

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate
Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, Pastor
Very Rev. Father Nifon Abraham, Pastor Emeritus



13 APRIL
2008

SAINT MARY
OF EGYPT:
5TH SUNDAY
IN LENT

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND FRIENDS.

IT IS A BLESSING TO HAVE YOU WITH US AT SAINT GEORGE.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR PARISH,
OR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH, PLEASE SEE THE PRIEST.

ONLY THOSE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS WHO ARE REPENTANT OF THEIR
SINS AND HAVE PREPARED THEMSELVES THROUGH FASTING ARE INVITED
TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO VENERATE
THE CROSS AND SHARE HOLY BREAD FOLLOWING THE LITURGY.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT GEORGE

Today - *Bible Bowl Study Session, during coffee hour*
Monday - *Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm*
Diocesan Compline service, 7:00 pm in Worcester
Wednesday - *Pre-Sanctified Liturgy & Lenten Potluck, 6:00 pm*
Saturday - *Lazarus Saturday Liturgy & Breakfast, 8:30 am*
Next Sunday - *Matins - Divine Liturgy & Palm Procession 9:00 / 10:00 am*
Ladies Bake Sale, 12 noon
Bridegroom Matins, 7:00 pm (Confessions before service)

The Great Lenten Fast continues each day this week. Meat, fish, dairy, eggs, wine and oil are not to be consumed until Pascha. There is katalysis for wine and oil Saturdays and Sundays and for fish on Palm Sunday.

HOLY BREAD

The gifts are offered today by Don & Camille Florio.

FLOWERS

The bouquets before the Icon of Christ and the Theotokos are given by Sally Peter.

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BLESSING OF NEW LITURGICAL ITEMS

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, two items, recently gifted to the parish will be blessed. First is a tray and container for the **Unction Service** (the holy oil); this beautiful piece is given by Philip Michaels in memory of Camren Michaels (Cammy Mike.) The second is an **Icon of the Epitaphios**, which will be placed in the bier. It is given to the glory of God by Ileana Nace.

HOLY FRIDAY VIGIL

An ancient tradition in the Orthodox Church, which NAC Teen SOYO has committed itself to honor, is the Vigil at the Tomb of Christ. After our Lord died on the Cross, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, bound it in linen cloths with spices and buried it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary sat opposite the tomb watching as their Lord was buried. The Church over the centuries has joined with these two women in keeping watch over Jesus' tomb. The Holy Friday Vigil at Christ's tomb is our opportunity to help keep watch over our Lord's body. What better way to understand the death and resurrection of Jesus than to participate in the Vigil by His Bier. **A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church so that you can commit yourself to an hour or more.**

ALMS BOXES

The money you drop in your **Food For Hungry** box each day feeds starving people around the world.

THEOPHANY BENEFIT

The 8th annual benefit evening for **Theophany School** is Sunday, May 18th, at X & O Restaurant, Stoughton. The theme is "Building On A Dream". The evening is a tribute to the late founder, Sonia Daly Belcher.

PASCHA DONATION

Envelopes for your donation this Easter are now available. A list of donations received by April 20th will be printed in the bulletin at Pascha. Your generosity and love for Saint George Church is appreciated.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Confessions will be heard by appointment through the 18th; before and after Vespers on the 19th; and preceding the Bridegroom service, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evening only.

Lazarus Saturday - 19 April

Divine Liturgy, 8:30 am
Followed by Church School breakfast
Zahar baking, 12:00 noon
Great Vespers, 5:00 pm

Palm Sunday - 20 April

Matins, 9:00 am
Liturgy & Procession of Palms, 10:00 am
Ladies Bake Sale, 12 noon
Bridegroom Service, 7:00 pm

Holy Monday & Holy Tuesday - 21-22 April

Bridegroom Service, 7:00 pm

Holy Wednesday - 23 April

Holy Unction, 6:00 pm

Holy Thursday - 24 April

Vesperal Liturgy, 8:30 am
Passion Gospels, 7:00 pm

Great and Holy Friday - 25 April

Royal Hours, 8:30 am
Decorating of the bier follows
Vespers, 1:00 pm
Church School retreat follows
Lamentations & All Night Vigil, 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday - 26 April

Vesperal Liturgy, 8:30 am
Decorating of the church follows
Matins & Paschal Liturgy, 11:00 pm
Followed by parish breakfast

Holy Pascha - 27 April

Agape Vespers, 12 noon



LAZARUS SATURDAY & Palm Sunday AT SAINT GEORGE

Lazarus Saturday - THIS SATURDAY April 19th:
Divine Liturgy - 8:30 am / Church School Breakfast follows
Zahtar Baking - 12 noon / Fresh pick-up - 4:00 pm
 -- See Hellas Assad for pre-orders TODAY!
 Great Vespers - 5:00 pm

Blessed is He who comes in the
 Name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

مبارك الآتي باسم
 الرب، وأيضاً مبارك الآتي
 باسم الرب.
 أوصنا لابن داود، وأيضاً
 أوصنا لابن داود.

Palm Sunday - NEXT SUNDAY April 20th:
Matins - 9:00 am / Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am / and Procession of Palms
Bake Sale at Coffee Hour
 Pick up a bag of home-made goodies from the Ladies of Saint George
 (there will be items for fasting and to save for Pascha.)
 Bridegroom Service - 7:00 pm



TOTAL DEPOSITS	PLEDGES	MEMORIALS & DONATIONS	TRAYS	SPECIAL TRAY	COFFEE HOUR OUTREACH
APRIL 6					
\$2849.00	\$985.00	\$1184.00	\$180.00	N.A.	N.A.



PRAYERS OF OBLATION AND DONATIONS

Robert & Elizabeth Tamer Bentley and Marion Redonnetin memory of Helen Abdallah
 Cynthia Apgarfor the health of Elias Laham and in memory of Celia Laham
 Estelle Mike, Bill & Helen Abril and familyin memory of Stanley Rossetsky
 Margaret Domet and Kay Mikein memory of Beth Belehi
 Helen and Nicholas Abrilfor David Franciosi on his birthday

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Pray for the good health of the servants of God: Archpriest Edward, Priest Robert, Deacon Elias, Khouriye
 Joanne, Mary, Florence, Alice, Hayes, Katrina, Elsa, John, Jeanne, Gregory, Albert, Dimitri, James, Frederick,
 Anne, Grace, Renee, Robert, Nicole, Mary, Pauline, Ioana, Nicolae, Kathleen, Lillie, Jennifer, Edward, Carrie,
 Sam, Camille, Michael, Mikayla, Christopher, Nancy, Kenneth, Joy, Claudia, Thomas, Sarah, Nicholas, Charles,
 Catherine, Joyce, Janice, Barbara, Beverly, John, Katherine, Mary, Beverly, Najlae, Irene, Edmond, Helen, George,
 Frances, Marlene, Felecia, Catherine, Lana, Gail, Margaret, Brian, Nicole, Marion, Donna, Linda, Edmond,
 Emaline, Carrie, Nicholas, George, Lovee, Elizabeth, Sarah, Charles, Jenine, Josephine, George, Sandy, Edward,
 Michael, Madeline, Rosemary, John, Margaret, Sarah, Nima, Dean, David, Sterling, William, Mary.

Pray for Erik, our catakumen.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Leeann Plouffe - Chairwoman
 Barbara Campbell, Paul Eysie, Camille Florio (Secretary), Andrew Howard (Vice Chairman),
 Marlene Lupaczyk, Marwan Samman (Treasurer), Linda Thomas and Sharon Weiskerger

CHURCH LEADERS

Ladies of Saint George - Katie Birtwell, President	Church School - Rich Plouffe, Superintendent
Parish Chanter - Paul Eysie	Choir Director - David Franciosi
Teen Advisor - Michele Markatos	Teen President - Jenna Weiskerger
Ushers - Andrew Howard & Marwan Samman	Epistle Reader Coordinator - Lovee Thomas
Bible Bowl Team Leader - Emily Shay	Seminarian - Michael Razook
Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik	Scholarship Committee Chair - Helen Abril
Church Custodian - Gerry Mullen	

SUNDAY 13 APRIL 2008 • VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT

TONE 5 • EOTHINON 2 • THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Eisodikon

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of Saint Mary of Egypt (Tone 8)

Through thee the divine likeness was securely preserved, O Mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and followed Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

Troparion of Saint George, Patron of our Community (Tone 4)

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great-Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

Kontakion (Tone 2)

O Undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to thee in faith, with assistance; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honour thee.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL

Prokeimenon and Verse:

Vow and pay unto the Lord your God. In Judah is God known.

The Reading is from Apostle Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (9:11-14, for the Fifth Sunday)

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.

Alleluia

Alleluia. Come let us rejoice in the Lord, let us shout with jubilation unto God our Saviour. Alleluia. Let us come before His countenance with thanksgiving. Alleluia.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark (10:32-45, Fifth Sunday)

Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And 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 Zeb'edee, 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 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 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."

Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee

Lord's Prayer

As is our custom during Lent at Saint George, the prayer taught to us by our Lord himself will be prayed in the languages of those present, beginning with English, then , Arabic, Greek, Russian and Romanian.

Readings for Lent from Saint George Church

Saint Mary of Egypt: A sermon by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

We keep today the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt in the gradual progression from glory to glory which Lent is, and which must lead us step by step to facing the supreme glory of the Divine Love crucified, the sacrificial love of the Holy Trinity.

Saint Mary of Egypt was a sinner, someone whose sin was known to everyone and not to God alone; perhaps she was the only one who was least of all aware of it because sin was her life. And yet, one day, she wanted to go and venerate an icon of the Mother of God in a church. The supreme beauty of womanhood in the Mother of God reached her heart, touched it. But when she came to the gate of this church, a power prevented her from crossing the threshold. The Publican had been able to stand there because his heart was broken; Mary of Egypt had no broken heart, and the entrance of the church was forbidden to her. And she stood there, aware that what she was, was incompatible with the holiness of the Presence, the presence of God, the presence of the Mother of God, the presence of all that is holy on earth and in heaven.

And she was so profoundly shaken by this experience that she left all that had been her life, retired into the desert, and with a life which the service books define as 'extreme', fought to conquer her flesh, her soul, her memories - everything that was sin, but also everything that could lead her away from God. And we know how glorious her life was, the kind of person she became.

What lesson can we receive from her life? How often is it that we have knocked at the door of God in the way in which Mary tried to come into His presence? How often have we tried to pray, to be in His presence in silence? How often has our longing been to God, and how often have we felt that between our prayer and Him, between our silence and Him, between our longing and Him there was a barrier which we could not pass. We were crying, praying into an empty sky, we were turning towards icons that were silent; all we could perceive was the Divine absence, and an absence so frightening, because not only could we not reach Him, but we perceived that unless we reached Him, our soul was laid waste, there was within us nothing but emptiness, an emptiness that if it continued, if it became our definitive condition would mean more than death - ultimate separation.

But how often also has God knocked at the door of our heart. You remember the word of the Book of Revelation: I stand at Thy door and I knock... How often has God, in the words of the Gospel, in the events of our life, in the weak promptings of our soul, in a whispering of the Holy Spirit, in all the ways in which God tries to reach us - how often has He knocked at this door, and how often have we made sure that this door does not open. Either didn't we simply care to open it because we were busy with things that mattered to us at that moment more than His interrupting, disturbing presence; and how often did we refuse to open the door because the coming of the Lord to us would have meant the end of things which were precious to us,

which mattered to us... And the Lord stood knocking, and the door was shut in His face: exactly in the same way in which every door was shut in the face of the Mother of God and Joseph on the night of the Nativity.

We may not be aware of it with the intensity which should be ours; and yet for each of us, simply, the proof of it is that we are here, and millions of other people at some moment have suddenly perceived the presence of God, have heard His knocking, have let perhaps the door ajar, have listened to what He was saying, had a moment of elation, a moment when suddenly we came to life, and then we shut the door again. We chose our aloneness, we chose to be without Him, and what we imagined to be 'free' from Him: we are never free; we are never free not because He enslaves us, not because He hunts us down. We are never free because He is ultimately in the end the only supreme longing of our whole being, because He is the fullness of life, the glory of life, the exultation of life for which we long and which we try to glean right, and left in vain.

Mary of Egypt confronted with the Divine absence, with God's refusal to allow her into His presence, confronted with a shut door within herself felt that unless the door opened, everything was vain. And she turned away from everything that stood between her and God, and life, and fullness, and exultation.

Isn't she for us an example, a call, an image of what could be the life of each of us? But we may say, Yes, this applied to her, she was a prospective saint... Each of us is called to commune with God in such a way, that God and each of us should

become one, that each of us should become partaker of the Divine nature, a living member, a brother, a sister, a limb of Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit, a son and a daughter of the Living God! This is our vocation; but can that be achieved by our own strength? No, it cannot! But it can be achieved by God in us if we only turn to Him with all our mind, all our heart, all our longing, determinably, yes: it is determination, and it is longing, a passionate, desperate longing... And then - and then all things become possible. I have said so often that when Saint Paul asked God for strength to fulfil his mission, the Lord said to him, My grace sufficeth unto thee, My power deploys itself in weakness... And at the end of his life, having fulfilled his vocation, Paul, who knew what he was saying, said, all things are possible unto me in the power of Christ Who sustains me... All things are possible, because God does not call us to more than can be achieved by Him with us and in us.

How much hope, how much inspiration can we find in each of the Saints of God, as frail as we are, and in whom the power, the glory, the victory, the life unfolded itself, deployed itself gloriously.

Let us once more receive inspiration from what we hear, receive inspiration from what we meet face to face in the Gospel, in Holy Communion, in prayer, in the silence in the presence of God. And let us move one step more forward towards the vision of the love of God made manifest in Holy Week, in the last steps of the way of the Cross, in the final victory of crucified Love, and in the victory of the Resurrection of God. Amen.