

## St. Mary of Egypt

St. Mary tells her story from the beginning by saying that she ran away from home at 12 years old where she found work in the streets of Alexandria by selling her body. She says she insatiably gave herself up to sensuality and lived like that for 17 years. She was on fire and often refused the money given to her. She wanted as many men as possible doing for free what gave her pleasure. She wasn't rich. She lived by begging. One day, she curiously followed a crowd running to the sea heading to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Cross. Although she had no money for her berth, she was willing to give a ride to get a ride. The young men readily took her with them. She says she seduced everyone and taught them every depravity. After arriving in Jerusalem, she tried to enter the church, but was stopped by some force and was brushed aside by the crowd. There was a great transparent barrier at the Holy Sepulcher. As much as she tries to enter, she struggles in vain. Everyone enters but her. Everyone else passed through the gate, but she alone was not accepted until she was utterly exhausted. She has a deep feeling of "Thou shalt not pass here." She has this dreadful feeling of being left out, of being left behind. This is the ultimate FOMO (fear of missing out), and she begins to see that it was her unclean life that barred her entrance, and she begins to weep from the depths of her heart. After this first flutter of remorse, she notices an icon of the Theotokos and cries out to the Virgin, "Help me, I have no one else to help me," she cries! "I will never again defile my body. I will renounce the world and go wherever you tell me to go." In a delirium, a sort of daze, she is allowed to enter the church. After she prostrates and kisses the ground with trembling, she returns to her icon and asks the Mother of God to lead her by the hand along the path of repentance. She hears these words, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest."

A stranger gives her money for three loaves which she takes on her journey. After heading out into the desert of Jordan, forty-seven years pass by. For the first seventeen (the same amount of time as her prostitution), while she slowly picks away at her bread she fights wild beasts, mad desires, and passions in her mind. She missed meat and wine. She burned for thirst and felt the urge to sing satanic songs. But she returned to her remembered icon and implored the Theotokos to chase away her evil and distracting thoughts. At last, calm descended. But then her thoughts pushed her toward lust again, as she lay prostrate for days at a time, until a calm sweet light descended and chased away her thoughts. Then come years living on herbs, insects and locusts, like John the Baptist. She feeds on whatever she can find in the desert. She suffered greatly from the sun and the frost, from cold and from extreme heat. Though her body became naked and leathery, almost mummified, she didn't just turn into a hag. Instead, she became luminous as she wrestled with her demons. That's what Jesus did, but St. Mary followed him from the proverbial 40 days to 40 plus years. She learned nothing from books but understood the Word of God who is alive and active in the Holy Spirit. She begs Father Zosima, the monk to whom she tells her story, to tell no one what he has heard until God has delivered her from this earth. "In one year," she says, "you shall see me again. In one year, at sunset, please, bring the Holy Eucharist to the banks of the Jordan River so that I may receive. I am thirsting for the Holy Mysteries." And then she vanishes into the desert.

A year later at the appointed time, St. Mary comes walking across the Jordan River to Fr. Zosima after he has been laid up sick. He falls down before her, but she calls out for him to get up because he is carrying the Holy Eucharist. "Bless me Father," she cries out. When she had received the Eucharist, she cried "Lord, lettest now thy servant depart in peace according to thy word, for my eyes have seen thy salvation." And she crossed back the way she came. The elder is filled with joy and terror, finally realizing how far from perfection he really was. Again, one year later, he returned to his original meeting place and found the saint lying dead, her hands crossed, and her face turned to the East. Zosima cries and kisses her feet, not daring to touch anything else. For a long time, he lay there and wept. Then he saw instructions written in the ground near her head, that he was to bury her there and return her to the earth. But he was too weak. Just then, however, a gentle lion appears and begins to dig a hole beside her body. She ran away from her parents at age twelve and lived for seventeen years in Alexandria, working as a prostitute. At the age of thirty-one, in the port of Alexandria, she embarked on a ship with pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land to celebrate the discovery of the Holy Cross, going along simply because she thought she could make easy money. Once in Jerusalem, however, she wanted to visit the Holy Sepulcher, but a mysterious force held her back. She withdrew to the desert to meditate, repenting her sins and asking God to show her where she could live in penance. A voice told her to cross the Jordan, and there, in the same desert where John the Baptist had lived (and where Jesus was baptized), she lived for forty-seven years, surviving, like the Baptist, on wild fruit. Her story comes down to us from the monk Zosimus, who spent every Lent in the Jordanian desert, in seclusion and prayer. There he met Mary of Egypt, who was disfigured from her hardships. The penitent woman made him promise that on Holy Thursday of the following year, he would bring her Holy Communion. Zosimus returned the following year, but the year after that he found the saint lying dead exactly where he had left her. According to tradition, Zosimus buried Mary with the help of a lion.



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# Our Weekly Bulletin

**100th Anniversary Celebration**  
 Mark your calendars  
**October 4, 2026**

Bishop Bohdan has confirmed the date that he will be with us to celebrate the 100 years of the founding of our parish.  
**196 days or 28 weeks**

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!  
 Christ is among us! He is and always will be!

### Divine Liturgies and Services for the Week

<b>Sunday, Mar 22</b>	Sunday of St Mary of Egypt	✠ Toby Hall Dolly Powell
<b>Mar 23</b>	No Liturgy	
<b>Mar 24</b>	Vespers for the Annunciation 5:00PM Revloc	
<b>Mar 25</b>	Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation 5:00PM NC	
<b>Mar 26</b>	No Liturgy	
<b>Mar 27</b>	Presanctified Liturgy 5:00PM Revloc	
<b>Mar 28</b>	No Liturgy	
<b>Sunday, Mar 29</b>	Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	✠ Catherine Lutak

*If you are looking for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and are looking for a home, you are welcome to be part of our kid friendly family in Christ. You have found your way home.*

**5th Sunday of the Great Fast**

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 10:32-45

*Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8)*

You came down from on high, O Merciful One, and accepted three days for burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory be to You.

*Let us the Troparion of St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 8)*

The divine image was faithfully preserved in you, O mother, for taking up the Cross, you followed Christ. By your deeds you have taught us to see beyond flesh, which passes, and care for the soul, a thing immortal. And so, O venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

*Kondakion of St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 3)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Once you were filled with every impurity, now through repentance you have been revealed as a bride of Christ; following the angelic life, you crushed demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O glorious Mary, you have been shown to be a bride of the kingdom.

*Prokeimen of St. Mary of Egypt (Tone 4)*

God is wonderful in His saints,\* the God of Israel.

*Verse* Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer left a just man.

God is wonderful in His saints,\* the God of Israel.

*Alleluia of the Resurrection (Tone 8)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord; let us acclaim God our Savior.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let us come before His countenance with praise and acclaim Him with psalms.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

*Communion Verse*

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest.

The just man shall be in everlasting remembrance;\* of evil hearsay he shall have no fear. Alleluia (3)

**Weekly Collection** - March 15, 2026 - \$200.00. Thank you for your generosity.  
Sunday - \$170.00 Diocesan - \$20.00 Candles - \$5.00 Misc. - \$5.00

**PARISH NEWS**

**Holy Day of Obligation** - Wednesday is the Feast of the Annunciation. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Ukrainian Catholics. Vespers will be Tuesday at 5PM in Revloc and Divine Liturgy will be Wednesday at 5PM in Northern Cambria.

**Presanctified Gifts** - Wednesday at 5PM Northern Cambria Fridays at 5PM Revloc

**Baking of the Paska and Rolls** - Come and help with the making of the bread and rolls on March 25 and 26.

**Holy Thursday Dinner** - Please sign up if you plan on attending the dinner on Holy Thursday.

**Prayer List**

Millie Deskevich, Connie Butkus, Kathy Ott, Sarah Kelt, Gary Maurer, Jeremiah Hunt, Bill, Margaret Reighard, Mary Catherine Hoover, The Fernandez family, Jennifer Maurer, Breanna Borlie, Tom and Kris, Joe Gomes, Thomas, Richard Shonk, Ryder McDermitt, Steve Helsel, Patricia Dragani, Eugene, Sonya Kohan, Kevin Rogers, Darla Tishok, the Williams family, Patty Hunt, Wendy Haggerty, Angel and Walt Wooden, Marian Blem, Ken Urgolitus, Jason Jones, Sarah Wilson, Lori Sedlock, Helen Farster, Bekka Facemire, Steve Barnyak. *To add or remove a name, place your request in the collection basket.*

**Joke of the Day**

A church was trying to raise money for a new building. The pastor announced to the congregation that whoever gave the most money to the building fund would be able to pick out three hymns for the Sunday service. A week later, the pastor announced the results of the fundraising campaign. "I am happy to announce that we have raised enough money for the new building," he said. "And I want to thank the person who gave the most money, Mrs. Johnson. Now, Mrs. Johnson, please come forward and pick out your three hymns." Mrs. Johnson walked to the front of the church and looked out at the congregation. "I'll take him, him, and him," she said, pointing to three young men in the front row.