

APRIL 5, 2020

BULLETIN – 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT & COMMEMORATION OF OUR RIGHTEOUS MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – **10:00 am Wednesday** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

ALL COMMUNICATION HERE, AND VIA EMAIL IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL FREQUENTLY.

Many Years – Birthday

<i>Dn. Richard Schmidt</i>	<i>April 5</i>
<i>Lucas Fenwick</i>	<i>April 7</i>
<i>Simon Robbins</i>	<i>April 7</i>
<i>Keith Evans</i>	<i>April 7</i>
<i>Kurt Zellerhoff</i>	<i>April 10</i>
<i>Letitia Escobedo</i>	<i>April 10</i>

Many Years – Anniversary

<i>Tom & Persis Rooth</i>	<i>April 6</i>
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ONLINE DONATING

To donate online, go to <https://ssppaoc.org/#>. When the home page comes up, at the top right, you will see “Support Our Parish”. Select “Donate Online” and that will take you to a page with a list of possible donations and a place to pay tithe.

WATCHING DIVINE SERVICES ONLINE

To see the list of links for accessing online services, please go here:

<https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=COVID-19>

NEEDS & SURPLUS

In this time of possible shortages at stores, if you have a surplus of

- **bleach, household cleaners, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, water, canned and jarred food (especially vegetables), frozen foods, diapers, paper towels**

and want to share with others in our parish who might need some of those items, please bring them to the parish hall **on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. If you have a need, please call Marilyn Spurgeon at (831) 345-5448 or email her at mlspurgeon64@gmail.com. The

Kindness Ministry Team will then work out a time/place for items to be distributed to those in need.

AOCWNA

The Spring 2020 DIOAKONIA issue is available online. This issue features the Antiochian Women leadership and chapters of our Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, a diocese that stretches from the Mexican border in the south to the Arctic Circle in Alaska! Go here to access this periodical chock full of interesting information:

<https://www.antiochian.org/home>

HOMESCHOOLING RESOURCES ONLINE

The Department of Homeschooling and other Archdiocese ministries are offering learning opportunities, support, and curriculum resources for all ages. Go here for more info:

<https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/622>

CHURCH SERVICES

The clergy are currently awaiting Archdiocese instructions about Holy Week, and Paschal services. The federal government has asked that people continue what we are doing until April 30. The Governor of the State of California has ordered all Californians to stay home for eight more weeks.

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul–April 6-12, 2020

All services will be offered by clergy and chanters only.

4/10	Fri	6:00 pm – Little Compline/Akathist–
4/12	Sun	8:20 am – Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 5 th Sunday of Lent (Mary of Egypt)

Looking Ahead –

Services will be conducted in the same way as above listed until further notice from the Antiochian Archdiocese. When we know more, you will be notified as to any change to this schedule. Please remember to pray at home.

Mary of Egypt

Reading from the Synaxarion

When Mary was only twelve years old, she left her parents and departed to Alexandria, where she lived a depraved life for seventeen years. Then, moved by curiosity, she went with many pilgrims to Jerusalem, that she might see the Exaltation of the venerable Cross. Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition. Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, time and again she perceived a certain invisible power preventing her entrance, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered. Therefore, wounded in heart by this, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for forty-seven years lived a most harsh manner of life, surpassing human strength; alone, she prayed to God alone. Toward the end of her life, she met a certain hermit named Zosimas, and she related to him her life from the beginning. She requested of him to bring her the immaculate Mysteries that she might partake of them. According to her request, he did this the following year on Holy and Great Thursday. One year after this, Zosimas again went thither and found her dead, laid upon the ground, and letters written in the sand near her which said: "Abba Zosimas, bury here the body of wretched Mary. I died on the very day I partook of the immaculate

Mysteries. Pray for me." Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by some, in 437, and by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.

Apolytikion of Mary of Egypt

The image of God was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Mary, your soul rejoices with the angels.

Her is a link to the full version of the Life of Our Mother Mary of Egypt:

<https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/servicetexts/Little%20Compline%20Fifth%20THUR.pdf>

Orthodox Tidbits

"Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience."

St. John Climacus

An Orthodox pilgrim once asked an Abbess of an Orthodox convent what they do there every day. She replied, "We fall down, we get up, we fall down, we get up, we fall down, we get up...." This is (unfortunately) the Christian life. While we strive to attain perfection, we are not dismayed by our failings. As St. Paul said, "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do." In other words, even the great Apostle Paul still sinned. As we struggle together through this time of Lent, remember, it is a time of striving to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, but most of all it is a time of repentance; a time to get back up, to the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Fr. Nathan

"Even the doing of what is good requires discrimination...for the good is not good unless its purpose is conformed to God's will."

St. Peter of Damascus