

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt*



## March 13, 2016

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – *TONE 1*  
COMMEMORATION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

THE TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF OUR HOLY FATHER NICEPHORUS, PATRIARCH OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14– MARCH 20

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO** Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts today.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 – LAZARUS SATURDAY; THE HOLY MARTYRS CHRYSANTHUS AND DARIA, HIS WIFE

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 – FLOWERY SUNDAY; OUR VENERABLE FATHERS MARTYRED BY THE SARACENS IN  
THE MONASTERY OF ST. SABBAS

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

---

*If you are reading the bulletin during the Liturgy (including the homily),  
please **stop** and be attentive – будьмо уважні!*

---

During the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Each Wednesday, following the Presanctified Liturgy, there will be a Lenten Meal and a Spiritual Talk. We need volunteers to prepare the soup for 3/16. Please talk to Olena Bankston to volunteer.

### Lenten Services at

#### Holy Angels Byzantine Church

*Each Friday during the Great Fast, Holy Angels celebrates the Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 PM. Holy Angels is located at 2235 Galahad Road San Diego, CA 92123*

---

#### Order your Paska for Easter!

e-mail or call Olena Bankston to place your order.

ombankston@gmail.com

or

619-905-5279

### Don't Wait Until It Is Too Late

Start arranging your schedule today so that you can be present for Holy Friday through Pascha. Absolutely no one should miss these services. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.

---

### The Mystery of Holy Anointing

will be served on Great and Holy Wednesday, March 23rd, at 9:30 in the morning **and** at 6:30 in the evening. The Church's practice of anointing with holy oil for the healing of soul and body dates back to Apostolic times, when St. James wrote, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters (priests) of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14) Those who wish to receive this Mystery should approach after having made a recent Confession.

---

**Mark your calendars:** On Sunday, April 2nd, we will have our annual parish Sviachenne meal. Invite your family and friends.



*ДОБРОВОЛЬЦІ БОЖОЇ ЧОТИ*

*VOLUNTEERS OF GOD'S BRIGADE*

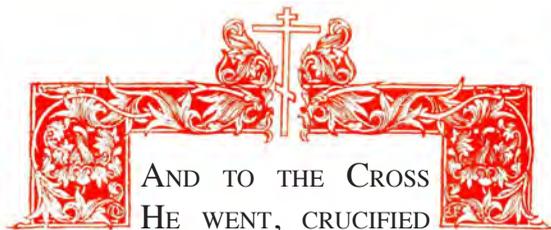
*"THE UKRAINIANS" SPECIAL VIEWING*

Next Sunday, March 20th, there will be a showing of the film "Добровольці Божої Чоти."

Olexander Chub, one of the soldiers involved in the defense of the Donetsk Airport will show the film and will be on hand afterwards to answer any questions.



Open to me the doors of repentance,  
O Giver of Life; for my soul rises early to  
pray toward Your holy Temple, bearing  
the temple of my body all defiled. But  
in Your compassion, purify me by the  
lovingkindness of Your mercy.



BY THE LIBERTY OF A DECAYING DEMOCRACY WHICH IS INDIFFERENT TO TRUTH...CALVARY ON THAT DAY IS THE PICTURE OF THE MODERN WORLD. THE CRISIS OF THAT DAY, AS THAT OF OUR OWN DAY, IS THE CRISIS OF LIBERTY. AS CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED ON GOOD FRIDAY BY FALSE LIBERTY, SO IS MAN CRUCIFIED TODAY. LIBERALISM AND CAPITALISM WHICH WERE INDIFFERENT TO MORALITY AND TRUTH DID NOT GIVE US LIBERTY BUT ONLY THE RIGHT TO BE INDIVIDUALLY SELFISH. FREEDOM IS NOT THE RIGHT TO DO WHATEVER WE PLEASE; NEITHER IS IT THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT WE MUST; IT IS THE MORAL RIGHT TO DO WHAT WE OUGHT.

— VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN

### FLOWER COLLECTION

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

Did you lose a Tryzub lapel pin? One was found in the parking lot last weekend. See Fr. James if it is yours.

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK, MARCH 21 – MARCH 27**

**MONDAY, MARCH 21 - GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY; OUR VENERABLE FATHER AND CONFESSOR JAMES, BISHOP OF CATANIA**

6:30 PM– Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22 – GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY; THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR BASIL, PRESBYTER OF THE CHURCH IN ANCYRA**

9:30 AM– Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 – GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY; THE VENERABLE MARTYR NICON AND 200 OF HIS DISCIPLES MARTYRED WITH HIM**

9:30 AM– Bridegroom Matins and Holy Mystery of Anointing

6:30 PM– Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24 – GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY; PREFEAST OF ANNUNCIATION. OUR VENERABLE FATHER ZECHARIAH; OUR HOLY FATHER ARTEMON, BISHOP OF SELEUCIA IN PISIDIA**

9:30 AM– Matins of Betrayal

6:30 PM– Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil followed by the Holy Mystery of Repentance

**FRIDAY, MARCH 25 – GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY; ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY (OBLIGATORY FEAST)**

9:30 AM– Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels)

6:30 PM– Vespers Liturgy of the Annunciation and Procession with the Shroud followed by the Holy Mystery of Repentance

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26 – GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY; APODOSIS OF ANNUNCIATION; SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY ARCHANGEL GABRIEL**

9:30 AM– Jerusalem Matins

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27 – THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF PASCHA - ПАСХА - THE RESURRECTION IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

7:30 AM– Paschal Matins

9:30 AM– Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Baskets

## Advice to Those Living in the World

*From Step 1 of the Ladder of Divine Ascent*



Some people living in the world have asked me: "We have spouses and are beset with social cares, and how can we lead the spiritual life?" I replied to them: "Do all the good you can; do not speak evil of anyone; do not steal from anyone; do not lie to anyone; do not be arrogant towards anyone; do not hate anyone; do not be absent from the divine services; be compassionate to the needy; do not offend anyone; do not wreck another man's domestic happiness, and be content with what your own spouses can give you. If you behave in this way, you will not be far from the Kingdom of Heaven."

- God won't ask what kind of car you drove, he'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- God won't ask the square footage of your house, he'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, he'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- God won't ask what your highest salary was, he'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- God won't ask what your job title was, he'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- God won't ask how many friends you had, he'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, he'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- God won't ask about the color of your skin, he'll ask about the content of your character.
- God won't ask you how many times you spoke the truth, he'll ask you how many times you lied.
- God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation, he'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven.
- Бог не запитає тебе, яким автомобілем їздив, але скількох людей ти підвїз.
- Бог не запитає тебе, яку площу мав твій дім, а скількох подорожніх ти в ньому прийняв.
- Бог не запитає тебе, як ти одягався, а запитає, скількох людей ти зодягнув.
- Бог не запитає тебе скільки грошей ти заробляв, але яким способом.
- Бог не запитає тебе яку посаду ти займав, але чи ти працював чесно і сумлінно.
- Бог не запитає тебе, скільки ти мав приятелів, але для кого з них був приятелем ти.
- Бог не запитає тебе, в якому оточенні ти жив, але як ти ставився до своїх сусідів.
- Бог не запитає тебе краски твоєї шкіри, але запитає про твій характер.
- Бог не запитає тебе, скільки разів ти говорив правду, але запитає скільки разів ти збрехав.
- Бог не запитає тебе, чому ти так довго зволікав з покаяттям і виправленням. Він з любов'ю запровадить тебе до твого небесного житла.

Watch your thoughts, they become words.  
Watch your words, they become actions.  
Watch your actions, they become habits.  
Watch your habits, they become your character.  
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.

Пильнуй свої думки, вони стають словами.  
Пильнуй свої слова, вони стають діями.  
Пильнуй свої діла, вони стають звичками.  
Пильнуй свої звички, вони стають характером.  
Пильнуй свій характер, він стає долею.



## FOR CONSIDERATION

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Why is it that much is said and written about the sufferings of holy men and holy women? Because the saints, alone, are considered victors. Can anyone be a victor without conflict, pain and suffering? In ordinary earthly combat, no one can be considered victorious nor heroic who has not been in combat, tortured much or suffered greatly. The more so in spiritual combat where the truth is known and where self-boasting not only does not help at all but, indeed, hinders it. He who does not engage in combat for the sake of Christ, either with the world, with the devil or with one's self, how can he be counted among the soldiers of Christ? How, then, can it be with Christ's co-victors? St. Mary spoke about her savage spiritual combat to the Elder Zosimus: "For the first seventeen years in this wilderness I struggled with my deranged sexual desires as though with fierce beasts. I desired to eat meat and fish which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also desired to drink wine and here, I did not have even water to drink. I desired to hear lustful songs. I cried and beat my breasts. I prayed to the All-Pure Mother of God to banish such thoughts from me. When I had sufficiently cried and beat my breasts, it was then that I saw a light encompassing me on all sides and a certain miraculous peace filled me."

---

### ABOUT THE VICTORY OVER THE LAST ENEMY

*From the Prologue of Ochrid / St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

**"The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor 15:26).**

Man's first enemy is the devil, the second is sin and the third is death. The Lord Jesus conquered all three of these enemies of the human race. By His humility, He conquered the proud devil. By His death, He conquered sin and by His resurrection, He conquered death. In conquering all of our enemies, He invites us to be partakers in His glorious victory. Not only that we conquer but that we win together with Him. Only His power conquers, only His weapons triumph. Alone we are without power and weapons, and our enemies are fearsome. But with Him, we conquer those mightier than ourselves. What is the price that He offers to us for His victory? A meager price, my brethren; for a very paltry price He offers us the most precious victory. To humble ourselves and to submit ourselves to the will of God, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer the devil for us. To die unto ourselves, to die to fleshly desires and passions, that is the price which He seeks in order to conquer for us. To live for Him and not for ourselves, to receive Him into our hearts, that is the price He seeks in order to conquer death for us. He conquered all enemies openly and completely. This is the price for which He offers His victory to each of us. The Apostle Paul speaks: "But thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:57).





**NEW MARTYRS OF YEMEN**

CLOCKWISE: SR. ANSELM, SR. REGINETTE,  
SR. MARGUERITE, SR. JUDITH.

*Holy Martyrs - Pray unto God for Us!*  
*Святі Мученики – Моліть Бога за нас!*



*Talk about your blessings  
more than you talk about  
your burdens.*

*Christian love bears evil, but it does not  
tolerate it. It does penance for the sins of  
others, but it is not broadminded about  
sin. REAL LOVE involves real hatred:  
whoever has lost the power of moral  
indigation and the urge to drive the  
sellers from the temples has also lost a  
living fervent love of Truth.*

*– Venerable Fulton Sheen*

**PARISHIONERS THAT ARE HOME BOUND**



If you or a loved one cannot  
make it to Church, Fr.  
James would be more than  
pleased visit at your home,  
in the hospital, at a nursing  
home, or any other place. It  
is no inconvenience at all.

Please be sure to schedule a visit.

**Sunday offering for February 28**

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1 (loose)
\$15.00	1
\$20.00	2
\$25.00	1
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	2
\$70.00	1
\$150.00	1
\$200.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$1015.00	

Parishioner Total: \$1015.00

Guest Total: \$5.00

Average / parish household (42): \$13.01

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

**Deficit: (\$1185.00)**

**Year-to-date deficit: (\$12,196.00)**

**Pastor:**

Fr. James Bankston: (619) 905-5278

**Pastoral Council:**

Vladimir Bachynsky: (619) 865-1279

Mark Hartman: (619) 446-6357

Luke Miller: (858) 354-2008

**Social Committee Chair:**

Megan Hartman (619) 540-4291

**Finance Committee:**

Bohdan Knianicky: (619) 303-9698



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

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

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

**Pastor:** Fr. James Bankston  
[frjames@mac.com](mailto:frjames@mac.com)  
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

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

At this point in the Great Fast, we're very often tempted by the demons to lessen our efforts, to make some concessions to the desires of the flesh. We're tempted by thoughts of, "what are we doing, anyway? Are we actually accomplishing anything by all this fasting and spiritual struggle?"

The life of St. Mary of Egypt shows us how easily our temptations can gain control over us. She was so given to her life of sin that she lived by begging, she lived on the streets, she wasn't even able to properly care for herself. All of her time was spent seeking after the sin of her choosing. She lost herself - she was totally consumed by her desires, and she became something that would later shock even her. She laments to the Abbot Zosimos how many people she led astray by her life of sin. Not only was her own life practically destroyed before her conversion to Christ, but the lives of others were affected in a very sinful and

negative way.

St. Mary shows us that overcoming passions and temptations is a long and difficult process, even for those who have no other desire than to please Jesus. It takes a great struggle to put off the old person and be clothed in the new. But God gave her the grace in every step of the way. He was always there with her, supporting her, holding her hand, and guiding her to the Heavenly Kingdom. The life of St. Mary gives us a lot to think about as we come to the final weeks of the Great Fast. If we truly desire Christ, her story will make us reflect on the lives we're living, to hold ourselves up to the measure of Christ's teaching, and ask ourselves am I living my love for Christ every day of my life in every aspect of being?"

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)**