



The Weekly Forerunner

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

301 Struthers Liberty Rd

Campbell, OH 44405

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest



APRIL Bulletin Sponsor– In Memory of my Godfather – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

Liturgical & Events Schedule **TWO WEEK EDITION**

Sunday, April 6

9:35 am Hours
10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Monthly Panachida /
Social / Council Meeting
5:00 pm Local Mission Vespers @ St. Nicholas
Greek– Youngstown

Monday, April 7

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy in Maple Heights

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy / Social / Lenten Talk

Friday, April 11

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy For Lazarus Saturday
Social / Lenten Talk

Saturday, April 12

9:00 am Lazarus Saturday Liturgy
4:00 pm (NOTE TIME) Great Vespers w/ Litia for
Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

9:20 am (NOTE TIME) Hours
9:50 am (Note Time) Procession outside
10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Special Social
6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday

Monday, April 14 Great & Holy Monday

9:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins For Holy Tuesday

Tuesday, April 15 Great & Holy Tuesday

9:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 16 Great & Holy Wednesday

9:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins for Holy Thursday

Con't Pg 9

CONFESSIONS

Please make an appointment to come to Confession during the times posted.

Confessions will be heard -

- ◆ before and after Vespers and all Lenten Services (except Pre-Sanctified Liturgy).
- ◆ only be heard before the Pre-sanctified Liturgy.

The last day for confessions will be Lazarus Saturday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy.

PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. *(Full prostration– If you physically can't, then deep bow)*

But give rather the Spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. *(Full prostration– If you physically can't, then deep bow)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. *(Full prostration– If you physically can't, then deep bow)*

O God, cleanse me a sinner (12 deep bows)

Then:

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. *(No Prostration)*

But give rather the Spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. *(No Prostration)*

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Full prostration– If you physically can't, then deep bow)*

PLEASE KEEP OUR ELDERS OF THE CHURCH & SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Send a "Thinking of You" card or remember their Birthday with a card. If anyone needs to be added, please

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt / Commemorated on April 6

Saint Zosimas (April 4) was a monk at a certain Palestinian monastery on the outskirts of Caesarea. Having dwelt at the monastery since his childhood, he lived there in asceticism until he reached the age of fifty-three. Then he was disturbed by the thought that he had attained perfection, and needed no one to instruct him. "Is there a monk anywhere who can show me some form of asceticism that I have not attained? Is there anyone who has surpassed me in spiritual sobriety and deeds?"

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Zosimas, you have struggled valiantly, as far as this is in the power of man. However, there is no one who is righteous (Rom 3:10). So that you may know how many other ways lead to salvation, leave your native land, like Abraham from the house of his father (Gen 12:1), and go to the monastery by the Jordan."

Abba Zosimas immediately left the monastery, and following the angel, he went to the Jordan monastery and settled in it.

Here he met Elders who were adept in contemplation, and also in their struggles. Never did anyone utter an idle word. Instead, they sang constantly, and prayed all night long. Abba Zosimas began to imitate the spiritual activity of the holy monks.

Thus much time passed, and the holy Forty Day Fast approached. There was a certain custom at the monastery, which was why God had led Saint Zosimas there. On the First Sunday of Great Lent the igumen served the Divine Liturgy, everyone received the All-Pure Body and Blood of Christ. Afterwards, they went to the trapeza for a small repast, and then assembled once more in church.

The monks prayed and made prostrations, asking forgiveness one of another. Then they made a prostration before the igumen and asked his blessing for the struggle that lay before them. During the Psalm "The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear? The Lord is defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 26/27:1), they opened the monastery gate and went off into the wilderness.

Each took with him as much food as he needed, and went into the desert. When their food ran out, they ate roots and desert plants. The monks crossed the Jordan and scattered in various directions, so that no one might see how another fasted or how they spent their time.

The monks returned to the monastery on Palm Sunday, each having his own conscience as a witness of his ascetic struggles. It was a rule of the monastery that no one asked how anyone else had toiled in the desert.

Abba Zosimas, according to the custom of the monastery, went deep into the desert hoping to find someone living there who could benefit him. **Con't Pg 5**

PRAYER LIST

PARISHIONERS: Achilles Arvan / Audrey Chengelis / Helen Colaluca / Joan Cross / Ann Cvercko / Pauline Fesz / Mary Fredericks / George Horodnic / Gianna Hryb / Sue Kennedy / Matushka Helen Psinka / Dorothy Shirilla / Julia Simko / Melanie Yannitto

HIERARCHS & CLERGY: AB Alexander from Dallas / AP James Gleason (Fr.) / AP Michael Rustic / AP Emil Hutyán / Fr. Deacon James Hryb / For Fr. Matthew Nyumu & his family and his faithful at the parish of St Makarios in the Metropolis of Nairobi, Kenya

FAMILY & FRIENDS: Mary Ann Bozichovich (Kennedy) / Patty Bozichovich (Vansuch) / Diane Caban (Sirilla) / George Caban (Sirilla) / Donna Chiarelli / Karen Debiec / Basil Glovinsky (Fr.) / Bruce Harris (Sabol) / Paula Kennedy / Joe Kollar (Fr.) / Andrew LaChard (Jesko) / Mea Mahan / Mary Mahan / Pauline Meath (Fr.) / Matushka Raisa (Nicoloff) / Chris Quotap (Fr.) / Julia Shirilla / Bob Smrek (Sirilla) / Emilia Yanitto / Catherine Zile (Fr.) / Brian (Shirilla) / David (Willison) / Drew (Willison) / Eleanor Marie (Vansuch) / Ellen (Clark) / Ellen (Kessler) / Johanna (Tusinac) / Joseph (Vansuch) / Karen (Vansuch) / Katherine (Steffaro) / Kathy (Kolesar) / Katie (Garrity) / Paul (Kolesar) / Paula (Voytilla) / Malakai (Kolesar) / Richard (Tusinac)

MILITARY FAMILY & FRIENDS: Cory Deaton (Fr.) / Alena Grabavoy (Fr.) / Liam Garrity (Zelinsky)

MISCELLANEOUS: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Diocese of Aleppo) & Archbishop John (Archdiocese of Aleppo) still being held captive & Metropolitan Arseny imprisoned / The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers around the world / Those suffering persecution in Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and around the world.

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) / Commemorated on April 13

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: “Do you accept Christ?” We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: “I accept Him as King and God!”

Thus, on the eve of Christ’s Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor

APRIL Candle & Bulletin Sponsors

NOTE: If anything is missing from the Sponsorships please contact Fr. Andrew ASAP

Bulletin: In memory of my Godfather Andrew – Given by AP Andrew Bartek

Wine:

Incense: In memory of my parents Henry and Dorothy Ruff– Given by Carol Ruff

Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light: In memory of: George and Mary Vasile George Robert Vasile– Given by Jim & Elaine Johnston / In loving memory of parents Nicholas & Mark K. Libertin—Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant

Altar Candles: In memory of George Kolesar- Given by Reader Nick & Monica Vansuch / In loving memory of brother Dr. Nick Libertin- Given by Charissa & Tom Oliphant / In memory of my parents for their birthdays Michael Boldish (4-4) & Margaret Boldish (4-27)./ In memory of George Kolesar– Given by Barbara Kolesar / In memory of my mother Jennie Rudiak on the occasion of her b-day– Given by Sue Kennedy

Tetrapod Candles: In memory of my parents George & Marie Gresko- given by Mary Gresko

St. Herman Candles: Commemorating all who participate in the maintenance of the church, the teachers, singers and those who participate in social events. Praying for everyone to love one another.

St. Panteleimon Icon Candles: In memory of my husband Kenneth Ruff and my brother new-born Joseph William– Given by Carol Ruff

Protection Icon Candles: In memory of Hary & Olga Sveda– Given by Barbara Kolesar

St. John the Baptist Candles:

Flowers: In memory of my mother Dorothy on the occasion of her 89 Birthday– Given by AP Andrew Bartek

\$50 per month

- *Wine
- *Bulletin
- *Iconostasis Candles & Eternal Light
- *Altar Candles
- *Tetrapod Candles

\$30 per month

- *St. Herman candles
- *St. Panteleimon Icon candles
- *Protection Icon candles
- *St. John the Baptist candles

\$25 per month

Incense

Flowers - \$50 for 2 weeks at a time– *Updated*

APRIL Celebrations *Birthday*

- 2- Fr. Andrew Bartek / David Koval
- 3- Genna Koval
- 7- Georgiana Lukehart
- 8- Sherrie Fredericks
- 9- Ann Konik / Jason Tsvetkoff
- 10- Mary Fredericks
- 11- Lynn Polewan
- 12- Michele Basile
- 13- Margarita Leso
- 18- Lucas Harvischak
- 20- Stephen A Elash
- 23- Paul Demkosky Jr / Andrew Zelinsky
- 27- Michael Polewan, Jr

Anniversary

4-8-89 Tonsur of Reader of AP Andrew Bartek

Names Day

- 22- AB Nathaniel of Detroit & Romanian Episcopate / Nathaniel Willison
- 23- Fr. Andrew Bartek / George Horodnic, Jr. / George Horodnic, Sr.
- 25- AB Mark of Philadelphia & Eastern, PA
- 30- Dc James Hryb / Sub-deacon Donald Sunday after Pascha- Thomas Zelinsky

April 2025 Reader Schedule

April 6– Deacon Jimmy Hyrb
April 13– Deacon David Gemmel
April 20– Sub-deacon Donald Tamulonis
April 27– Natalia Simko

April CHARITY Workers of St Basil

MONTHLY CHARITY FOR 2025

January: OCMC: \$900 + \$300 from the church
Total \$1,200

February: CA Fire Relief: \$524 + \$300 from the Church
Total \$824

March– Cleveland Deanery- \$535 + \$300 from Church= \$ 835

Office: 330-755-4931 / Cell: 570-212-8747

<https://www.stjohnthebaptist-campbell.org/>

padrebartek@gmail.com

APRIL Reposed List

- 1- Andy Basala (1982)
- 1- Andreas Basala (1923)
- 1- Michael Miaz (1987) ©
- 2- Julia Konik (1986) ©
- 2- Katherine Garman Leshinsky (2020) ©
- 2- Anthonis Kaubouris (1954) ©
- 3- Michael Tarasek (1997) ©
- 3- Alesis Libertin (1939) ©
- 3- Rudolph Puharich (1996) ©
- 4- Rose Bartek (1986)
- 4- Matthew Kollar (grandfather)
- 5- Michael Boldish (1998) ©
- 5- Mary Libertin Weaver (2019) ©
- 5- Anne Billik (2010) ©
- 5- Mary Andrasko (1936) ©
- 5- Christopher Garcia (1996) ©
- 6- John Sabol (2017)
- 6- Joseph Kornyak (1951) ©
- 7- Emanuel Handikaris (1929) ©
- 7- Angela Angelides (1960) ©
- 8- Anna Hamney (1982) ©
- 8- Michael Sveda (1982) ©
- 9- Thomas Harvischak (2017) ©
- 9- Anna Kalas (1952) ©
- 10- Robert Banas (2019) ©
- 10- Frank Boldish (1940) ©
- 11- Archbishop John (1982)
- 11- Ann Konik Voytilla (2022) ©
- 12- Sub-deacon George Gresko (2015) ©
- 12- Marie Gresko Fedak (2015) ©
- 12- Charles Rich (2002) ©
- 12- Michael Shubeliak (1943) ©
- 12- Emanuel Ellinos (1945) ©
- 13- Michael Pikos (1960) ©
- 14- Luba Despotovich (1936) ©
- 14- Peter Magriplis (1937) ©
- 14- Matushka Carol Steffaro (2023)
- 16- Catherine Pavlick (2004) ©
- 17- Mary Maximor (1981) ©
- 17- Joseph Macala (1954) ©
- 18- Alex Alesoff (1925) ©
- 18- Michael Kalas (1944) ©
- 19- Wasil Nosik (1985) ©
- 19- Theodore Liszka (2019) ©
- 19- Kosta George (1931) ©
- 21- Vitaly Kaliscak (1940) ©
- 22- George Vasile (1997) ©
- 22- Thaddeus Puskaric Jr (2007) ©
- 22- Geraldine Sokol (2010) ©
- 22- Michael Ivancko (1956) ©
- 22- Michael Hastal (1960) ©
- 23- Anna Basala (1994)
- 23- Nikita Patzakis (1925) ©
- 24- Fr. Stephen Dutko (2009)
- 24- His Eminence Archbishop Paul (2022)
- 24- Olga Buly (2011) ©
- 24- Anna Salber (1921) ©
- 24- Anthony Spirtos (1951) ©
- 24- Michael Hamulas (1956) ©
- 25- Mary Timkovich (1975) ©
- 25- Mary Andras (2002) ©
- 28- Alan Andras (2002) ©
- 28- Bessie Pangere (1958) ©
- 29- John Dunchak (2001) ©
- 29- Nicholas Dushan (1924) ©
- 29- John Malutic (1928) ©
- 29- Tim Nolder (2023)
- 30- Sevasti Tsaknis (1930) ©
- 30- George Libertin (1939) ©

St Mary con't from pg 2

He walked into the wilderness for twenty days and then, when he sang the Psalms of the Sixth Hour and made the usual prayers. Suddenly, to the right of the hill where he stood, he saw a human form. He was afraid, thinking that it might be a demonic apparition. Then he guarded himself with the Sign of the Cross, which removed his fear. He turned to the right and saw a form walking southward. The body was black from the blazing sunlight, and the faded short hair was white like a sheep's fleece. Abba Zosimas rejoiced, since he had not seen any living thing for many days.

The desert-dweller saw Zosimas approaching, and attempted to flee from him. Abba Zosimas, forgetting his age and fatigue, quickened his pace. When he was close enough to be heard, he called out, "Why do you flee from me, a sinful old man? Wait for me, for the love of God."

The stranger said to him, "Forgive me, Abba Zosimas, but I cannot turn and show my face to you. I am a woman, and as you see, I am naked. If you would grant the

request of a sinful woman, throw me your cloak so I might cover my body, and then I can ask for your blessing."

Then Abba Zosimas was terrified, realizing that she could not have called him by name unless she possessed spiritual insight.

Covered by the cloak, the ascetic turned to Zosimas: "Why do you want to speak with me, a sinful woman? What did you wish to learn from me, you who have not shrunk from such great labors?"

Abba Zosimas fell to the ground and asked for her blessing. She also bowed down before him, and for a long time they remained on the ground each asking the other to bless. Finally, the woman ascetic said: "Abba Zosimas, you must bless and pray, since you are honored with the grace of the priesthood. For many years you have stood before the holy altar, offering the Holy Gifts to the Lord."

These words frightened Saint Zosimas even more. With tears he said to her, "O Mother! It is clear that you live with God and are dead to this world. **Con't next pg**

St Mary con't from previous pg

You have called me by name and recognized me as a priest, though you have never seen me before. The grace granted you is apparent, therefore bless me, for the Lord's sake."

Yielding finally to his entreaties, she said, "Blessed is God, Who cares for the salvation of men." Abba Zosimas replied, "Amen." Then they rose to their feet. The woman ascetic again said to the Elder, "Why have you come, Father, to me who am a sinner, bereft of every virtue? Apparently, the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought you to do me a service. But tell me first, Abba, how do the Christians live, how is the Church guided?"

Abba Zosimas answered her, "By your holy prayers God has granted the Church and us all a lasting peace. But fulfill my unworthy request, Mother, and pray for the whole world and for me a sinner, that my wanderings in the desert may not be useless."

The holy ascetic replied, "You, Abba Zosimas, as a priest, ought to pray for me and for all, for you are called to do this. However, since we must be obedient, I will do as you ask.

The saint turned toward the East, and raising her eyes to heaven and stretching out her hands, she began to pray in a whisper. She prayed so softly that Abba Zosimas could not hear her words. After a long time, the Elder looked up and saw her standing in the air more than a foot above the ground. Seeing this, Zosimas threw himself down on the ground, weeping and repeating, "Lord, have mercy!"

Then he was tempted by a thought. He wondered if she might not be a spirit, and if her prayer could be insincere. At that moment she turned around, lifted him from the ground and said, "Why do your thoughts confuse you, Abba Zosimas? I am not an apparition. I am a sinful and unworthy woman, though I am guarded by holy Baptism."

Then she made the Sign of the Cross and said, "May God protect us from the Evil One and his schemes, for fierce is his struggle against us." Seeing and hearing this, the Elder fell at her feet with tears saying, "I beseech you by Christ our God, do not conceal from me who you are and how you came into this desert. Tell me everything, so that the wondrous works of God may be revealed."

She replied, "It distresses me, Father, to speak to you about my shameless life. When you hear my story, you might flee from me, as if from a poisonous snake. But I shall tell you everything, Father, concealing nothing. However, I exhort you, cease not to pray for me a sinner, that I may find mercy on the Day of Judgment.

"I was born in Egypt and when I was twelve years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I lost my chastity and gave myself to unrestrained and insatiable sensuality. For more than seventeen years I lived like

that and I did it all for free. Do not think that I refused the money because I was rich. I lived in poverty and worked at spinning flax. To me, life consisted in the satisfaction of my fleshly lust.

"One summer I saw a crowd of people from Libya and Egypt heading toward the sea. They were on their way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. I also wanted to sail with them. Since I had no food or money, I offered my body in payment for my passage. And so I embarked on the ship.

"Now, Father, believe me, I am very amazed, that the sea tolerated my wantonness and fornication, that the earth did not open up its mouth and take me down alive into hell, because I had ensnared so many souls. I think that God was seeking my repentance. He did not desire the death of a sinner, but awaited my conversion.

"So I arrived in Jerusalem and spent all the days before the Feast living the same sort of life, and maybe even worse.

"When the holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable Cross of the Lord arrived, I went about as before, looking for young men. At daybreak I saw that everyone was heading to the church, so I went along with the rest. When the hour of the Holy Elevation drew nigh, I was trying to enter into the church with all the people. With great effort I came almost to the doors, and attempted to squeeze inside. Although I stepped up to the threshold, it was as though some force held me back, preventing me from entering. I was brushed aside by the crowd, and found myself standing alone on the porch. I thought that perhaps this happened because of my womanly weakness. I worked my way into the crowd, and again I attempted to elbow people aside. However hard I tried, I could not enter. Just as my feet touched the church threshold, I was stopped. Others entered the church without difficulty, while I alone was not allowed in. This happened three or four times. Finally my strength was exhausted. I went off and stood in a corner of the church portico.

"Then I realized that it was my sins that prevented me from seeing the Life-Creating Wood. The grace of the Lord then touched my heart. I wept and lamented, and I began to beat my breast. Sighing from the depths of my heart, I saw above me an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Turning to Her, I prayed: "O Lady Virgin, who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word! I know that I am unworthy to look upon your icon. I rightly inspire hatred and disgust before your purity, but I know also that God became Man in order to call sinners to repentance. Help me, O All-Pure One. Let me enter the church. Allow me to behold the Wood upon which the Lord was crucified in the flesh, shedding His Blood for the redemption of sinners, and also for me. Be my witness before Your Son that I will never defile my body again with the impurity of fornication. As soon as I have seen the Cross of your Son, I will renounce the world, and go wherever you lead me." **Con't next Pg**

ATTENDANCE: A Comparison - MARCH	2024	2025
1st Week		
Vespers	8	8
Liturgy	67 / 44	50 / 30
Forgiveness Vesper	34	43
Canon- Monday	17	26
Canon Tuesday	25	16
Canon Wednesday	18	27
Canon Thursday	22	21
Pre-Sanctified	29 / 18	31 / 17
2nd Week		
Vespers	11	13
Orthodox Liturgy	60 / 37	64 / 41
Wed. Pre-Sanctified	32 / 23	43 / 25
Fri. Pre-Sanctified	32 / 18	28 / 21
3rd Week		
Vespers	17	13
St Gregory Liturgy	64 / 47	43 / 29
Wed. Pre-Sanctified	38 / 24	48 / 28
Fri. Pre-Sanctified	23 / 16	27 / 16
4th Week		
Vespers	19	8
Cross Liturgy	70 / 55	76 / 39
Annunciation	16 / 13	25 / 18
Wed. Pre-Sanctified	37 / 25	36 / 22
Fri. Pre-Sanctified	25 / 15	23 / 14
Soul Sat. Akathist	13	10
5th week		
Vespers	10	10
St. John Liturgy	70 / 55	55 / 39
Wed. Pre-Sanctified	28 / 20	
Full Canon	13	
Fri. Akathist	30	

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

April 13- George Fischer
April 27- Jimmy Malchisky

SOCIALS FOR MARCH / ARIL

April 6: O Club
April 13: Palm Sunday (Special Social)
April 27: Council (St. Thomas Sunday)

NOTE: All socials are to be strict fast during the Great Fast.

St Mary con't from previous pg

“After I had spoken, I felt confidence in the compassion of the Mother of God, and left the spot where I had been praying. I joined those entering the church, and no one pushed me back or prevented me from entering. I went on in fear and trembling, and entered the holy place.

“Thus I also saw the Mysteries of God, and how God accepts the penitent. I fell to the holy ground and kissed it. Then I hastened again to stand before the icon of the Mother of God, where I had given my vow. Bending my knees before the Virgin Theotokos, I prayed:

“O Lady, you have not rejected my prayer as unworthy. Glory be to God, Who accepts the repentance of sinners. It is time for me to fulfill my vow, which you witnessed. Therefore, O Lady, guide me on the path of repentance.”

“Then I heard a voice from on high: ‘If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest.’

“I immediately believed that this voice was meant for me, and I cried out to the Mother of God: ‘O Lady, do not forsake me!’

“Then I left the church portico and started on my journey. A certain man gave me three coins as I was leaving the church. With them I bought three loaves of bread, and asked the bread merchant the way to the Jordan.

“It was nine o’clock when I saw the Cross. At sunset I reached the church of Saint John the Baptist on the banks of the Jordan. After praying in the church, I went down to the Jordan and washed my face and hands in its water. Then in this same temple of Saint John the Forerunner I received the Life-Creating Mysteries of Christ. Then I ate half of one of my loaves of bread, drank water from the holy Jordan, and slept there that night on the ground. In the morning I found a small boat and crossed the river to the opposite shore. Again I prayed that the Mother of God would lead me where She wished. Then I found myself in this desert.”

Abba Zosimas asked her, “How many years have passed since you began to live in the desert?”

“I think,” she replied, “it is forty-seven years since I came from the Holy City.”

Abba Zosimas again asked, “What food do you find here, Mother?”

And she said, “I had with me two and a half loaves of bread when I crossed the Jordan. Soon they dried out and hardened. Eating a little at a time, I finished them after a few years.”

Again Abba Zosimas asked, “Is it possible you have survived for so many years without sickness, and without suffering in any way from such a complete change?”

“Believe me, Abba Zosimas,” the woman said, “I spent seventeen years in this wilderness (after she had spent seventeen years in immorality), fighting wild beasts: mad desires and passions. When I began to **Con’t next pg**

St Mary con't from previous pg

eat bread, I thought of the meat and fish which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also missed the wine that I loved so much when I was in the world, while here I did not even have water. I suffered from thirst and hunger. I also had a mad desire for lewd songs. I seemed to hear them, disturbing my heart and my hearing. Weeping and striking myself on the breast, I remembered the vow I had made. At last I beheld a radiant Light shining on me from everywhere. After a violent tempest, a lasting calm ensued.

“Abba, how shall I tell you of the thoughts that urged me on to fornication? A fire seemed to burn within me, awakening in me the desire for embraces. Then I would throw myself to the ground and water it with my tears. I seemed to see the Most Holy Virgin before me, and She seemed to threaten me for not keeping my vow. I lay face downward day and night upon the ground, and would not get up until that blessed Light encircled me, dispelling the evil thoughts that troubled me.

“Thus I lived in this wilderness for the first seventeen years. Darkness after darkness, misery after misery stood about me, a sinner. But from that time until now the Mother of God helps me in everything.”

Abba Zosimas again inquired, “How is it that you require neither food, nor clothing?”

She answered, “After finishing my bread, I lived on herbs and the things one finds in the desert. The clothes I had when I crossed over the Jordan became torn and fell apart. I suffered both from the summer heat, when the blazing heat fell upon me, and from the winter cold, when I shivered from the frost. Many times I fell down upon the earth, as though dead. I struggled with various afflictions and temptations. But from that time until the present day, the power of God has guarded my sinful soul and humble body. I was fed and clothed by the all-powerful word of God, since man does not live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God (Dt 8:3, Mt.4:4, Luke 4:4), and those who have put off the old man (Col 3:9) have no refuge, hiding themselves in the clefts of the rocks (Job 24:8, Heb 11:38). When I remember from what evil and from what sins the Lord delivered me, I have imperishable food for salvation.”

When Abba Zosimas heard that the holy ascetic quoted the Holy Scripture from memory, from the Books of Moses and Job and from the Psalms of David, he then asked the woman, “Mother, have you read the Psalms and other books?”

She smiled at hearing this question, and answered, “Believe me, I have seen no human face but yours from the time that I crossed over the Jordan. I never learned from books. I have never heard anyone read or sing from them. Perhaps the Word of God, which is alive and acting, teaches man knowledge by itself (Col 3:16, 1 Thess 2:13). This is the end of my story. As I asked

when I began, I beg you for the sake of the Incarnate Word of God, holy Abba, pray for me, a sinner.

“Furthermore, I beg you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, tell no one what you have heard from me, until God takes me from this earth. Next year, during Great Lent, do not cross the Jordan, as is the custom of your monastery.”

Again Abba Zosimas was amazed, that the practice of his monastery was known to the holy woman ascetic, although he had not said anything to her about this.

“Remain at the monastery,” the woman continued. “Even if you try to leave the monastery, you will not be able to do so. On Great and Holy Thursday, the day of the Lord’s Last Supper, place the Life-Creating Body and Blood of Christ our God in a holy vessel, and bring it to me. Await me on this side of the Jordan, at the edge of the desert, so that I may receive the Holy Mysteries. And say to Abba John, the igumen of your community, ‘Look to yourself and your brothers’ (1 Tim 4:16), for there is much that needs correction. Do not say this to him now, but when the Lord shall indicate.”

Asking for his prayers, the woman turned and vanished into the depths of the desert.

For a whole year Elder Zosimas remained silent, not daring to reveal to anyone what he had seen, and he prayed that the Lord would grant him to see the holy ascetic once more.

When the first week of Great Lent came again, Saint Zosimas was obliged to remain at the monastery because of sickness. Then he remembered the woman’s prophetic words that he would not be able to leave the monastery. After several days went by, Saint Zosimas was healed of his infirmity, but he remained at the monastery until Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday, Abba Zosimas did what he had been ordered to do. He placed some of the Body and Blood of Christ into a chalice, and some food in a small basket. Then he left the monastery and went to the Jordan and waited for the ascetic. The saint seemed tardy, and Abba Zosimas prayed that God would permit him to see the holy woman.

Finally, he saw her standing on the far side of the river. Rejoicing, Saint Zosimas got up and glorified God. Then he wondered how she could cross the Jordan without a boat. She made the Sign of the Cross over the water, then she walked on the water and crossed the Jordan. Abba Zosimas saw her in the moonlight, walking toward him. When the Elder wanted to make prostration before her, she forbade him, crying out, “What are you doing, Abba? You are a priest and you carry the Holy Mysteries of God.”

Reaching the shore, she said to Abba Zosimas, “Bless me, Father.” He answered her with trembling, astonished at what he had seen. **Con’t pg 10**

Liturgical Schedule con't from pg 1

Thursday, April 17 Great & Holy Thursday

9:00 am Vespertal Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm Matins for Holy Friday (Reading of the 12 Passion Gospel's) / Set-up the grave

Friday, April 18 Great & Holy Friday

9:00 am Royal Hours
3:00 pm Burial Vespers / Lite Social
5:30 pm Lamentations w/ Procession outside

Saturday, April 19 Great & Holy Saturday

9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy
11:25 pm Nocturns
11:50 pm Procession
midnight Paschal Matins

Sunday, April 20

9:50 am Paschal Hours
10:00 am Paschal Divine Liturgy / Blessing of Baskets

MARCH FINANCIALS

Expenses	\$23,653.01
Income	\$16,086.17
TOTAL	-\$7,230.08
Weekly Tithe	\$12,659.70
Weekly Candles	\$902.00
Tetrapod Candles	\$50.00
Icon Screen / Eternal Light Candles	\$100.00
Altar Candles	\$100.00
Incense	\$50.00
Wine	\$40.00
Paschal Offering	\$25.00
Protection Candles	\$30.00
St. Panteleimon Candles	\$90.00
St. John the Baptist Candles	\$30.00
Sisterhood Donation	\$125.00
Paschal Flowers	\$485.00
Weekly Flowers	\$50.00
Bulletin	\$50.00
Cemetery Reimbursement	\$563.47
Unneeded Gifts	\$750.00
Decorative Candles	\$50.00
Monthly Charity Collection: Deanery	\$632.00

ALTAR SOCIETY

Dues of \$20 are still be collected for the altar Society.
Please see Maureen. Thank You.

PASCHAL FLOWERS

If you would like to help in the cost of the Paschal flowers and have your loved one remembered during the Paschal Divine Liturgy the cost will be \$20 per flower. Please give the names to Father Andrew and the money to Cindy.

Fr. Andrew: (10 Flowers)

- ◆ For the health of the parishioners and their families and to the retired priest Archpriest John and Archpriest Andrew
- ◆ For the Health of my family and friends
- ◆ For the Health of our Hierarchs; His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence Archbishop Daniel and the entire Synod and all Orthodox Bishops throughout the world
- ◆ For the Health of all first responders in this country and this community especially Chief Stephen, David, Evan, Greg, Bryan, Rob, Steve & Nicholas
- ◆ For the Health of the Mayor and City council and all residents and businesses in Campbell
- ◆ For all the lonely, depressed and less fortunate of this world and this community
- ◆ In Memory of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, my ordaining Bishop and His Eminence Metropolitan Orestas, His Grace Bishop John, His Grace Bishop Matthias, His Eminence Archbishop Job and His Eminence archbishop Paul & for His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman and His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosios.
- ◆ In memory of my parents George and Dorothy and all my family and friends
- ◆ In memory of all the diptychs of this parish
- ◆ In memory of the departed priests who severed this parish: The Reverand Theodore, The Reverand Daniel, The Reverand Joseph, The Reverand Isadore, The Reverand Peter, The Reverand Michael, The Reverand Nicholas, The V.R. Michael, The V.R. Nicholas, The V.R. John.

Willison Family 2 Flowers

In memory of my mother, MatushkaCarol
For the Health of my dad V. Rev John Steffaro

Kolesar Family– 2 flowers

In memory of my Uncle Mike Sveda
In memory of Departed Sveda Family members
In memory of George Kolesar

St Mary con't pg 8

“Truly God did not lie when he promised that those who purify themselves will be like Him. Glory to You, O Christ our God, for showing me through your holy servant, how far I am from perfection.”

The woman asked him to recite both the Creed and the “Our Father.” When the prayers were finished, she partook of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. Then she raised her hands to the heavens and said, “Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen Your salvation.”

The saint turned to the Elder and said, “Please, Abba, fulfill another request. Go now to your monastery, and in a year’s time come to the place where we first time spoke.”

He said, “If only it were possible for me to follow you and always see your holy face!”

She replied, “For the Lord’s sake, pray for me and remember my wretchedness.”

Again she made the Sign of the Cross over the Jordan, and walked over the water as before, and disappeared into the desert. Zosimas returned to the monastery with joy and terror, reproaching himself because he had not asked the saint’s name. He hoped to do so the following year.

A year passed, and Abba Zosimas went into the desert. He reached the place where he first saw the holy woman ascetic. She lay dead, with arms folded on her bosom, and her face was turned to the east. Abba Zosimas washed her feet with his tears and kissed them, not daring to touch anything else. For a long while he wept over her and sang the customary Psalms, and said the funeral prayers. He began to wonder whether the saint would want him to bury her or not. Hardly had he thought this, when he saw something written on the ground near her head: “Abba Zosimas, bury on this spot the body of humble Mary. Return to dust what is dust. Pray to the Lord for me. I reposed on the first day of April, on the very night of the saving Passion of Christ, after partaking of the Mystical Supper.”

Reading this note, Abba Zosimas was glad to learn her name. He then realized that Saint Mary, after receiving the Holy Mysteries from his hand, was transported instantaneously to the place where she died, though it had taken him twenty days to travel that distance.

Glorifying God, Abba Zosimas said to himself, “It is time to do what she asks. But how can I dig a grave, with nothing in my hands?” Then he saw a small piece of wood left by some traveler. He picked it up and began to dig. The ground was hard and dry, and he could not dig it. Looking up, Abba Zosimas saw an enormous lion standing by the saint’s body and licking her feet. Fear gripped the Elder, but he

guarded himself with the Sign of the Cross, believing that he would remain unharmed through the prayers of the holy woman ascetic. Then the lion came close to the Elder, showing its friendliness with every movement. Abba Zosimas commanded the lion to dig the grave, in order to bury Saint Mary’s body. At his words, the lion dug a hole deep enough to bury the body. Then each went his own way. The lion went into the desert, and Abba Zosimas returned to the monastery, blessing and praising Christ our God.

Arriving at the monastery, Abba Zosimas related to the monks and the igumen, what he had seen and heard from Saint Mary. All were astonished, hearing about the miracles of God. They always remembered Saint Mary with faith and love on the day of her repose.

Abba John, the igumen of the monastery, heeded the words of Saint Mary, and with the help of God corrected the things that were wrong at the monastery. Abba Zosimas lived a God-pleasing life at the monastery, reaching nearly a hundred years of age. There he finished his temporal life, and passed into life eternal.

The monks passed on the life of Saint Mary of Egypt by word of mouth without writing it down.

“I however,” says Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem (March 11), “wrote down the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt as I heard it from the holy Fathers. I have recorded everything, putting the truth above all else.”

“May God, Who works great miracles and bestows gifts on all who turn to Him in faith, reward those who hear or read this account, and those who copy it. May he grant them a blessed portion together with Saint Mary of Egypt and with all the saints who have pleased God by their pious thoughts and works. Let us give glory to God, the Eternal King, that we may find mercy on the Day of Judgment through our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor, majesty and worship together with the Unoriginate Father, and the Most Holy and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

Philippians 4:4-9 (Epistle, Palm Sunday)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Mark 10:32-45 (Gospel, Mary of Egypt)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to 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 on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

John 12:1-18 (Gospel, Palm Sunday)

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Epistle, Mary of Egypt)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

- Linda L. and her crew for baking for the Easterfest.
 - Nancy T. and her crew for preparing all the Lenten socials following the Pre-Sanctified liturgies
 - Sub-deacon for his Lenten talks
 - Barbara K. who has donated the new white altar boy robes which will be blessed on Palm Sunday in memory of George.
 - Dr. Nick and the choir for singing for all the services
 - to George H. & David. D. for helping me in the altar at every Lenten service
 - All of you who have made a effort to attend the Lenten services. These services are for the faithful and not just for the priest and choir director. It is to enhance our relationship with God.
- God bless all of you and thank you. Father Andrew



You Are Cordially Invited

To come celebrate with us in honoring Fr. Andrew
on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary (May 2nd) of his
Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Sunday April 27th

Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

Appetizers Immediately After Liturgy

Buffet Dinner at 12:15 pm in the Church Hall

RSVP by April 20th to Cindy Or Nancy