

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary and Father Zozimos

April 3, 2022: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 9: 11-14		Gospel: Mk. 10: 32-45
Mon., April 4	9:00	+ Mike Romanovitch (Wife, Shirley Romanovitch)
Tues., April 5	No Divine Liturgy Today.	
Wed., April 6	6:00	Stations
Thurs., April 7	9:00	+ Olga E. Telep (Daughter, Lauren Telep)
Fri., April 8	6:00	Presanctified Liturgy
Sat., April 9	9:00	+ All the Victims of the War in Ukraine
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	For Our Parishioners
Sun., April 10	10:30	+ Johnathan Sawko (Rosemarie Sember)

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE



Heavenly Father, You Son taught us "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God." We fervently pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that you

inspire men to become peacemakers. May mankind seek reconciliation and peace as is Your Will in this world. May tranquility be restored to all nations and especially Ukraine.

God, Our Father, we beseech You to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the dearly departed into Your heavenly kingdom. May the Most Holy Mother of God extend Her Mantle of Protection over Ukraine and the whole world. May each of us always live our lives as instruments of Your peace, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRIARCH

Ukraine is defending the truth. Fighting for the truth, fighting for the fact that human life has its dignity, it is priceless and it is unacceptable just to destroy it or make it a tool, a hostage in the politics of political criminals. This was stated by His Beatitude Sviatoslav, the Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in his daily address on the 35th day of the bloody war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

He noted that the enemy is ruthlessly destroying our cities and villages, shooting civilians, ignoring neither the spiritual nor the cultural heritage of the Ukrainian people. “Only now we are beginning to see the further consequences of this war. War always brings destruction. Whole cities and villages have turned into ghost towns. Where once there was a flourishing spiritual and intellectual public life, today there are fires and winds”, said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

The Head of the Church added that war always brings hunger, impoverishment for people. We must be ready to overcome all these consequences.

As for today, the UN reports that four million refugees have left Ukraine. About six million people

have fled their towns and villages, half of them are children. Ukraine has lost half of its economy.

“It means that the next month will probably be one of the most difficult ones. But Ukraine is standing. Ukraine is struggling. Ukraine is winning and surprising the world”, mentioned the spiritual leader.

The Head of the Church claims that Ukraine is standing because it defends the truth and this war reminds us more and more of the rule of spiritual struggle that every Christian wages against the devil, evil and his servants.

“I want to remind one rule of this spiritual struggle - evil is always hidden in the dark. If the devil, evil deeds are brought to light, if they are debunked, the devil immediately loses its power. The light of God’s truth weakens and disarms him. Therefore, when we hide or conceal our sins, transgressions, they become stronger, they dominate us. Though, when we bring them to light, go to confession, talk about them to ourselves and open our hearts to the spiritual father, it is as if we bring the devil to the light and take his power away”, said His Beatitude Sviatoslav.

Pondering on the rules of spiritual struggle, on the need to debunk, expose evil, the Head of the Church especially

thanked the media, all journalists who are telling the truth about the pain and

suffering of Ukraine with their lives.
UGCC Department for Information.

MEDITATION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

St. Mark tells us of the disciples walking on the road to Jerusalem with Jesus walking in the lead. He tells us that “their mood was one of wonderment, while that of those who followed was fear” (Mk 10:32). Then we hear of two disciples vying to sit, one at the right and other on the left, when Jesus comes into His glory. This caused some anger among the other disciples. Jesus calms them by instructing them, “You know how among the Gentiles those who seem to exercise authority lord it over them; their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all” (Mk 10:44).

Fear, mutual distrust, envy, and pride rob you and me of the special gift of walking with Jesus with wonderment. We can be blinded to the needs and sufferings of others around us. We can forget the importance of being of service to others. Great Fast invites you and me to walk alongside Jesus Christ with wonderment as to where He will lead us. We are reminded, “... the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...” (Mk 10:45). Saint Teresa of Calcutta saw the face of Jesus in every person she ministered to, especially the sick and the dying. Through her inspiration, may we also cherish and search for opportunities to see Jesus Christ in the faces of those we serve!

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional

to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

Everyone should receive the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe

the fasting and abstinence regulations.

All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sorokousty).

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

DONATE TO HUMANITARIAN AID FUND FOR UKRAINE

The Metropolia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church that covers the territory of the United States invites you to make donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine. This can be done as follows:

Write a check to the "Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia" and send it to the office at 810 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia PA 19123. Please write on the check "Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine."

You can also write a check to St. Cyril's Church, leave your donation in the Collection Box, or drop it off at the Parish Rectory. All funds collected

at the Parish will be transferred to the Philadelphia Metropolia.

You can donate on the Philadelphia Archdiocese's website www.ukrarcheparchy.us, and click on Donate through PAYPAL and select "WAR VICTIMS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE."

There are no small or large donations. But your donation can change someone's life for the better. The Lord God will repay the happy donor a hundredfold. Pray for the people of the war victims! May the Lord bless you and our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

EASTER CONFESSIONS

Father Paul Wolensky will be hearing Easter Confessions in our Church on Friday, April 8th beginning at 5:15 pm.

Also, just a reminder that Confessions are heard almost every Saturday at 2 pm.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR UKRAINE

Everyone is invited to a Prayer Service for Ukraine at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Simpson,

PA, today, Sunday, April 3rd at 5 pm. Are are welcome.

LENTEN SERVICES — HAVE YOU ATTENDED YET?

Five weeks of Great Lent are now over. One more to go until Flowery (Palm) Sunday and Holy Week. Have you made the effort to come to church for our weekday Lenten services? This week offers several

golden opportunities for you to come to church. Make it your plan to attend more of these services before Easter. Take extra care about your spiritual well-being!

PUSSY-WILLOW WATCH

Flowery (Palm Sunday) is just two weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners for help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes, please share them

with us. You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

LENTEN FOOD SALE

This year's menu has some additional delicious options: pizza from Roseanna's and pierogy from Little Spuds. Soups prepared by the chef of Bistro on the Hudson restaurant. BellaRose Food Truck will be offering several menu items. The flyer is attached

to the bulletin. Due to the prohibitive cost of postage, we will not be mailing the flyers, but are asking everyone to help distribute them. Please take some flyers to give to neighbors, take some to your workplace, your beautician's shop, dentist's/doctor's office, etc.

With everyone's help, we can make this a very successful fundraiser.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is pleased to present a marriage preparation workshop, "Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage", to take place on Saturday, April 30th, 2022 with a follow up session on Saturday, May 14th, 2022. The program focuses on various aspects of marriage, both spiritual and practical, and provides each person an opportunity for greater understanding of one's partner and a means to strengthen one's relationship.

In addition to various presentations and exercises, each couple will be given the opportunity to take the Catholic version of a premarital questionnaire called F.A.C.E.T. (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool). The F.A.C.E.T. inventory provides participants with a computer-generated profile of unique couple issues, challenges,

strengths and realities to be discussed prior to marriage. The F.A.C.E.T. results for each couple involved will be presented to them by a Pastoral Counselor trained in the use of this tool in a subsequent 40 minute private session on April 21, 2018.

Each attending couple must commit to participating in all the sessions on April 30, 2022 as well as the 40 minute private meeting on May 14, 2022.

The workshop will be held at: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027.

The total cost per couple will be \$170 which includes materials, lunch and refreshments. April 23, 2022 - Registration and payment due Date!!! No registration will be accepted after April 23, 2022.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of April 2022 is Team #4: Ron Barkofsky and Joe Smagula.

Sunday Collection for March 26 & 27, 2022: \$

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Saint Mary of Egypt

On a pilgrimage through the desert, a priest-monk named Father Zozimos encountered a most fascinating and inspiring woman whom we know today as Saint Mary of Egypt. Saint Mary, Zozimos recalled, seemed to be “walking upon air.” Upon approaching this woman, she asked for his blessing and told him of her life.

Saint Mary was born in Egypt in the sixth century and by the age of twelve had already dedicated her life to the pursuit of debauchery and excess. By her own admission, she spent the next seventeen years of her life attempting to satisfy every carnal appetite in any way possible. This intention led her to seek passage on a boat bound for Jerusalem where, out of curiosity, she followed the crowds to the threshold of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. As she attempted to follow the crowd into the Church, she was

stopped at the doorway by an invisible force. At this moment, her sinfulness was revealed to her and she made a promise to the Mother of God that if she was permitted to enter the Church she would dedicate the rest of her life to God.

After her dramatic conversion she withdrew to the desert where she spent the remaining years of her life in self-denial and repentance. Towards the end of her life she met the priest-monk Zozimos, whom she petitioned to visit her on regular occasions in order that she might be nourished with Holy Communion before she died.

May the example of Saint Mary draw attention to our own need for repentance so that we, too, nourished by Holy Communion, may rededicate our lives to the service of God.