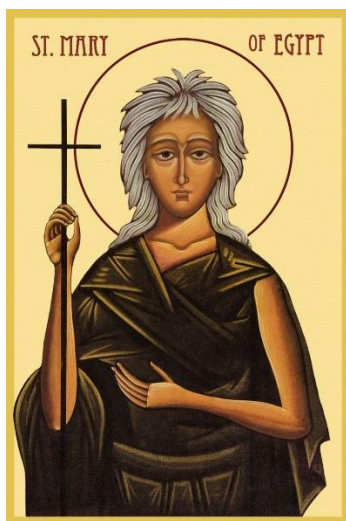


# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## The Voice

April 2, 2023, Vol. 40, No. 12

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent-St. Mary of Egypt



## Saint Elia Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

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Office: 330-724-7009

[www.saintlia.com](http://www.saintlia.com)

[www.facebook.com/sainteliaakronaint](https://www.facebook.com/sainteliaakronaint)

*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA*

*Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector*

*Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

# **SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH**

## **2023 Parish Council**

President: Veronica Bilas

V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray

Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley

Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas,  
Bud Graham, Sarah Kostadinova,  
COCA Representative: Mary Marcin

**Choir Director:** Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas

Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush

Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

**Church School:** Anastasia Bohush

## **Sisterhood of St. Juliana:**

President: Veronica Bilas, V. President: Sandy Graham

Secretary: Sarah Kostadinova,

Treasurer: Mary Magensky

## **Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:**

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

## **Scheduled Readers - 2023**

Sunday, April 2 Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, April 9 Bud Graham

Sunday, April 16 Sandy Graham

Sunday, April 23 Reader Michael Luc

Sunday, April 30 Reader Joshua Wherley

## **SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - Tone 1**

**Saint Mary of Egypt**

**Saturday, April 1**

**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**

**Sunday, April 2**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great Epistle**

**Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak**

**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34 9:1**

**5:00 pm Holy Unction at St. Nicholas Church**

**Wednesday, April 5**

**6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

**Friday, April 7**

**6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday**

***Beginning of Great and Holy Week***

## ***GREAT AND HOLY WEEK***

**LAZARUS SATURDAY**

**Saturday, April 8**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**5:00 pm Vigil of Palm Sunday**

***Blessing of Palms and Willows***

**PALM AND FLOWERY SUNDAY**

***The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem***

**Sunday, April 9**

**9:10 am 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours: Bud Graham**

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great Epistle**

**Reader: Bud Graham**

**Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18**

**5:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom – *Sad Sunday***

***GREAT AND HOLY WEEK – continued...***



**GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM MONDAY**

**Monday, April 10**

**6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom**

**GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM TUESDAY**

**Tuesday, April 11**

**6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom**

**GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday, April 12**

**6:00 pm Mystery of Holy Unction**

**GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY**

**Thursday, April 13**

**8:00 am Vespers Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great**

**6:00 pm Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the  
Twelve Passion Gospels**

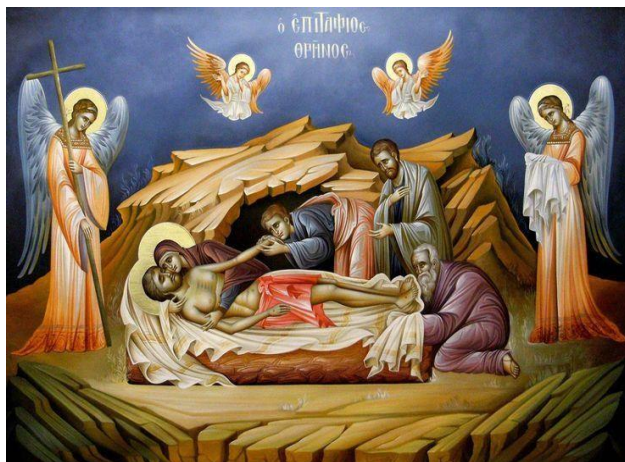
## **GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY**

**Friday, April 14**

**9:00 am Royal Hours – *Christ Hangs on the Cross***

**6:00 pm Great Vespers and Lamentations**

***Christ dies on the Cross, is taken down from the Cross,  
is buried and descends into hell.***



## **GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY**

**Saturday, April 15**

**9:00 am Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil  
the Great**

**11:00 pm Nocturnes**

***Removal of the Shroud from the Grave***

**At the conclusion of Nocturnes, Father removes the Shroud from the Grave, while we sing in the words of our Lord to His mother:**

***Do not lament Me, O mother, seeing Me in the tomb,  
the Son, conceived in the womb without seed. For I  
shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God.  
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.***

# ***THE HOLY PASCHA***

*The Holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ*

**Sunday, April 16**

**12:00 Midnight**

**Resurrection Matins**

**Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom**

**Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham**

**Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17**

**11:00 am**

**Agape Vespers of Holy Pascha**

**Gospel: John 20:19-25**

## ***BRIGHT WEEK***

**BRIGHT MONDAY**

**Monday, April 17**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John**

**Chrysostom**

**Paschal Procession**

**BRIGHT TUESDAY**

**Tuesday, April 18**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John**

**Chrysostom**

**Paschal Procession**

# 5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt



The primary source of information on Saint Mary of Egypt is the *Vita* written of her by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem (634–638). Most of the information is taken from this source.

Saint Mary, also known as Maria Aegyptiaca, was born somewhere in the Province of Egypt, and at the age of twelve she ran away from her parents to the city of Alexandria. Here she lived an extremely dissolute life. In her *Vita* it states that she often refused the money offered for her sexual favors, as she was driven "by an insatiable and an irrepressible passion", and that she mainly lived by begging, supplemented by spinning flax.

After seventeen years of this lifestyle, she traveled to Jerusalem for the Great Feasts of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. She undertook the journey as a sort of "anti-pilgrimage", stating that she hoped to find in the pilgrim crowds at Jerusalem even more partners in her lust. She paid for her passage by offering sexual favors to other pilgrims, and she continued her habitual lifestyle for a short time in Jerusalem.

Her *Vita* relates that when she tried to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for the celebration, she was barred from doing so by an unseen force.

Realizing that this was because of her impurity, she was struck with remorse, and upon seeing an icon of the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary) outside the church, she prayed for forgiveness and promised to give up the world (i.e., become an ascetic).

Then she attempted again to enter the church, and this time was permitted in. After venerating the relic of the true cross, she returned to the icon to give thanks, and heard a voice telling her, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest."

She immediately went to the monastery of Saint John the Baptist on the bank of the River Jordan, where she received absolution and afterwards Holy Communion.

The next morning, she crossed the Jordan and retired to the desert to live the rest of her life as a hermit in penitence. She took with her only three loaves of bread, and once they were gone, lived only on what she could find in the wilderness.



Approximately one year before her death, she recounted her life to Saint Zosimas of Palestine, who encountered her in the desert.

When he unexpectedly met her in the desert, she was completely naked and almost unrecognizable as human. She asked Zosimas to toss her his mantle to cover herself with, and then she narrated her life's story to him.

She asked him to meet her at the banks of the Jordan, on Holy Thursday of the following year, and bring her Holy Communion. When he fulfilled her wish, she crossed the river to get to him by walking on the surface of the water, and received Holy Communion, telling him to meet her again in the desert the following Lent.

The next year, Zosimas travelled to the same spot where he first met her, some twenty days' journey from his monastery, and found her lying there dead. According to an inscription written in the sand next to her head, she had died on the very night he had given her Communion and had been somehow miraculously transported to the place he found her, and her body was preserved incorrupt.

He buried her body with the assistance of a passing lion. On returning to the monastery he related her life story to the brethren, and it was preserved among them as oral tradition until it was written down by St. Sophronius.

The date of her repose is observed on April 1.

# *Beginning of HOLY WEEK*

## *Lazarus Saturday*

### *April 8*

On the Saturday before Holy Week, the “Orthodox Church commemorates major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days.

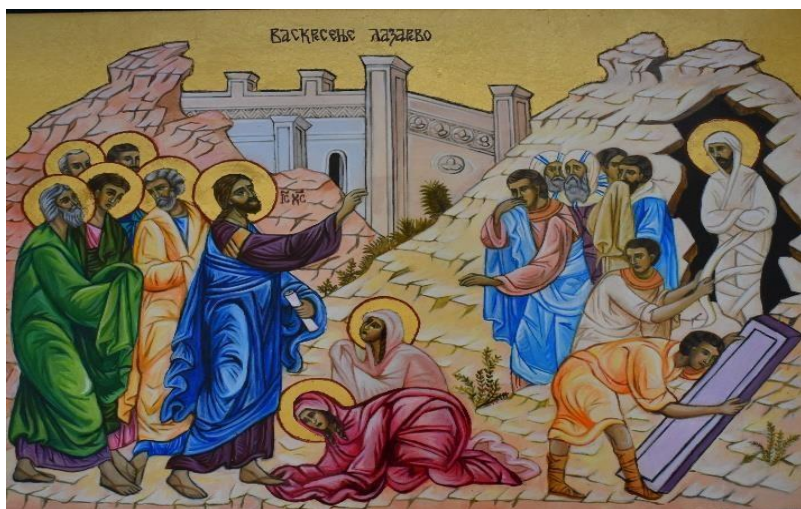
Here, at the end of Great Lent and the forty days of fasting and penitence, the Church combines this celebration with that of Palm Sunday. In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious feast of Pascha.

This miracle is performed by Christ as a reassurance to His disciples before the coming Passion: they are to understand that, though He suffers and dies, yet He is Lord and Victor over death.

The resurrection of Lazarus is a prophecy in the form of action. It foreshadows Christs own Resurrection eight days later, and at the same time it anticipates the resurrection of all the righteous on the last day: Lazarus is *“the saving first-fruits of the regeneration of the world.”*

As the liturgical texts emphasize, the miracle at Bethany reveals the two natures of Christ the God-man. Christ asks where Lazarus is laid and weeps for him, and so He shows the fulness of His manhood, involving as it does genuine grief for a beloved friend. Then disclosing the fulness of His divine power, Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, even though his corpse has already begun to decompose and stink.

This double view of the Lord's divinity and His humanity is to be kept in view throughout Holy Week, and above all on Good Friday. On the Cross we see a genuine human agony, both physical and mental, but we see more than this: we see not only suffering man but suffering God.



*Lazarus Saturday Services*  
*Friday, April 14, 6:00 pm - Vigil*  
*Saturday, April 15, 9 am - Divine Liturgy*

# *Holy Week -*

## *Palm Sunday - April 9*

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha, and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year – Palm Sunday, commemorating the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem.

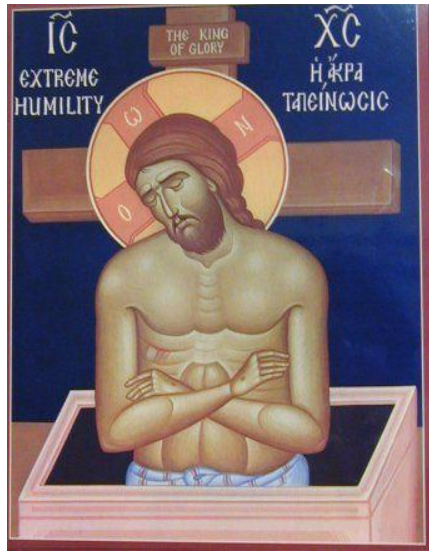
The Biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:1-18). Five days before Passover. Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Him a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city. People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teachings and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting, ***“Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!”*** On this day we worship Christ in the same manner as King and Lord.

### ***Palm Sunday Services***

***Saturday, April 8, 5:00 pm - Vigil and  
Blessing of Palms and Willows***

***Sunday, April 9, 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy of Saint  
John Chrysostom and Procession***

# *The Bridegroom Matins – Orthodox Holy Week*



## **Bridegroom Matins**

Bridegroom Matins is a service specific to the first four evenings of Holy Week (though it is often omitted on Holy Wednesday in favor of the service of Holy Unction) and commemorates the last days in the earthly life of the Lord. Incorporated into these services is the theme of the first three days of Holy Week, which is the last teachings of Christ to his disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place

against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God.

*Services of the Bridegroom Matins*

*5:00 pm Sunday, April 9*

*6:00 pm: Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11*

### **FLOWER DONATIONS**

Flowers adorn the Cross on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, **March 19**, and will adorn the tomb of our Lord on Good Friday, **April 14**, and the Altar Area on Pascha, **April 16**.

Please make your donations for the flowers and decorations for these celebrations

### **RED EGGS**

**Please bring a half-dozen of Red Eggs to the midnight Service of Pascha.** Bring them to the Church Office and Father Don will bless them and distribute them to everyone in church at the end of the Liturgy.

**RED EGGS** symbolize the New Life in the Risen Christ granted to us through His Precious Blood shed on the Cross. As Father presents each one of us with a red egg, he will greet us with ***“Christ is Risen”*** and we respond ***“Indeed, He is Risen”***

## **BLESSING OF THE ARTOS**

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the **ARTOS** will be blessed. The Artos is a Paschal Bread and bears on it the Icon of the Resurrection. In the Old Covenant the Jews commemorated the Passover from bondage in Egypt by sacrificing a Passover Lamb.

Christ is our Passover Who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death. The Artos is offered and blessed on Holy Pascha and symbolizes the Angelic Bread, the Bread of Eternal Life – our Lord Jesus Christ. We will break the Bread and partake of it on the eighth day of Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday

## **PASCHAL BASKETS BLESSING**

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the Paschal Baskets will be blessed in the Church Hall. Children are encouraged to bring their baskets for blessing.

## **Visit the St. Elia Shop**

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying a number of new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts and baseball caps.

If you are interested in a piece of St. Elia "spirit wear" in a certain size or style that's not currently available, please see Aaron Gray about a special order. All proceeds go toward the life and ministry of our parish. Thank you for your support.

## **REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES**

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and  
Popadia Donna Freude  
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila  
Cravcenco

## **REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS**

Archbishop Benjamin  
Archbishop Nathaniel  
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)  
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)  
Florence Lambo  
Martin Vronick  
Rose Marie Vronick  
Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober  
Pani Dolores Zuder  
Matushka Myra Kovalak  
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak  
Matushka Christine Zebren  
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan  
Ted Theodore  
Sarah Costadinova  
Geoffrey Michael Lubic  
Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)

### **Rose Marie Vronick**

Village of St. Edward  
at Green,  
3813 Fortuna Drive



# REFLECTION

## Our Gratitude to God

Let us give thanks to God continually. For it is monstrous that, enjoying as we do His bounty in deed every day, we should not so much as in word acknowledge His favors; and that, too, through the acknowledgement again yield all its profit to us, since He needs not anything of ours, but we stand in need of all things from Him.

For if men's bounties, when we call them to memory, do the more warm us with their love-producing charm, much more, when we are continually bringing to mind the noble acts of our Master towards us, shall we be more diligent in obeying His commandments. For this cause Paul also said, "*Be ye thankful.*" For the best preservative of any benefit is the remembrance of the benefit and a continual blessing.

*Saint John Chrysostom*

## OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Candles: \$ 62.00

Sunday Offering: 409.00

TOTAL: \$ 471.00

Tithely Offerings: \$ 324.83

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$ 795.83