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Sunday, April 6th, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT— ST. MARY OF EGYPT

This Sunday commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years, but was converted to a Christian life. She went into the wilderness to live an ascetic life for many years, praying and fasting in repentance of her previous sinful life, and dying there. St. Mary's life exemplifies her conviction about Christ, which motivated the changing of her life from sin to holiness through repentance. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life, but an extreme change of her entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.

### **HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER— Please follow Ushers Instructions**

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

### COMING UP...

- ◆ **TODAY:** Ground Breaking Ceremony w/ Metropolitan Alexios Sun. April 6th following Div. Lit.
- ◆ Ladies Philoptochos: Mon. April 7th 10:30AM BOARD MEETING
- ◆ Hellenic-American: Tues. April 8th 7PM GENERAL MEETING
- ◆ Pre-Sanctified : Wed. April 9th at 6PM Lenten Meal to follow
- ◆ Circle of Friends: Thurs. April 10th 6PM MOVIE NIGHT
- ◆ Lazarus Saturday: Sat. April 12th Orthos 9AM, Div Lit. 10AM -Lenten Breakfast w/ Palm Making & Confessions
- ◆ PALM SUNDAY: Sun. April 13th Orthos 9AM, Div. Lit. 10AM
- ◆ Parish Council: Sun. April 13th following Div. Lit PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON
- ◆ Nymphios Service Sun. April 13th 7PM
- ◆ Holy Monday: Nymphios Service— Mon. April 14th 7PM
- ◆ Sunday School: Mon. April 14th— Fri. April 18th HOLY WEEK READERS

### EPISTLE READING

#### **St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6**

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls 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.

### GOSPEL READING

#### **The Gospel of Mark 10:32-45**

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he 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 spit upon him, and scourge 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 want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your 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 of 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 slave 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."

### Entrance Hymn

Come Let Us Worship/Δεῦτε Προσκυνήσωμεν (Page 16)

### Resurrectional Apolytikion

Thou didst descend from on High,/Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος,  
(Page 46)

### For the Saint Apolytikion

In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

Ἐν σοί Μητηρ ἀκριβῶς διεσώθη τὸ κατ' εἰκόνα· λαβοῦσα γὰρ τὸν σταυρόν, ἠκολούθησας τῷ Χριστῷ, καὶ πράπτουσα ἐδίδασκες ὑπερορᾶν μὲν σαρκὸς παρέρχεται γάρ, ἐπιμελεῖσθαι δὲ ψυχῆς, πράγματος ἀθανάτου· διὸ καὶ μετὰ Ἀγγέλων συναγάλλεται Ὅσια Μαρία τὸ πνεῦμά σου.

### Annunciation Hymn

Today is the crown of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery from the ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good tidings of grace. Therefore let us cry out with him unto the Mother of God: hail to thee who are full of grace; the Lord is with

thee.

Σήμερον της σωτηρίας ημῶν τό Κεφάλαιον, και του ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου η φανέρωσις, ο Υἱός τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱός τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, και Γαβριήλ τήν χαρὶν ευαγγελίζεται, Διὸ σὺν αὐτῷ τῆ Θεοτόκω βοήσωμεν, Χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ο Κύριος μετα σοῦ.

### Kontakion

O protection of the Christians unashamable, mediation to the Maker immovable, despise not, the pleading voices of those in sin, but hasten, O good one, to the help of all of us, who in faith cry out to you: Speed up your intercession, and press on your supplication, O Theotokos who always protects, all those who honor you.

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ακαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τόν Ποιητήν αμετάθετε, μή παρίδης, αμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλά πρόφθασον ως αγαθή, εις τήν βοήθειαν ημῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι: Τάχυνον εις πρεσβειάν, καί σπεύσον εις ικεσίαν, η προστατεύουσα αεί, Θεοτόκε τῶν τιμώντων σε.

### Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace/Επί σοί χαίρει  
(Page 85)

### Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord/Αἰνεῖτε τόν Κύριον (Page 36)

## The Annunciation and its connection to the Paschal Mystery

*(This is the fourth and final article in this series that attempted to elucidate this connection as we proceed through Great Lent)*

Mary as Theotokos was confirmed by the Church Fathers which unequivocally affirmed Christ's physical birth, incarnating in human nature the divine reality of the second person of the Holy Trinity, the Son. This not only emphasized the physical and human reality of the birth of Jesus Christ but it also asserted Mary's role in the history of salvation. Because we sinned against God and broke our relationship with Him, our communion with Him or our 'bridge' back to Him could only be re-established through the God-Man. Consequently, the second person of the Holy Trinity took on human nature and came into the world for its salvation. God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, to redeem those under the Law. Mary accepted freely her responsibility in the saving work of our Lord. Both God and humanity were required to free us from the devil, sin and death. The human nature He took on through the Incarnation, through the Theotokos Mary, was complete, consisting of a real human body and soul. The divine and human nature were united in one person, yet the human was not absorbed by the divine nor was the divine lost in the human. The Incarnation expresses a divine-human reality that was necessary for the work of salvation.

The Son of God became the Son of man, by sharing in our life so that we may share in His. Adam, by his disobedience sought to be God, and failed, but only by God becoming man could Adam, and therefore his offspring, hope to become God-like. Creation was thus restored. The Incarnation was the work of the Trinity but also involved the work and faith of the Virgin Mary. After God sends Gabriel to instruct her, He makes her His mother, and becomes flesh. Mary is the model of what we were before the Fall and what we are to be in Christ: A pure and obedient servant of God. Through her willing reception of Christ, she allowed us to bear God spiritually, and thus by God's grace and mercy we are made possible to become like Him, and in doing so we are transformed from our state of bondage into the realm of freedom. The Annunciation reveals the Incarnation of our Lord. He shared in our humanity, became flesh and blood, and through death, destroyed the power of death. He released us from that bondage, served as our High Priest, making propitiation for our sins, and in doing so gave us freedom. He through His birth from Mary became one of us, natural with us as He was eternally natural with His father. Tested by our temptations but eternally sinless, He was able to become our intercessor, and allow for our reconciliation. If we accept in faith this work of salvation as a gift and act of grace from God, and remain in communion with Him by participating in the sacraments, and follow His way of life, then we can truly come closer to being conformed to His image and likeness.

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 3 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. Our goal is \$200,000 for 2014!

### SAINTS COMMEMORATED

#### TODAY, SUN. APRIL 6th

• St. Mary of Egypt

• Eutychius, Patriarch of Constantinople

• 120 Martyrs of Persia

• Gregory of Sinai

Our Church passes 2 offering trays.  
The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget,  
the 2nd tray will continue for the new Education Building Fund  
until paid in Full.

## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Join us APRIL MOVIE & Pizza NIGHT !

Poetically delicious THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH @ 6pm (Annunciation Church Hall) \$5.00 per person (includes movie, pizza, soda) Directed by Tassos Boulmetis, "A Touch of Spice" (2003) is a story about a young Greek boy (Fanis) growing up in Istanbul, whose grandfather, a culinary philosopher and mentor, teaches him that both food and life require a little salt to give them flavor; they both require... A Touch of Spice. Fanis grows up to become an excellent cook and uses his cooking skills to spice up the lives of those around him. 35 years later he leaves Athens and travels back to his birthplace of Istanbul to reunite with his grandfather and his first love; he travels back only to realize that he forgot to put a little bit of spice in his own life.

## HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB

Attention all Parishioners: The Hellenic-American Club is in the process of collecting Easter goodies, small toys and stuffed animals (not more than \$5 ea.), small books for children and Easter Candy to be packaged and delivered to a very needy charity in Immokalee. This undertaking is being chaired by Phyllis Mino, who will also personally deliver the gifts. Please contact Phyllis or any Hellenic Club Board member if you wish to contribute to this special endeavor. We hope to have received all gift items by April 8th to allow sufficient time for packaging and delivery before Easter.

The next meeting of the Hellenic Club is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fr. Kontinos Community Center. Our speaker for the evening will be Fr. Deacon John Howard. Refreshments will be served.

Also on the Club's Agenda, following Lent and Easter, is a day trip open to all on the Big "M" on Thursday, April 24th. The cost is \$15 per person which includes the boat trip and a full lunch. This is a special group price arranged by chairpersons John & Amelia Pappas. For more information you may contact John or Amelia at 590-6115. Payment will be due by our meeting on April 8th so that the group reservations may be completed in advance.

## WILL YOU ATTEND OUR PASCHA GLENDI ?

Following the 11am AGAPE Service on April 20 the Parish Council would like to host a Community Glendi which includes: Lamb Shanks, Pastichio, Salad, Mousaka and other items. Free-Will Donation. If you want to attend please contact the church office by April 1st at 239-481-2099 or by email: officeagoc@gmail.com.

## Children's Easter Egg Hunt



**Sunday, April 20th**  
Immediately following 11am  
Agape Vespers

**Bring your basket...  
We'll provide the prizes!**



Questions? Contact:  
Olympia Ruppe at [oruppe@embarqmail.com](mailto:oruppe@embarqmail.com)  
Jen-Hope Belis at [jhbelis@yahoo.com](mailto:jhbelis@yahoo.com)

## LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$2K CASH OR \$2K TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY. PLEASE SEE JOAN SIMON at 201-826-8991 OR AN LPS REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR \$25 DONATION TOWARDS A TICKET PURCHASE TODAY. WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH. WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

## THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for your prayers and cards. They really helped me through my surgery & recovery.

Sincerely, *Connie Talabac*

## PRE-SANATIFIED LITURGIES (6PM) & LENTEN (Meatless) MEAL HOSTS:

April 9th—Sunday School (Parents & Teachers)

## WELCOME MINISTRY

New to the area? a 1st time Visitor? interested in Orthodoxy? or been a long-time believer --please FILL OUT a yellow card in your pew. HAND the yellow card to an USHER before Communion. Our Welcome Ministry wants to meet you and we are a VERY friendly family of Orthodox Christians, local and from all over the Country. We have many Ministries to offer from 1 to 101. Our members: Helen, Jim and Terry; Aileen, Pam, Polly, George and Georgia, Carol and Presvytera Carolyn invite you to join them in Fellowship Hall next door following Liturgy. Introduce yourself to Fr. Dean Nastos at the end of the service when you come forward for blessed bread. Have a Blessed Day!



## Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Helen Roger, Nikki Fagerlie, Tina Brassel, Caren Dopoulos, Katherine Del Monico, Elaine Chakonas, Dimitra Vasilakos, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Stella Demosthenis & Mary Kendrick. Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099