

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

The Commemoration of Our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt;

Venerable Titus the Wonderworker; Virgin-martyr Theodora of Palestine

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Tone 1; Eothinon 9

Apolytikion of the Resurrection (Tone 1)

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

Apolytikion of St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 8)

Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow 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.

Apolytikion of our Patron the Archangel Michael (Tone 4)

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of Thy unearthly glory, preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the Highest Power.

Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 2)

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for the Fifth Sunday of Lent)

*Make your vows to the Lord our God, and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.*

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

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?

THE GOSPEL (for the Fifth Sunday of Lent)

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel is 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.”

The Synaxarion

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.

Verses

Spirit rose up, flesh melted away erewhile;
hide, O earth, the worn bones of Mary's body.

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. *Through her intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread, wheat and a reception are being offered for the forty-day memorial of the Hieromonk Dorotheus of blessed memory and eternal repose by his spiritual children. Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is being offered by Ron & Kathy Zraick in memory of their grandson, Lucas James Scott (+13 April, 2007) and Ron's sister, Renee Kabbez (+2 April, 1987). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is also being offered for Theodora Mae Skaff Tortolano, on the occasion of her 91st birthday, by her children: Cristina and Tony Tortolano, her grandchildren: Erica and Ryan Tortolano, and her great granddaughter, Emely. May God grant her many years!

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

by Adeeb & Nuha Abughazaleh for the newly-departed sister and nephew of Nuha: Samira Ghawi (+23 March, 2023) and Shafiq Ghawi (+27 March, 2023). Memory eternal.

for the repose of the newly-departed servant of God, George Baba (+23 March, 2023), beloved father of Nicholas, Thomas, Larry and Vicki Baba. Memory eternal

by Mae Tortolano for the repose of our newly-departed cousin Ned Skaff of Simi Valley. Memory eternal.

for Carolyn Sadd on the occasion of her 85th birthday. May God grant her many, many more years of good health and happiness. May we have many more years of love and laughter with her! Love, Chrisa Sadd, Carrie, John and George Khouri, Leilah, Daniel and Gabriella Lewin.

We thank Adrienne Hines, Christi Chiaburu and Constantine Nasr for hosting last week's Wednesday Lenten dinner.

Included in our prayers throughout the month of April are those celebrating their birthday: John Andrews (4/2), Carolyn Sadd (4/2), Mae Theodora Tortolano (4/2), Safwat Ibrahim (4/4), Lisa Gascou (4/6), Mandy Nasr (4/6), Cassandra Vadney (4/7), Hanna Yazbek (4/8), Tamara Barney (4/10), Waleed Haddad (4/13), Robin O'Dea (4/13), Milana Alexander

(4/14), Danny Baba (4/14), Robin O'Dea (4/14), Averie Abughazaleh (4/15), Muriel Khoury (4/15), Christina Thabit (4/15), Noha Simon (4/16), Nickie Malouf (4/17), Brian O'Dea (4/18), Reed Alexander Nassir (4/18), Anne Hoyt-Mallouk (4/20), Lyla Hines (4/21), Philip Khoury (4/21), Braden Luke McLinn (4/21), Hanna Mitchell and Olivia Mitchell (4/21), Jocelyn Skaff (4/21), Ronald Joseph Zraick, Jr. (4/21), Kiera O'Dea (4/22), Maya Alexander (4/24), DeAnne Abraham (4/25), John Gantus (4/26), Alana Worotko (4/26), Kevin Khouri (4/27), Luca Matarese (4/27), Christine Panga (4/27), Denise Cruz (4/28), Elizabeth Thabet (4/29), Tanya Rishwain Milkie (4/30); and those celebrating their wedding anniversary: Linda & Peter Mitchell (4/4), Michelle & Waleed Moujaes (4/17), Cathy & Art Danks (4/18), Araceli & Fred Yazbek (4/18), Andony and Carrie El-Khoury (4/23); Danielle & Damien Contes (4/29). May God grant them all many years!

Included in our prayers for the departed throughout the month of April are:

<i>Thomas Saliba, +April, 1936</i>	<i>Joseph Dabbour, +15 April, 2007</i>
<i>Metre Chala Saleet, +23 April, 1953</i>	<i>Hamid Sweis, +15 April, 2008</i>
<i>Leila Milkie, April, 1961</i>	<i>Sarah Sadd, +15 April, 2008</i>
<i>George Thabit I, +April, 1968</i>	<i>Ioan Filoftheia +19 April, 2008</i>
<i>Florence Barkett, +19 April, 1974</i>	<i>Carolyn Gearheart, +12 April, 2009</i>
<i>Evelyn Mittry, +16 April, 1979</i>	<i>James N. Goson, +3 April, 2010</i>
<i>Gwen Abraham, +15 April, 1981</i>	<i>Theodore Zogob, +5 April 2010</i>
<i>Henry Abraham, +17 April, 1981</i>	<i>Leila Malouf, +17 April 2010</i>
<i>Lindsey Reinhart, +25 April, 1981</i>	<i>Mike Malouf, +25 April, 2012</i>
<i>Charlotte Black, +26 April, 1981</i>	<i>Youssef Ghazal, +2 April, 2013</i>
<i>Bader S. Haddad, +4 April, 1984</i>	<i>Frieda Maloof, +21 April, 2013</i>
<i>Renee Kabbez, +2 April, 1987</i>	<i>Eddie Tamoush, +11 April 2014</i>
<i>William Haddad, +15 April, 1988</i>	<i>George Djarrah, +16 April, 2014</i>
<i>Karoleen Abughazaleh +21 April, 91</i>	<i>Mary Lipyanik, +16 April, 2014</i>
<i>Frieda Nichols, +21 April, 1992</i>	<i>Yvonne Latif, +24 April 2014</i>
<i>Roullah Najjar, +8 April, 1994</i>	<i>James Tintocalis, +20 April 2014</i>
<i>Jamilie Habib, +13 April, 1995</i>	<i>Ron Stapleton, +17 April, 2015</i>
<i>Rudy George +15 April, 1995</i>	<i>Salwa Dahdah, +6 April, 2015</i>
<i>Rudy George, +15 April, 1995</i>	<i>Iziz Aziz, +April, 2016</i>
<i>Velma Akoury, +3 April, 1998</i>	<i>Matthew Tambouras +23 Apr. 2016</i>
<i>Bob Chambers, +3 April, 1999</i>	<i>Harriet Lihs +12 April, 2017</i>
<i>Joseph Betras, +4 April, 1999</i>	<i>Anya Khachatourian +23 Apr. 2017</i>

Lowen Thabet, +18 April, 1999
Melvina Chala, +6 April, 2000
Marie Davis, +28 April, 2000
Nazira Rihbany, +11 April, 2001
Fouad Zabaneh, +11 April, 2001
Cathrin Fayard, +26 April, 2003
Elia Ayoub, +4 April, 2004
Constantine Stath, +19 April, 2004
Marie Yazbek, +1 April, 2005
Fedelis Abodeely, +21 April, 2006
Lucas James Scott, +13 April, 2007

Reham Tannous +4 Apr. 2018
Noah Farha, +14 April, 2019
Kyle Jeagar, +23 April, 2019
Dr. George Deeb, +3 April, 2020
Willem Tensen, +5 April, 2020
Alicia Giacobbi, +29 April, 2020
Rose Ajalat, +30 April, 2020
Joji Panga, +10 April, 2021
Pravin Lai, +21 April, 2021
Carl Andrews, +24 April, 2021
Jorge Flores, +25 April, 2021
Paul Ajalat, +8 April, 2022

Memory Eternal!

NOTE: Names and dates mentioned above are from our current Office Records. Please inform us of any error and we will correct it.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: We are currently in the period of the Great Fast.*]

Friday, April 7th

Little Compline with the Canon of Lazarus, 6:30 p.m.

Lazarus Saturday – April 8th

The Preparation of Gifts (Proskomedía), 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Great Vespers, 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday**

[Note: There are no memorials held on Palm Sunday]

Sunday, April 9th – Orthros, 8:45 a.m.

The Procession of Palms and The Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

Complete texts of church services are available on-line at:

<https://antiochian.org/liturgicday>

* For more information on fasting or questions, speak with Father Timothy.

** Fish, wine and oil are permitted on Palm Sunday, April 9th.
Holy Pascha (Easter) is celebrated on Sunday, April 16th.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

NOTE: Confessions will be heard before and/or after the services, or by appointment during the week. It would be most appropriate for confessions to be completed by Holy Wednesday (April 12th) just prior to the Sacrament of Holy Unction and the Holy Thursday morning Liturgy.

THE SERVICES OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening – April 9th

Bridegroom Orthros and Procession, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Monday – April 10th

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 11th

Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 12th

Confessions

The Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Thursday – April 13th

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 a.m.

Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Friday – April 14th

Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3 p.m.

Orthros of the Lamentations and Procession, 6:30 p.m.

Great and Holy Saturday – April 15th

Service of the Preparing of the Holy Gifts (*Proskomedie*), 8:30 a.m.

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9 a.m.

SERVICES OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION – HOLY PASCHA

The “Rush Procession” Orthros, 11:30 p.m.

The Divine Liturgy and “Agape Breakfast”

Holy Pascha – April 16th

The Paschal Vespers of Love (*Agape*), 11 a.m.

Note: On each of the five Sundays of Great Lent, the prayers of St. Basil the Great are used within the Divine Liturgy. The five Sundays of Lent are among the ten times when the Liturgy of St. Basil is used each year. Others include: January 1st, the Feast of St. Basil, January 6th, Holy Theophany, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and Christmas Eve.

The origin of the Liturgy of St. Basil is Antiochian, specifically from Cappadocia where St. Basil was a bishop. It is older than the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, perhaps by two centuries. The Liturgy of St. Basil was known to be the standard weekday liturgy in the Great Church of Constantinople (*St. Sophia*) up until the 6th century, after which the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom began being commonly celebrated on Sundays.

To follow the service from our red Service Book, you will find the prayers of St. Basil beginning on page 132, replacing the prayers that begin on page 103 in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. In the spiral congregational Service Book the prayers of St. Basil are printed alongside the prayers of St. John Chrysostom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Parents:

Learn the meaning of our offerings and prayers at the Liturgy: Father Timothy will be teaching the children (and any adult interested in having an “up-close” lesson) about the preparation of the Holy Bread offering just before the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy on Saturday, April 8, 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. The prayers for the preparation of the offering at the “table of the offering,” called the *Prothesis* [pro-THEE-sus] table, will take place just prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy for all to see, with explanations of the prayers and actions by the priest. It will be a beautiful way to begin Holy Week as we celebrate Christ’s entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem.



More Articles by Metropolitan SABA (in English and Arabic)

View the message from Metropolitan SABA here, available in English and Arabic: “Is Fasting an Obligation?” <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1537>

In a second article republished this week on “The Approach to God: The East verses the West, also available in English and Arabic go to: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1544>

For Sayidna's third article: "Love: A Cross and Resurrection." Go to: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1547>

In last week's article: "Christians," His Eminence states: "Our fidelity to our Lord requires that we change the world to what agrees with the Gospel of Christ and not vice versa." Go to: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1554>

Also see Sayidna's discussion on his impressions of the North American Archdiocese in this video link: <https://antiochian.org/regulararticle/1558>

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the east

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig, Pastor
frtimothy@stmichaelvanuys.org

Church Telephone: 818/994-2313
www.stmichaelvanuys.org

Dear St. Michael Church Family,

We are nearing the receipt of our Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Los Angeles and must ask that we use discretion by avoiding posting photos or videos taken in the church on social media platforms. Thank you for your help, cooperation and understanding.

Next Sunday, we will celebrate Christ's entrance into the City of Jerusalem with the Procession of Palms that will take place at the start of the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to be at church early. The procession will begin at 9:45 a.m. Lighted candles will not be allowed in the church, only during the procession outdoors. We ask that parents plan to attend to their children at all times and take advantage of our balcony for their visibility of the Liturgy with instruction.

There is no bake sale this year, however, the Antiochian Women will be selling their coffee to help with their earthquake relief project and would appreciate your support.

May you and your loved ones receive the spiritual benefits afforded by the remaining days of Great Lent.

In Christ

V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
Pastor

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

- Apr 05 - Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts and Lenten Meal
- Apr 08 - open (Lazarus Saturday Liturgy) Church School Brunch
- Apr 09 - open (Palm Sunday)
- Apr 13 - open (Holy Thursday Liturgy)
- Apr 15 - open (Holy Saturday 10 a.m. Liturgy)
- Apr 16 - open (Paschal midnight Liturgy) Paschal Breakfast

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread or host the coffee hour.

Zoom Meeting Virtual Bible Studies Will Resume in April

Our Weekly Bible Study will resume after Pascha. The link for the last recorded link and Study Guide of our concluding chapters of the Book of Genesis is also available by request by contacting Father Timothy at: frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org

Food for the Hungry People Drive

You may have received the Food for the Hungry People mailing from Robin Nicholas. Your contribution may be made through our parish by writing your check to “St. Michael Church”, earmarked: “FFHP” and our parish collection will be sent in at the end of Great Lent. Coin boxes are also available in the narthex. Thank you for your support of our annual Lenten charity campaign.

30th St. Michael Golf Classic — Monday, May 22, 2023

The St. Michael 30th Anniversary Golf Tournament and Banquet will take place on Monday, May 22, 2023. One of the enjoyable events is the Golf Ball Raffle. The Raffle Grand Prize is a surprise TRIP! We have begun soliciting parishioners for donations of \$50 cash/check, \$50 gift cards, or a gift item with a \$50 value or more — used to purchase additional raffle prizes. Your gifts or donations may be brought or mailed to the church. Please contact DeAnne Abraham (661) 259-7897 or Samia Habib (818) 919-3870 should you have questions. The deadline for all donations is: Sunday May 14, 2023. Looking forward to another glorious day in the sun!

In addition, Bobbi Monsue is collecting photographs of our Golf Classic from the past 30 years. If you have a photo or photos to add to our display, please contact her at: bobbi_monsue@att.net or visit her in the bookstore.

Bookstore Orders Available on Parish Website

You may place an order through our parish website or e-mail Bobbi Monsue (Manager) for special orders at: bobbi_monsue@att.net. Now is the time to place your order for your Holy Week Service Book and other gifts for Holy Pascha (Easter).

Upcoming Events

[Note: You may now access our Google Parish Calendar to your personal calendar. Here is the link: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YWRtaW5Ac3RtaWN0YWVsdmFubnV5cy5vcmc>]

Holy Friday Vigil — Friday, April 14, 2023

58th St. Nicholas Sweetheart (Debutante) Ball

April 29, 2023; Hilton Universal City

St. Barbara Lebanon Relief Fund Dinner — Saturday, May 13

St. Nicholas Cathedral Heritage Ballroom; RSVP by May 7

St. Michael 30th Annual Golf Classic — Monday, May 22, 2023

Wood Ranch Golf Club; Simi Valley

Diocesan Parish Life Conference hosted by St. Luke Church (Garden Grove) June 28 to July 2, 2023; Irvine Marriott; www.lapl.org

St. Michael Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Monday-Friday, July 10-14, 2023; Ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade

56th Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention hosted by

St. George Church (Phoenix, Arizona); July 23-30, 2023

Go to: www.ac2023az.org

APRIL
16

Easter
EGG HUNT



***St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
Church School Presents: Annual Easter Egg Hunt***
Following the Agape Vespers at 11 a.m.

We are very excited to announce this years Easter Egg Hunt! Please RSVP with the number of children that will be attending the Easter Egg Hunt. Please email your response to Brittney Ajalat at blajalat@gmail.com by April 2nd. Children will line up youngest to oldest to allow time for the littles to find the eggs.



Blessings Blend Coffee

Antiochian Women DLAW

Together With

**WANDERLUST
COFFEES**

**Orthodox
Owned
Business**

Complete Information and
how to order available at:
<https://wanderlustcoffees.com/aw>

**Medium-light body,
robust flavor, with hints
of chocolate & caramel.**

**Organically grown,
fairly traded & air
roasted in small
batches in
Lancaster, PA**

**Proceeds benefitting
Earthquake Relief &
Charitable Works of
AW DLAW**

Church Chair Sponsorships

The sponsorship of a church chair is \$300.00 or \$3,000 for a "gang-tied" row of ten that form a pew. Each seat includes a book pocket beneath the seat (front and rear), and a vinyl kneeler. Twelve custom high chairs sponsorships are also available for choir seating (\$350/each).



Our 2023 Pledge Forms Provided with this Bulletin

As a committed member of St. Michael Church, please complete a new 2023 form. Everyone's financial situation is subject to changes from year to year. In the same way, our parish depends upon the financial pledge commitments of its members in order to meet its monthly expenses. May God bless us all in practicing good Christian stewardship.

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406 Phone: 818-994-2313
Website: www.stmichaelvannuys.org

2023 CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

1. All enrolled members must first fulfill a fair share contribution that is paid 100% by St. Michael Church to the Archdiocese annually (this does not include your family pledge obligation BELOW).

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 18 & above) in your household _____ \$50 each _____

Total number of baptized Orthodox persons (age 17 & under) in your household _____ \$35 each _____

(Please print all names with information in the section below)

2. In gratitude of God’s blessings, I / we pledge to contribute St. Michael Church expenses.

A total annual amount of: ____ (see Treasure self-assessment chart)

\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly \$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ semi-annually \$ _____ annually

Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. How do you wish to pay? We accept personal checks or credit card payments. (See below)

- a. You may write a check to “St. Michael Church” and mail it to the Church Office. (see address above)
- b. You may process an “automatic bill pay” with your bank that will mail a recurring monthly hard-copy earmarked check to St. Michael Church.
- c. You may pay by credit card using our website donation page (a 3% processing fee will apply) at: <https://www.stmichaelvannuys.org/donate/> and we will be immediately notified.
- d. You may arrange for a recurring monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account using our church bank routing number and bank account.

Note: Each donation to St. Michael Church should be earmarked, i.e., “Building Fund,” “Pledge,” etc.

Print names of baptized Orthodox persons in your household.

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

Name _____
Age

PASTORAL SERMON
The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
Commemorating St. Mary of Egypt
By V. Rev. Timothy Baclig
April 2, 2023

One of the hymns in our Sunday Orthros (early morning) service highlights the witness and testimony of the penitent saints, like St. Mary of Egypt who we commemorate on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: *The Kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness, spiritual striving and holiness...* This hymn is taken from the words of St. Paul who said: “The Kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:7). Our Lord Jesus Christ also said, “Man does not live by bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks.” (Matthew 4:4). And from His Sermon on the Mount we hear, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for theirs in the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 5:6). Then, perhaps among the most frequently quoted verse are the words of Jesus: “Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and what He requires of you, and He will provide you with all these other things.” (Matthew 6:33 NIV).

Christian virtues are spiritual qualities increase a person’s experience of heartfelt joy and inner peace. These eternal virtues are practiced with a mature understanding that our life does not consist of relishing in temporal (earthly) things, fixating upon fleeting passions, or trusting our emotions.

You and I determine each day: How much is enough to live? How much is enough to eat? How much is too much to spend? How much quality time we should be spending with someone? The list goes on and on. Having survived a pandemic and now becoming aware of the consequences of war in our day has made us all very conscious of these questions. In his letter to Timothy St. Paul says: “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (I Timothy 6:6). He goes on: “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trip and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (I Timothy 6:7-10).

Great Lent is often defined in terms of fasting from the food we normally eat. However, the fast also involves applying our talents and skills, as well as the management of our resources. We tend to forget that our Lenten discipline of fasting is accompanied with prayer and good works.

At each of the evening Liturgies of the Pre-sanctified Gifts we pray the words of St. Gregory Dialogist: ...*Let our eye have no part in any evil sight. Let our hearing be inaccessible to all idle words; and let our tongue be purged from unseemly speech. Purify our lips which praise Thee, O Lord. Make our hands to abstain from evil deeds and to work only such things as are acceptable unto Thee, establishing all of our members and our minds by Thy Grace.*

How is any of this possible? What are we saying by praying these words? Are we calling upon God to act by somehow preventing these things from happening (... that our eye have not part in any evil sight, or our hearing be inaccessible to idle words, etc.). Perhaps. Or what might we actually supposed to be doing?

St. Gregory's prayer in the Liturgy summarizes the task and the goal of our personal Lenten discipline. **Prayer involves our relationship with God and our conversation with Him.** Great Lent aims to reestablish what Adam & Eve lost. They walked and talked with God. Sin deceived them into thinking that they could hide. While you and I can easily call upon God's help with many things, and at various times, we are also expected to do our part as we live our lives from day to day.

There is much to be said about what is gained from the spiritual virtues of temperance, self-control, chastity, and modesty. They are exemplified in the life of the Holy Virgin who is at the forefront of intercessors. These virtues are greatly lacking in our day and are among the lessons that parents need to demonstrate and to spend time in helping their children understand. In doing so, our Tradition places importance upon ensuring that these virtuous qualities are seen, lived and experienced in our relationships.

Great Lent in our church is also time when we become focused upon addressing the subject of our passions; a word frequently heard in our prayers. The Fathers of the church saw every negative impulse that may thrust us into self-serving and self-gratifying obsessions as an opportunity to be transformed. One of the best teaching on this important lesson is heard in the words of St. John Climacus who was

commemorated last Sunday. St. John says that passions such as anger, gluttony, pride or lust, which can cause us to sin, can also be transformed to virtues if they are redirected. In other words we can “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21) by curbing or redirecting our passions. Listen to what St. John himself says:

God neither caused or created evil and therefore, those who would assert that certain passions come naturally to the soul are quite wrong. What they fail to realize is that we have taken natural attributes of our own and turned them into passions. For instance, the seed which we have for the sake of procreating children is abused by us for the sake of fornication. Nature has provided us with anger as something to be turned against the serpent, but we have used it against our neighbor. We have a natural urge to excel in virtue, but instead we compete in evil. Nature stirs within us the desire for glory, but that glory is of a heavenly kind. It is natural to be arrogant—against the demons. Joy is ours by nature, but it should be joy on account of the Lord and for the sake of doing good to our neighbor. Nature has given us resentment, but that ought to be against the enemies of our souls. We have a natural desire for pleasurable foods, but not surely for wastefulness.

Gluttony, St. John tells goes on to say, is a vice, but eating as such, is by no means sinful; there is nothing wrong about enjoying food. The practice of fasting implies no condemnation upon the action of eating, but serves to make that action *sacramental* and *Eucharistic* (a sacred action of thanksgiving).

I am convinced that these undiscovered and untaught lessons can make a significant difference in our personal struggle with anxiety, pain and human suffering. This is precisely why the Feast of the Resurrection (“Holy Pascha” *Aramaic for the word “Passover;”* [Christ is our Passover, having passed from death to life.]) is so very important and central to everything about our Orthodox worship.

Great Lent and Holy Week are not mere rituals and should not be looked upon as some magical formula for our healing. It is intended to provide us with a structure and prayerful services that bring us closer to a reality that we often want to ignore. The work and effort to change: to be renewed and transformed, remains with our willingness to do what is right with a self-discipline provided by the framework of our Church’s prayer life, beginning with the renunciation of pride and any sin that prevents us from being in communion or in fellowship with each other.

May we all make the most of our time in remaining days of the period of the Fast and in the Great and Holy Week which is to come in order to be prepared in

experiencing the full joy of Holy Pascha. And may the Glorious Feast of our Lord's Resurrection be even more meaningful this year to every member of our families.

EOTHINON 9

9 اللحن

TONE 1

1 الايوثينا

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

VENERABLE TITUS THE WONDERWORKER; VIRGIN-MARTYR THEODORA OF PALESTINE

الأحد الخامس من الصوم الكبير
تذكار أمنا البارة مريم المصرية، والبار تيطس الصانع العجايب، والشهيدة ثيودورا الفلسطينية

طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الأول

إن الحجر لما ختم من اليهود، وجسدك الطاهر حفظ من الجند، قمت في اليوم الثالث أيها المخلص، مانحاً العالم الحياة. فذلك قوات السموات هتفوا إليك يا واهب الحياة: المجد لقيامتك أيها المسيح، المجد لملكك، المجد لتدبيرك يا محب البشر وحذك.

طروبارية البارة مريم المصرية على اللحن الثامن

فيك حفظت صورة الله بتدقيق أيتها الأم مريم، لأنك حملت الصليب وتبعت المسيح، وعلمت بالعمل التعاضي عن الجسد لأنه زائل، والاهتمام بالنفس لأنها خالدة. فذلك تبتهج روحك أيتها البارة مع الملائكة.

طروبارية رؤساء الملائكة بالحن الرابع

أيها المتقدمون على الأجناد السماويين، نتوسل إليكم نحن غير المستحقين، حتى أنكم بطلباتكم تكتنوفوننا بظل أجنحة مجدكم غير الهولي، حافظين إيانا نحن الجاثين والصارخين بغير فتور، أنقذونا من الشدائد، بما أنكم رؤساء مراتب القوات العلوية.

قنفاق السيدة على اللحن الثاني

يا شفيعة المسيحيين غير المخذولة، المتوسطة لدى الخالق غير المردودة، لا تعرضي عن أصوات طلباتنا نحن الخطاة، بل تداركينا بالمعونة بما أنك صالحة نحن الصارخين إليك بايمان: بادري إلى الشفاعة وأسرعني في الطلبة، يا والدة الإله المتشفعة دائماً في مكرميك.

الرسالة

(الأحد الخامس من الصوم)

صَلُّوا وَأَوْفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا نَذُورَكُمْ.

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا. إِسْمُهُ عَظِيمٌ فِي إِسْرَائِيلَ

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

يا إخوة، إن المسيح جاء رئيس كهنه للخيرات المستقبلية واجتاز الخيمة العظمى والكبرى، غير المصنوعة بأيدي البشر، أي ليست من هذه الخليقة، فدخل قدس الأقداس مرة واحدة، لا بدم الثيوس والعجول، بل بدمه، فكسب لنا خلاصاً أبدياً، فإذا كان دم الثيوس والثيران ورماد العجلة يرش على المنجسين فيقدسهم مطهراً جسداهم، فكم بالأولى دم المسيح الذي قدّم نفسه إلى الله بالروح الأزلي قرباناً لا عيب فيه، أن يُطهر ضمائرنا من الأعمال الميئة لنعبد الله الحي.

الإنجيل

(الأحد الخامس من الصوم)

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَرْقُسِ الْإِنْجِيلِيِّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.
(45-32:10)

في ذلك الزمان، أخذ يسوع تلاميذه الإثني عشر وابتدأ يقول لهم ما سيعرض له. "هوذا نحن صاعدون إلى اورشليم، وابن البشر سيسلم إلى رؤساء الكهنة والكتبة، فيحكمون عليه بالموت ويسلمونه إلى الأمم. فيهزأون به، ويبصقون عليه، ويجلدونه، ويقتلونه، وفي اليوم الثالث يقوم." فدنا إليه يعقوب ويوحنا ابنا زبدي قائلين: "يا معلم، نريد أن تصنع لنا مهما طلبنا." فقال لهما: "ماذا تريدان أن أصنع لكما؟" قالا له: "أعطنا أن يجلس أحدهنا عن يمينك والآخر عن يسارك في مجدك." فقال لهما يسوع: "إنكما لا تعلمان ما تطلبان. أتستطيعان أن تشربا الكأس التي أشربها أنا، وأن تصطبغا بالصبغة

التي أَصْطَبَعُ بِهَا أَنَا؟" فَقَالَ لَهُ: "نَسْتَطِيعُ". فَقَالَ لَهُمَا يَسُوعُ: "أَمَّا
الكَاسُ الَّتِي أَشْرَبُهَا فَتَشْرَبَانِهَا، وَبِالصَّبْغَةِ الَّتِي أَصْطَبَعُ بِهَا
فَتَصْطَبِغَانِ. وَأَمَّا جُلُوسُكُمْ عَنْ يَمِينِي وَعَنْ يَسَارِي فَلَيْسَ لِي أَنْ
أَعْطِيَهُ إِلَّا لِلَّذِينَ أَعَدُّ لَهُمْ." فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ الْعَشْرَةَ، ابْتَدَأُوا يَغْضَبُونَ عَلَى
يَعْقُوبَ وَيُوحَنَّا. فَدَعَاهُمُ يَسُوعُ، وَقَالَ لَهُمْ: "قَدْ عَلِمْتُمْ أَنَّ الَّذِينَ
يُحْسَبُونَ رُؤَسَاءَ الْأُمَّمِ يَسُودُونَهُمْ، وَعِظَمَاءَهُمْ يَتَسَلِّطُونَ 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، وَلِيَبْذِلَ نَفْسَهُ فِدَاءً عَنْ كَثِيرِينَ".

ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعنى عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، الا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا مقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الارثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة فى الخبز المقدس الذى يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضوا فى الكنيسة الارثوذكسية.