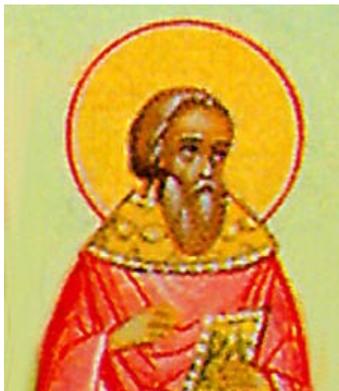




NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Fifth Week of the Great Lent

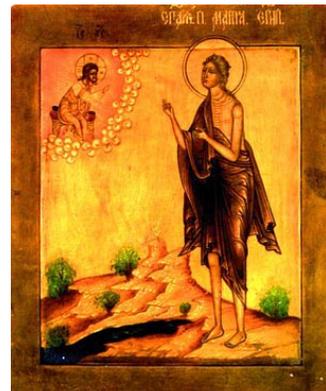
Monday, April 12 — Sunday, April 18, 2021



Venerable Titus the
Wonderworker



Venerable Joseph the
Hymnographer



Venerable Mary of Egypt

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

"To hunger and thirst for righteousness and to be meek and lowly of heart, these are things that are in our control throughout our lives. These things represent the struggle of unseen warfare: striving for purity from guile and deceitfulness, from lies and stony insensibilities, from blaming others for our problems, and basically, from the cares, trials, and tribulations of this world. We know that persecutions will come for all of us at some time or another. How we struggle with these persecutions is how we keep our soul, and our mind, and our heart intact for God. When people revile and persecute us and say all manner of evil against us falsely for His sake—our Lord says to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. This tells us that we should not be so concerned with how people perceive us in this world, or with our tendency to want to right every wrong against us. As an analogy that prisoner Mikhail gives, in humility we are truly putting our head on the floor and are saying, "Lord, have mercy; forgive me." Spiritually keeping our head in that position, we are endeavoring to lower ourselves, because we seek to do the will of Him that sent us."

Christ is amidst us!

~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~

The main points from Sunday's sermon, in 280 characters or less!

"I believe, help thou my unbelief." May God give us the strength to endure any tribulations that come our way as we continue our journey towards Holy Pascha.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p style="text-align: center;">~ MONDAY~ (4/12)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Isaiah 37:33-38:6 (6th Hour) Genesis 13:12-18 (Vespers, 1st Reading) Proverbs 14:27-15:4 (Vespers, 2nd)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. John Climacus, Troparion, Tone VIII — With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert,/ and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold./ Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles.// O our father John, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable John (Climacus) of Sinai, author of The Ladder (649)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ TUESDAY~ (4/13)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Isaiah 40:18-31 (6th Hour) Genesis 15:1-15 (Vespers, 1st Reading) Proverbs 15:7-19 (Vespers, 2nd Reading)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: "Iveron" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos, Troparion, in Tone I — The audacity of those who hate the image of the Lord and the might of the impious came godlessly to Nicaea, and emissaries inhumanly interrogated the widow who piously venerated the icon of the Mother of God; but at night, she and her son cast the icon into the sea, crying out: "Glory to thee, O pure one, for the trackless sea hath given thee its breast! Glory to thy straight journey, O thou who alone art incorrupt!"</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Appearance of the "Iberian" ("Iveron") Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ WEDNESDAY~ (4/14)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Isaiah 41:4-14 (6th Hour) Genesis 17:1-9 (Vespers, 1st Reading) Proverbs 15:20-16:9 (Vespers, 2nd)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: St. Mary of Egypt, Troparion, in Tone VIII — In thee, O mother, that which was created according to the image of God was manifestly saved;/ for, accepting thy cross, thou didst follow after Christ;/ and, praying, thou didst learn to disdain the flesh,/ for thou didst transcend it, to take care of thine</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ THURSDAY~ (4/15)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Isaiah 42:5-16 (6th Hour) Genesis 18:20-33 (Vespers, 1st Reading) Proverbs 16:17-17:17 (Vespers, 2nd)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion — Tone 4 Dedicated to the Lord from childhood, / you lived in the world like an angel; / you received grace from God to work miracles; / you were a guide of monks and a wise steward, O Titus. / Fervently pray to Christ our God for the world</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day:</p>

<p>immortal soul.// Wherefore, with the angels doth thy soul rejoice, O venerable Mary.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Mary the Egyptian (522)</p>	<p>Venerable Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (4/16)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Isaiah 45:11-17 (6th Hour) Genesis 22:1-18 (Vespers, 1st Reading) Proverbs 17:17-18:5 (Vespers, 2nd)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion — Tone 4 You were a firm pillar and an undaunted guardian of sacred tradition, O Nicetas; / you were adorned with holy dispassion and became an illustrious confessor of the Faith. / Accept the prayers of those who cry to you, / interceding for them with Christ our God.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Nicetas the Confessor, abbot of Medikion (824)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (4/17)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 9:24-28 Hebrews 9:1-7 (Theotokos) Mark 8:27-31 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion — Tone 2 Come, let us acclaim the divinely inspired Joseph, / the twelve-stringed instrument of the Word, / the harmonious harp of grace and lute of heavenly virtues, / who lauded and praised the assembly of the saints. / And now he is glorified with them.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer of Sicily (883)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (4/18)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-14 Galatians 3:23-29 (Venerable Mary) Mark 10:32-45 Luke 7:36-50 (Venerable Mary)</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Venerable Mary of Egypt, Troparion, Tone VIII — In thee, O Mother, was carefully preserved what is according to the Image. For thou didst take the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, but to care for the soul as an immortal thing. Therefore, St. Mary, thy spirit rejoices with the Angels.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Venerable Mary of Egypt</p>	<p>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”</p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

St Mary of Egypt

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Mary_of_Egypt

St Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things...

~LOOK IT UP ~

Did you know: Emperor Leo the Armenian summoned all the heads of the monasteries and tried to bring them over to the Iconoclast heresy. Among those summoned was Saint Niketas, who stood firmly for the Orthodox confession. Following his example, all the igumens remained faithful to the veneration of holy icons. Therefore, they threw him into prison. Saint Niketas bravely underwent all the tribulations and encouraged firmness of spirit in the other prisoners...

Read more:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2018/04/03/100975-venerable-niketas-the-confessor-abbot-of-medikion>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Sister Seraphima and her family
- Healthcare workers and anyone at risk of contracting the COVID virus

To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

Archpriest John Tomasi * (310) 749-0524 * frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com
Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahatomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!