



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

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SUNDAY, APRIL 02, 2023

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 9; FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

VENERABLE TITUS THE WONDERWORKER; VIRGIN-MARTYR THEODORA OF PALESTINE

Our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt



On April 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Titus the wonderworker; and Virgin-martyr Theodora of Palestine. On this same day, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent, it was ordained that we make remembrance of our Godly Mother Mary of Egypt.

Once, during the Honorable Fast, the priest-monk Zosimus withdrew into the wilderness. He caught sight of a withered woman named Mary; her hair was white as snow. Mary then told Zosimus that she was born in Egypt and at the age of 12 began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria for 17 years. One day, she went to Jerusalem to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross. However, some invisible force restrained her. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the Theotokos in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church, all the while confessing her sinfulness. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest!" Mary left for the wilderness and remained there for 47 years in repentance. She bade Zosimus to come back in one year with Holy Communion, which he did. The following year, on

Holy Thursday, April 1, 522, Zosimus discovered Mary's lifeless body, and buried her. Thus, the Lord glorifies penitent sinners. The Church exalts and exemplifies Mary to the faithful in Great Lent as an incentive for repentance that brings entry into the Heavenly Kingdom.

THE EPISTLE (For the Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God.

God is known in Judaea. His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

الرسالة

(الأحد الخامس من الصوم)

صَلُّوا وَأَوْقُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا نُذَوِّرْكُمْ.

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا. اسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولُسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ. (9:11-14)

يا إخوة، إِنَّ الْمَسِيحَ إِذْ قَدْ جَاءَ رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةِ الْخَيْرَاتِ الْمُسْتَقْبَلَةِ، فَبِمَسْكِنٍ أَعْظَمَ وَأَكْمَلَ غَيْرِ مَصْنُوعٍ بِأَيْدٍ، أَي لَيْسَ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْخَلِيقَةِ. وَلَيْسَ بِدَمِ ثِيُوسٍ وَعُجُولٍ بَلْ بِدَمِ نَفْسِهِ دَخَلَ الْأَقْدَاسَ مَرَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَوَجَدَ فِدَاءً أَبَدِيًّا. لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ كَانَ دَمُ ثِيرَانٍ وَثِيُوسٍ وَرَمَادُ عِجَلَةٍ يُرْشُ عَلَى الْمُنْجَسِينَ فَيُقَدِّسُهُمْ لِتَطْهِيرِ الْجَسَدِ * فَكَمْ بِالْأُخْرَى دَمُ الْمَسِيحِ، الَّذِي بِالرُّوحِ الْأَزَلِيِّ قَرَّبَ نَفْسَهُ لِلَّهِ بِلا عَيْبٍ، يُطَهِّرُ ضَمَائِرَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَعْمَالِ الْمَيِّتَةِ لِتَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ الْحَيَّ.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (10:32-45)

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit upon Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him, and said to Him, "Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But to sit at My right hand or at My left is not Mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

الإنجيل

(الأحد الخامس من الصوم)

فصل شريف من بشارة القديس مرقس الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر. (10:32-45)

في ذلك الزمان، أخذ يسوع تلاميذه الإثنى عشرَ وابتدأ يقول لهم ما سيعرضُ له. "هُوَذَا نَحْنُ صَاعِدُونَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ، وَابْنُ الْبَشَرِ سَيُسَلَّمُ إِلَى رُؤَسَاءِ الْكَهَنَةِ وَالْكَتَبَةِ، فَيَحْكُمُونَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْمَوْتِ وَيُسَلِّمُونَهُ إِلَى الْأُمَمِ. فَيَهْزَأُونَ بِهِ، وَيَبْصُقُونَ عَلَيْهِ، وَيَجِدُونَهُ، وَيَقْتُلُونَهُ، وَفِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّالِثِ يَقُومُ." فَذَنَا إِلَيْهِ يَعْقُوبُ وَيُوَحْنَّا ابْنَا زَبْدَى قَائِلَيْنِ: "يَا مُعَلِّمُ، نُرِيدُ أَنْ تَصْنَعَ لَنَا مَهْمَا طَلَبْنَا." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا: "مَاذَا تُرِيدَانِ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكُمَا؟" قَالَا لَهُ: "أَعْطِنَا أَنْ يَجْلِسَ أَحَدُنَا عَنْ يَمِينِكَ وَالْآخَرُ عَنْ يَسَارِكَ فِي مَجْدِكَ." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "إِنَّكُمَا لَا تَعْلَمَانِ مَا تَطْلُبَانِ. أَتَسْتَطِيعَانِ أَنْ تَشْرَبَا الْكَأْسَ الَّتِي أَشْرَبُهَا أَنَا، وَأَنْ تَصْطَبِعَا بِالصَّبِغَةِ الَّتِي أَصْطَبِعُ بِهَا أَنَا؟" فَقَالَا لَهُ: "تَسْتَطِيعُ." فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "أَمَّا الْكَأْسُ الَّتِي أَشْرَبُهَا فَتَشْرَبَانِيهَا، وَبِالصَّبِغَةِ الَّتِي أَصْطَبِعُ بِهَا فَتَصْطَبِعَانِ. وَأَمَّا جُلُوسُكُمَا عَنْ يَمِينِي وَعَنْ يَسَارِي فَلَيْسَ لِي أَنْ أُعْطِيَهُ إِلَّا لِلَّذِينَ أَعَدَّ لَهُمْ." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْعَشْرَةُ، ابْتَدَأُوا يَعْضَبُونَ عَلَى يَعْقُوبَ وَيُوَحْنَّا. فَذَعَاهُمُ يَسُوعُ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "قَدْ عَلِمْتُمْ أَنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحْسِبُونَ رُؤَسَاءَ الْأُمَمِ يَسُودُونَهُمْ، وَعُظَمَاءَهُمْ يَتَسَلَطُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ. وَأَمَّا أَنْتُمْ فَلَا يَكُونُ فِيكُمْ هَكَذَا. وَلَكِنْ مَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ كَبِيرًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لَكُمْ خَادِمًا. وَمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَكُونَ فِيكُمْ أَوَّلًا، فَلْيَكُنْ لِلْجَمِيعِ عَبْدًا. فَإِنَّ ابْنَ الْبَشَرِ لَمْ يَأْتِ لِيُخْدَمَ بَلْ لِيُخْدَمَ، وَلِيَبْدُلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ."

Love your Neighbor

April – Archdiocese Collection for Palm Sunday (April 9, 2023)

Each year, the Archdiocese asks each parish to take a collection to help support the Patriarchate in Antioch on Palm Sunday. This will be our "neighbor" for the month of April.

Thank you for Donating and Working at the Luncheon

A Huge applause and thank you to all who donated and worked hard in presenting the delicious luncheon of last Sunday. The special luncheon's purpose was to help raise \$200,000 by Palm Sunday from the Women of The Archdiocese and our church did an excellent job raising just under \$1200. God bless you all for your generosity.



Flowers for The Bier نعيش المسيح of Christ .

If you wish to donate toward purchasing the flowers for the Bier of Christ this year, you may do so by sending your donation to the church or by placing it in the collection tray.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 29th	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy القداس السابق تقديسه at 6:00pm
Friday, March 31st	Akathist/Salutations المديح at 6:30pm, followed by potluck
Sunday, April 2nd	40 days memorial service for the handmaiden of God Mona Habayeb Khoury (Helen Ghantous sister). May her memory be eternal!
Sunday, April 9th	Rose bake sale. Contact Denise at 925-360-3350 about your participation in baking.
Sunday, April 9th	Palm Sunday Easter Basket Raffle. Please bring your gourmet goodies to Rima Kashou.
Sunday, April 16th, 2023	Pascha/Easter
Sunday, April 23rd, 2023	One year memorial service for the handmaiden of God Kh. Patricia Romley. May her memory be eternal!

Coffee Hours

April 2nd	Jerries and Naveen Zarour for the good health of their family
April 9th	Bake Sale
April 16th	Easter

Holy Oblations

This week, Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Khalid Haddad** (Fairouz Freij's nephew), **Nick Nicola**, **Nadia Frangieh**, **Souhila Swies**, **Noha Schulze**, **George Messih** and **Aida Youakeem**. Many years!
- † Also, for the good health of their family!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Jane Nassif**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Nick Nicola**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the **victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey**. For the good health of the survivors and memory eternal for the departed!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Mariam Munayr**. May her memory be eternal!
- † Fuad and Nadia Swiess for the good health of **Mounir Haddad**. Many years!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

† Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



† Altar Servers: Nathan Sweis, Clayton Morgan, Elias Freij, Angelo Freij, Andrew Freij, Mazyn Haddadin, James Dudum and John Dudum

† Palms for Palm Sunday are offered by **Jim and Denise Dudum** for the good health of their family.



Happy and blessed Palm Sunday!

† Also, in memory of **John, Misadeh, Audie & Mary Dudum and Jim and Rose Romley**. May their memoirs be eternal!

St. John Orthodox Church
501 Moraga Way
Orinda, CA 94563

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Kimberly Bailey 925.408.5128