТА – ПАСХА

7:30 AM – PASCHAL MATINS

9:00 AM – DIVINE LITURGY OF THE RESURRECTION,

BLESSING OF BASKETS AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY ON PASCHA

5:00 PM – AGAPE VESPERS

**PLEASE NOTE:** (1) One of the precepts of the Church which binds all faithful is that they receive the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during the Paschal Season. In order to receive worthily and not undo condemnation, the faithful are also encouraged to avail themselves of the Holy Mystery of Repentance before receiving Holy Eucharist. The Holy Mystery of Repentance can be received before or after any of the services throughout Great and Holy Week or by appointment. (2) According to the particular law of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, Great and Holy Friday is a day of strict fast. This means that no meat, meat products, dairy or alcohol may be consumed on this day (abstinence) and the size of the main meal of the day should be less than the other two meals combined (fasting). For those following the full prescriptions of the Lenten *Triodion*, these apply throughout Great and Holy Week. (3) The proper time for the Blessing of the Paschal Foods is immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Pascha. The foods are then taken home to be eaten by family and friends, thus extending the Feast of Pascha into our homes and the world. (4) For those who cannot participate in the Paschal Matins service, the Divine Liturgy will begin at approximately 9:00 am. (5) Parishioners are invited to return (and bring their family and friends) to the church later in the early evening on Pascha to continue in the great celebration with Agape Vespers. Please bring some of your Paschal Foods for the feast after the Vespers service.

***Святкуємо 50-років!***

***Celebrating 50 Years!***

***Українська Католицька Церква Святого Йоана Хрестителя  
St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church***

4400 Palm Avenue

La Mesa, CA 91941

Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

**Website:** [stjohnthebaptizer.org](http://stjohnthebaptizer.org)

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston

**Парох:** о. Яків Бенькстон

[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

***Mary's Obedience Reversed Eve's Disobedience***

So the Lord now manifestly came to His own. Born by His own created order that He Himself bears, He by His obedience on the tree renewed and reversed what was done by disobedience in connection with a tree. The power of that seduction by which the virgin Eve, already betrothed to a man, had been wickedly seduced was broken when the angel in truth brought good tidings to the Virgin Mary, who already by her betrothal belonged to a man.

For as Eve was seduced by the word of an angel to flee from God, having rebelled against his Word, so Mary by the word of an angel received the glad tidings that she would bear God by obeying His Word. The former was seduced to disobey God and so fell, but the latter was persuaded to obey God, so that the Virgin Mary might become the advocate of Eve. As the human race was subjected to death through the act of a virgin, so was it saved by a virgin was precisely balanced by the obedience of another. Then indeed the sin of the first formed man was amended by the chastisement of the First Begotten, the wisdom of the serpent was conquered by the simplicity of the dove, and the chains were broken by which we were in bondage to death.

*St. Irenaeus of Lyons*