

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



*Icon of Saints Zozimos and Mary of Egypt*

## March 26, 2023: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Epistle: Heb. 9: 11-14

Gospel: Mk. 10: 32-45

<b>Mon., March 27</b>	<b>No Divine Liturgy Today.</b>	
<b>Tues., March 28</b>	9:00	+ Anne Kawa (Bill & Jane Granza)
<b>Wed., March 29</b>	6:00	Stations
<b>Thurs., March 30</b>	9:00	+ Joe Smagula (Bob & Marlene Zelno)
<b>Fri. March 31</b>	5:15	Confessions
	6:00	Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Sat., April 1</b>	9:00	+ Nancy, George & Theresa Tehensky (Family)
	2:00	Confessions
	4:00	+ Marlene Nestor (Mark & Kristen Gallagher)
<b>Sun., April 2</b>	10:30	For Our Parishioners

### Easter Pastoral of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the U.S.A.

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is  
Risen!**

*We in the Church are still on a road to  
Emmaus*

Father John Behr

As the Church we lived through the experience of the Holy Week, Christ's suffering, wounds and death on the Cross. Today, the war in Ukraine has created deep wounds in the lives of countless individuals, causing death, destruction, and lasting trauma. The violence and suffering inflicted upon the people of Ukraine are a stark reminder of the devastating impact

that war can have on individuals, families, and communities. But, we must remember that Christ's wounds are also visible on His resurrected body, serving as a reminder of the sacrifice He made for humanity. His wounds represent the physical and emotional pain He endured for the sake of our salvation. Despite the trauma He experienced, Christ's resurrection symbolizes the hope and promise of new life that can arise from suffering and hardship. While the war in Ukraine continues to cause pain and devastation, the wounds of Christ

serve as a powerful reminder that healing and renewal are possible.

Just as Christ's resurrection brought hope and new life to his followers, we must hold onto hope and work towards a future of peace and healing in Ukraine. In the Bright Week, we are reminded of the beautiful story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus as recounted in Luke 24:13-35. This story provides a central image for our experience and offers us a profound lesson about the transformative power of encountering the risen Christ.

Two disciples who were walking along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, blinded by their preoccupations with their own difficulties, sadness, and hopelessness. They were unable to see God's redemptive purpose in the events that had taken place. However, the risen Christ appeared to them and walked with them, opening their eyes to His presence, and lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts. He explained to them the meaning of all the Scriptures concerning Himself, and when they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus took bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him as the risen Lord.

We also have opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in our

own lives. It reminds us that no matter where we are on our spiritual journey, Jesus seeks us, even if we have little faith. He opens our eyes, and He uses us today to open the eyes of those who do not know Him. He reveals Himself to us and others through us.

As we celebrate the Resurrection, let us be moved to share the joy and hope that come with knowing the risen Savior. Let us testify to His presence in our lives and offer the same opportunity to others. Do you know Jesus this Easter season? Have your eyes ever been opened to who He is and what He has done for you? Can you testify to His presence in your life? Has your experience with Him been so real, so moving, so life-changing that it has caused you to tell others about Him?

We are like those disciples – uncertain, seeking, and searching for deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith. Today's world is broken through wars, wounds, and traumas. But even as we journey, we know that we are not alone. Christ walks with us, just as He walked with those disciples so long ago.

We too have felt our hearts burning within us when we hear Jesus speak about the prophets of the Old Testament. We know that He is the

fulfillment of those prophecies, and we are filled with awe and wonder at the grace and mercy of God. As we continue on our journey, let us be inspired by the example of those disciples on the road to Emmaus. Let us open our hearts to the transforming power of Christ's love and allow Him to lead us closer to the Father.

Let us remember that we in the church are all still on the road to Emmaus, and Christ speaks to us. Let us walk with others and help them discover the Risen Christ, not being

discouraged that people are at different stages of knowing Jesus. Let us offer help and healing through Jesus, who has the power to transform our lives and bring us closer to God.

Our fervent prayer is that our Resurrected and Living Lord may bestow his peace and grace upon you and your loved ones, upon all our brothers and sisters scattered throughout the world!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

**+Borys Gudziak** (Archbishop of Philadelphia)

**+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM** (Eparch of Stamford)

**+Benedict Aleksiychuk** (Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago)

**+Bohdan J. Danylo** (author & Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma)

## **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.

## **Lenten Services**

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!

## **Easter Confessions**

Fr. Paul Wolensky will be hearing Confessions before the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5:15. Also, Fr. Paul, along with

Fr. Nestor, will hear Confessions on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to make your Easter Confession.

## **New Vestments**

During the 4:00 Saturday Divine Liturgy, we will be blessing a new set of Burgandy Vestments. We wish to thank Ann Nonymous for their very

generous donation in covering the cost of these new vestments. May God bless you and reward you for your generosity to our Church.

## **Cemetery Grave Decorations**

Our Cemetery Care-Takers are beginning to prepare our Cemetery in anticipation of the Spring season. They ask that all Christmas and artificial decorations be removed from

the graves. These decorations can get in the way of grass cutting, damage our equipment, or even result in an injury. Any left-over decorations can be retrieved by the Cemetery garage.

## **Pussy-Willows**

Flowery (Palm) Sunday is just one week away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners to 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!

## **Paying It Forward**

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Olyphant, PA

conducted a Community Service Project by "Paying It Fforward". with

a clothing and food drive on March 11-12, 2023. The Clothes were delivered to the United Neighborhood Center(UNC)/ "Angels Attic", Scranton, and non-perishable food was to our neighbor, "Restore and Rescue" Church" Olyphant. This event was initiated in 2013 and has continued over the years, except during the Pandemic.

We wish to thank everyone

who donated food and clothing to this event. Special thanks to Karen Carrera and Glenda Marcinko, Lauren Telep, Tony Zedar, Steve and Jeannie Cucura, who helped out and delivered 3 cars/truckloads of clothes to Scranton. Rev. Jack Munley stopped by with a pickup truck for the food donated to the "Rescue and Restore" Church on Willow Street, Olyphant.

## **Flower Fundraiser**

We are sponsoring an Easter Flower Sale and Hanging Basket Flower Sale, partnering with Jerry's For All Seasons. Flower Flyer with ordering information are available in the Church Vestibule. Please take some

to help out by distributing them to friends and neighbors. Call Jule (570) 357-6171, Michaelene (570) 209-2026, or Mary Ann (570) 489-4648 with any questions.

## **Collection Processing Team...**

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2023 is Team #3:

Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

## **Sunday Collection for March 11 & 12, 2023: \$**

## **Happy Birthday to...**

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrate their birthday in March:

Rosemary Mizerak

John Nasevich

Anne Victoria Nasevich

John Sakson, Sr.

John Turko, Jr.

Joey Turko

Quentin Turko

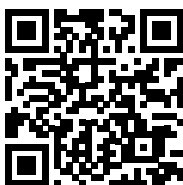
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Whoever Wishes to be Great*

Blessed is he who, dwelling amidst many people, does not turn towards the many, but directs his whole heart to God. Blessed is he who purchases Christ with all his belongings and has, as his only possession, the cross, which he raises on high. Blessed is he who, administering his legal possessions, extends God's hand to those who are in need ...

Blessed is he who, having authority over the people, by holy and great sacrifices brings Christ to earthly folk. Blessed is the one, who, being a child of the flock, a most perfect nursing, keeps the place of the heavenly Christ. Blessed is he who, by his pure mind's forceful movements, beholds the brilliance of the heavenly lights. Blessed is he who honors the Lord by much-toiling hands: and, for many people, this is the law of life. All these things fill up the heavenly receptacles in which are

stored the fruit of our souls, while every individual virtue leads to a different place. For many are the mansions pertaining to different lives.

Blessed is he, whom the mighty Spirit has shown to be poor in passions, whoever leads a life of repentance; who can never get his fill of celestial food; who, by kindness, becomes inheritor of great things; who, by bowels of mercy, draws down God's great compassion, being a friend of peace and pure in heart; who, for the sake of the renowned Christ, has endured many sufferings, and will find great honor. Keep to the way of these people, whichever you prefer.

*St. Gregory the Theologian*

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