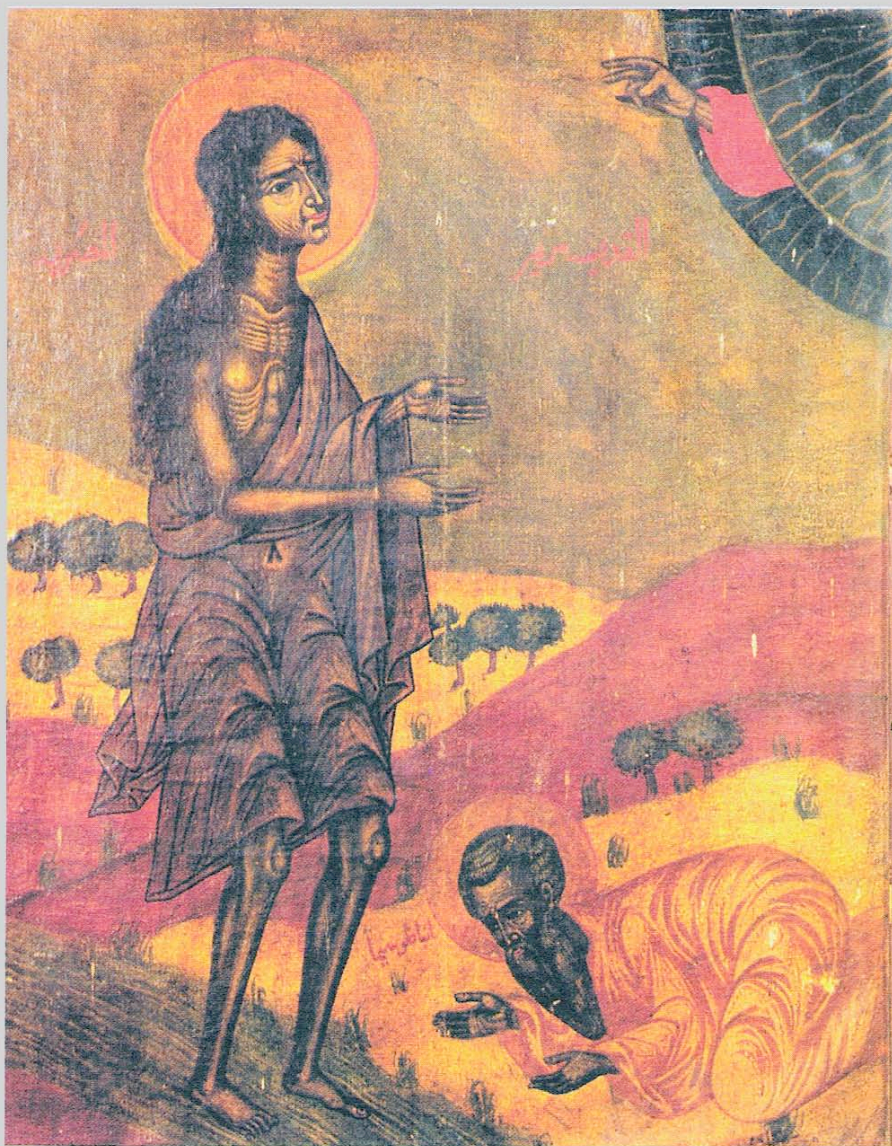


THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt and Saint Zosimos*

***FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – MARCH 29, 2009***

***SAINT MARY OF EGYPT***

*Tone 5*

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2009

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	6:30 PM – LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
FRIDAY, APRIL 3	6:30 PM – LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS
SATURDAY, APRIL 4	LAZARUS SATURDAY
	9:00 AM                      ✠ AGNES PRUDEN
	6:00 PM – GREAT VESPERS & LYTIA FOR FLOWERY SUNDAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 5	10:00 AM LITURGY      FOR ALL PARISHIONERS

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***Pastoral Council Elections***

Elections to the Pastoral Council will be held today after the 10:00 AM Liturgy.

Nominees so far are: Frank Avant, Volodymyr Bachynsky, Roman Drogobytzky, Tatiana Drogobytzky, Olga Fedunyak, Luke Miller, Lubomyra Yoldas.

***Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts***

During the Great Fast the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is offered on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM. Each Friday following the Presanctified Liturgy there is a Lenten Meal and a Spiritual Talk/Discussion.

*The schedule for Great And Holy Week is available in the back of the church in case you missed the insert from a previous bulletin.*

**Envelopes** are available in the back of the church for donations to help defray the cost of flowers for Pascha.

***Cards for sale***

Easter Cards and Birthday Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

***Remember in your prayers***

Please remember in your prayers those people of our parish who are in hospitals, nursing homes and those who are not able to join us actively in our community. Remember especially the following: Katherine Andrus, Susie Boyko, Sonia Cronin, Bohdanchik James, Lesya Loznycky, Ken McDonald, Sophia Skop, and Walter & Isabella Bachynsky, Myra Heltsley, John Heltsley II, John Pasichny, Nadia Haywas. Please let Fr. James know if there is anyone who should be added to this list.



### ***Prayers For Those Serving In The Military***



Let us especially remember in our prayers those family members and friends who are actively serving our country in the Armed Forces: Luke and Slavamira Haywas, Elizabeth Heltsley, Oksanna Hirniak, Michael Lopes, Paul Richelmi and Brian Tuthill. Please give any names of those you would like remembered in the Liturgies to Fr. James.

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

Next Sunday, April 5th will be our annual Pre-Pascha Pancake Brunch and Bake Sale.

### **Generations of Faith – Preparation for Great and Holy Friday**

Our next Generations of Faith gathering will be next Sunday, April 5th (*Flowery Sunday – Квітна Неділя.*) There will be **one Liturgy** that day followed by the Pancake Brunch and the learning session in which we will explore the meaning of *Great and Holy Friday – Велика П'ятниця.*

### ***Lazarus Saturday***

*“Your voice, O Lord, destroyed the kingdom of Hades, and by the power of Your word, You raised Lazarus from the tomb after four days. He became the saving pre-figurement of the resurrection...” (Stichera from the Saturday of Lazarus)*

Almost every week of the Great Fast has its special liturgical features. The same must be said of its Saturdays and Sundays which are dedicated to some event in the life of Jesus Christ, His Most Holy Mother and the Church or the Saints.

The special characteristic of the sixth week of the Forty Days Fast is that **it** spiritually prepares us for two great and glorious events in the life of Jesus Christ: the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, to which are dedicated the Saturday before Palm Sunday, and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem of our Lord Jesus Christ, which the Church celebrates on Flowery Sunday.

### **The Week of Flowery Sunday**

In our liturgical books this week bears the name - the week of flowers, palms (i.e., palm branches), or blossom-bearing week. The dominant theme of the services of this week is the ending of the Great Fast and the preparation of the faithful for the great miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead and Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Flowery Sunday.

Strictly speaking, the Great Fast ends on the Friday of this week. The Saturday of Lazarus is outside the scope of the Great Fast. That this is a concluding service is evident when on Friday we sing in the stichera of Vespers: “Having completed the Forty Days Fast for the benefit of our souls, permit us, O Lover of mankind to also see the holy week of Your Passion, so that during this week we may glorify Your majesty and Your incomprehensible Providence regarding us as we sing with one mind and heart: Glory to You, O Lord!”

## **ЩАСТЯ ВІЧНЕ**

Яків і Йоан, два брати Заведееві, казали: „Зволь нам..., щоб ми сиділи один праворуч, другий ліворуч від Тебе в Твоїй славі” (Мр. 10, 37). Коли задумаємось так над їхнім проханням, прийдемо до висновку, що тут також зустрічаємось із двома людьми, які були незадоволені зі свого становища, зі свого способу життя, й тому намагалися його змінити. Вони бажали підшукати собі краще, більш піджоже, корисніше й славіше становище ніж те, що його мали. Якщо думаємо про те, й порівнюємо їх з собою, то мусимо сказати, що ми трохи подібні до них. Ми також дужечасто є незадоволені з нашого життя, з нашого дому, авта, з меблів, а то й із нашого мужа, жінки чи з дітей. В таких випадках ми звичайно порівнюємо себе з тими людьми, які мають більше майна ніж ми, або живуть виставніше як ми.

Немає в світі цілком щасливої людини. Чому? Бо оці земні добра, хоч би не знать скільки їх ми надбали, не можуть задоволити нашого ненаситного серця. Згадаймо слова св. Августина, який висказує оцю правду словами: „*Ти сотворив мене для Себе й неспокійне моє серце, аж доки не спочине в Тобі, о Боже!*” Й так воно дійсно є. Господь Бог сотворив нас для Себе, й тому ми прямуємо до Нього, та протягом нашого туземного життя ми тяготіємо до Нього, бо Він є нашою остаточною метою й нашою вічною нагородою. Вже в моменті нашого зачаття, Він поклав у наше серце шукання за Ним, за вічним, безмежним щастям. Тому нічого дивного, що оці земні, скінчені речі й добра ніяк не можуть задоволити нашого серця. До двох братів Заведеев, каже Ісус: „*Ви самі не знаєте про що просите!*” (Мр. 10, 38). Так само й ми не знаємо, чого шукаємо, коли силкуємось осягнути (*закінчення з 1-ої стор.*) щастя тут, на землі — бо щастя, тобто повного йдійсного щастя — тут немає. Воно жде на нас, після смерти, в другому світі. Наше земне життя — це тільки мандрівка, прямування до мети, до Бога, до злуки з Ним, бо тільки в Ньому людина може знайти повне щастя. Тож перестаньмо бажати собі оцих земних проминаючих дібр, перестаньмо шукати тільки за цими й накопичувати їх, бо вони нас не задовольнять.

„*Бо де твій скарб, там буде й твоє серце*” (Мт. 6,21). Про цю правду ми вже знаємо з нашого власного досвіду. Бо якщо в нас є якась люба річ, то ми нею любуємось цілий час, а як утратимо її, то ми нещасні. Так само, як будемо мати наш скарб у Бога в небі, будемо часто серцем при ньому, й утішаючись ним, забудемо про всяку недолю й лихо, що їх доводиться нам переживати.

А як осягнути той скарб на небі, каже нам Христос Господь таке: „*Якщо хочеш увійти в життя, додержуй заповідей*” (Мт. 19, 17). Чому? Бо вони об'являють нам волю нашого Творця, який вимагає від нас, щоб ми Його слухали і цим заслужили собі в Нього вічне щастя. Тож слухаймо поради нашого Спасителя, збираймо собі скарби добрих діл на небі. А робимо це, коли зберігаємо Божі заповіді, виконуючи цим Його Божу волю. Тим способом не лише словами, але також ділами творимо те, про що просимо в Господній молитві: „*Нехай святиться ім'я Твоє. Нехай прийде Царство Твоє, нехай буде воли Твоя, як на небі так і на землі*” (Мт. 6, 9с).

## ETERNAL HAPPINESS

The two brothers of Zebedee, James and John, said: *“See to it that we sit, one at Your right and the other at Your left, when You come into Your glory”* (Mk. 10, 37). When we think about their request, we come to the conclusion that they were two people dissatisfied with their circumstances and manner of life and wanted to change it. They wanted to find something better, more appropriate, more beneficial and more glorious than what they had. We must say that, in many respects, they are just like us. We also are often dissatisfied with our life, with our house, car, furniture, our husband, wife or children. In these circumstances, we often compare ourselves with people who have more wealth or live more lavishly than we do.

In this world, there is no person who is completely happy. Why? For earthly riches, no matter how many we acquire, cannot satisfy our insatiable heart. Let us recall the words of St. Augustine: *“You created me for Yourself and my heart is restless until it rests with You, O Lord!”* And that’s the way it truly is. The Lord God created us for Himself and that is why we are drawn to Him throughout our earthly existence, for He is our final goal and our eternal reward. From the moment of our conception, He placed in our heart the desire to find Him and His eternal, boundless happiness. So, it is not surprising that these earthly, finite things cannot satisfy our hearts. Jesus says to Zebedee’s two brothers: *“You do not know what you are asking!”* (Mk. 10, 38). We, also, do not know what it is we are looking for when we seek happiness in this world, for full and true happiness does not exist here. It awaits us, after death, in the next world. Our earthly life is just a journey aimed towards God, to union with Him, for only in Him can we find complete happiness. Let’s stop wanting and striving for these earthly, transient possessions for they will not satisfy us.

*“Where your treasure is, there also is your heart”* (Mt. 6, 21). We know this is true from our own experience. If we have something we truly love and then lose it we are truly unhappy. In the same way, if our treasure is with God in heaven, our hearts will be constantly with that treasure and we will be comforted by this. We will forget about the unhappiness and misfortune that we go through in this life. Jesus Christ tells us how to achieve this treasure: *“If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments”* (Mt. 19, 17). Why? For they reveal to us the will of our Creator, Who requires of us that we listen to Him and, in this way, we will earn His eternal happiness. Let us listen to our Savior. Let us accumulate the treasure of good deeds in heaven. We do this when we keep God’s commandments, thus fulfilling His will. Not just with words, but with deeds, will we find that which we ask of God in the Lord’s Prayer: *“Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”*.



## **Українська Католицька Парафія Матері Божої Неустаючої Помочі**

Церква Святого Пророка й Предтечи Йоана Хрестителя  
Святиня Святого Миколая, Архієпископа Мір Лікійського, Чудотворця

### ***Ukrainian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help***

Church of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John  
Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycea

4400 Palm Avenue  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

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

**Парох:** о. Яків Бенькстон  
**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
frjames@mac.com  
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

### *Saint Mary of Egypt*

On the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, the Feast of St. Mary of Egypt is commemorated. Many legends surround her life and conversion experience. The more popular ones speak of Mary as one leading a career of infamy in Alexandria. During her youth, she was very rich and beautiful. She did not believe in God and chose to lead a selfish life of sin. Once on an excursion to Jerusalem, she had noticed throngs of pilgrims entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Curious to join the attractions, Mary tried to enter the church, but was prevented by some mysterious force.

Reflecting upon her sinful life, Mary began to wonder if her sinful life was the cause for preventing her entrance into the church. At that moment, she became aware of the Icon of the Mother of God which had been above the entrance of the church. Filled with compunction of heart, she cried for her many sins.

Mary sought a life of repentance for her wicked past by entering the desert. There she lived for nearly fifty years, willfully depriving herself of all comforts of life. While in the desert, one day she met a priest named Zosimus. She asked him to bring the Holy Eucharist to her on Holy Thursday. Joy and peace overcame her upon the reception of the Eucharist and she prayed the Prayer of St. Simeon: "Now you may dismiss your servant in peace, O Lord. For my eyes have seen your Salvation."