



## ***ST. GREGORY'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK***

Wednesday, April 9                      *Martyr Eupychius of Caesarea*

**6:40 P.M. 9<sup>th</sup> Hour and Typica**

**7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Friday, April 11                      *Bishop-Martyr Antipas of Pergamum*

**11:00 A.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

**7:00 P.M. Akathist Hymn to the Passion of Our Lord**

Saturday, April 12                      *Saturday of Lazarus*

**5:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Palm-Willow Branches, Festal Anointing**  
Supplications will be offered for +Donna J. Chekan, given by Jim Dunn & Family.

Sunday, April 13                      **Palm Sunday-Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem**

**9:10 A.M. Third Hour**

**9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Palms-Willow Branches, Festal Anointing**  
The Epistle Reading will be Philipians 4:4-9 and the Gospel will be John 12:1-18. Supplications will be offered for +Geraldine Nazak, given by Jodi Hernandez & Family. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will receive palm and willow branches to show that we too accept Christ Our Savior as King, and that we are willing to follow Him to the Cross. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Church hall for refreshments and Christian fellowship.

***We remember not just Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in the past,  
but also, His entry in the future.***

## ***What should I have in my Easter-Pascha Basket?***

**Paska-** The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

**Ham-** This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

**Sausage-** A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**Cheese-** Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

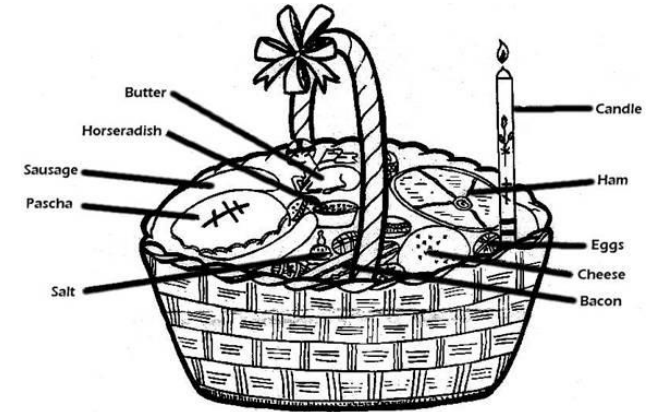
**Eggs/Pysanky-** Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

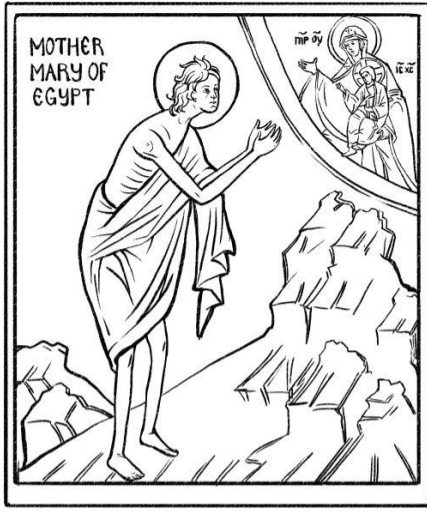
**Horseradish-** A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

**Butter-** Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which makes the symbolism even stronger.

**Salt-** A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

*If you have never taken a Pascha-Easter basket to be blessed, the above basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your loved ones and friends. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!*





### ***Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast Venerable Mary of Egypt***

Every year on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast, we remember our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. She is known in our Holy Church as the “Penitent Saint” and her story of life has been called “an icon in words of the theological truth of repentance”. As part of our Lenten journey, Saint Mary of Egypt can teach us something very great. As our venerable father Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation, lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but

our response is not. But Mary of Egypt responded; through the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness, and sanctity of the Mother of God, and nothing was too much for her to change her life.

This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is the Great Fast-Lent. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. Today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: “Be sure that God Who could heal the leprous could heal the leprosy which is yours.”

Her example of repentance should be an inspiration to all of us. We have a wonderful opportunity through the sacramental mystery of Penance to obtain forgiveness. The same Jesus who cured the leper with a touch and forgave sins with a word now uses a priest as His instrument to heal and forgive, to teach and console, to correct and encourage. As we near the final days of Lent, the Church gives us the example of Mary of Egypt so that we might not lose hope and to teach us that no sin is too great to be forgiven.

In Scripture we read: “Though your sins be red as scarlet, I shall make them white as snow.” We still have time to make a good confession...May the example of Saint Mary of Egypt draw attention to our own need for repentance so that we, too, nourished by Holy Communion, may rededicate our lives to the service of God.

### **Announcements**

#### **Today: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast**

As we continue our Lenten journey we focus this Sunday on the life of our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. The example of this “Penitent Saint” tells us that it is never too late in life - or in Lent - to repent.

#### **Today: Order of Confession**

As part of our preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection – Pascha, we welcome on this Saturday & Sunday Fr. Frederick W. Gruber, priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Fr. Frederick is here to administer the Sacrament of Confession. As part of our spiritual preparation for Pascha-Easter, make sure to receive this Healing Sacrament of our Holy Church.

#### **Today: Bethany Ministry Meeting**

As part of the Great Fast - Lenten journey, we will have a Bethany Ministry meeting following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This meeting will take place in the Parish Library. Be part of this important meeting as we plan visitations during Holy Week and Pascha.

#### **Today: Slavic Easter Items for Sale in the Church Hall!**

Following the Sunday Divine Liturgy make sure to stop by the Church hall for this year’s Slavic Easter Sale. Oles & Lyubov from Cataract Press in Parma, Ohio, are visiting us with a large selection of Slavic (Rusyn, Slovak, Polish, and Ukrainian) merchandise. The focus of the display is Easter-Pascha and includes Easter eggs-Pysankas, egg wraps, wooden eggs, basket covers, and much more!

#### **Tuesday: Chant Group Practice**

On Tuesday evening, April 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m., we will have our Chant Group rehearsal in the Church Hall. Be part of the ministry of Liturgical singing and join us as we practice together our liturgical chant in preparation for Holy Week and Pascha-Easter.

#### **Easter – Pascha Workshop**

Following the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have an Easter-Pascha Workshop in our Church hall. There will be a session for adults, a session for ECF students, and a session for our younger children. Be part of this exciting workshop as we enjoy a variety of activities, crafts, and egg-dying.

**Don't Wait Until It Is Too Late**

Start arranging your schedule today so that you can be present for the Divine Services for Holy Week through Pascha-Resurrection of Christ. Absolutely no one should miss these Divine Services. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.

**Good Friday: Vigil at Christ's Tomb**

One of the ancient traditions in the Eastern Church is the Vigil at the Tomb of Christ on Good Friday. After Our Lord died on the Cross, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, bound it in linen cloths with spices and buried it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and other women sat opposite the tomb watching as their Lord was buried. The Church, over the centuries, has joined these women in keeping watch over Jesus' tomb. This year, let us continue with this ancient tradition in our parish family and to keep our Church open on Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for prayer until 12:00 midnight. If you wish to be part of this Vigil, in the Church vestibule there is a time slot sign-up sheet where you can reserve an hour (or more) for prayer and to keep Vigil by Our Lord's tomb.

**Children's Story Time**

St. Gregory's Library Ministry invites all the children for Story Time in the Church hall on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. The Storytime is for pre-K – 1st grade, and will consist of stories, a craft, and snack. Siblings are welcome. Please bring your children and their friends for this fun event. Please call the parish office (412-835-7800) or let Trisha Krofcheck (585-749-3270) know if your child will attend to help in planning.

**Single Seniors Luncheon**

The Single Seniors Luncheon for April is scheduled at 11:30 am on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Bella's (De Lallo's) On Fort Couch (91 Fort Couch Road). Please make your reservation by calling Mary Eicher at 724-743-5909. Our Single Seniors Ministry of St. Gregory's is for men and women who have never married or have lost a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. As a group, it is our goal to provide spiritual, emotional, and mental support for one another. Please come and join us for this luncheon.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

On Thomas Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place (weather permitting) following the Divine Liturgy. All children from our parish family are invited to be part of this happy event.

**Haven't Seen Someone in a While?**

Give them a call. See how they are doing. Let them know that you not only miss them but also care enough to see if everything is okay. A kind word can go a long way.

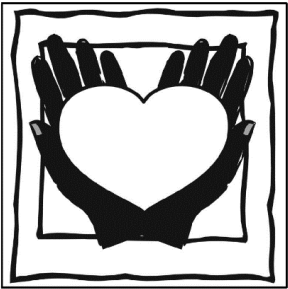
**Collection- May God bless you...**

The total for Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, was \$4,994.68 (Envelopes: \$2,855.00; Online: \$770.36; Loose: \$121.00; Maintenance: \$577.32; Children: \$6.00; Candle: \$212.00; Easter: \$150.00; Flowers: \$210.00; Initial: \$5.00; Chocolate Crosses: \$88.00).



*The QR code will take you to our donation portal. Your engagement, support and prayers are very much appreciated.*

**Parish Lenten Outreach 2025:  
Lenten Works of Mercy**



During this Great Fast-Lent, we are collecting needed items to support the good works of Angels' Place, located in Swissvale and North Side Pittsburgh.

Angels' Place is a cost-free or significantly reduced rate childcare center that helps single parents get an education as well as enriching the lives of their children. They provide education, care, food, and any diapers/clothing that the family needs during the time that they are in the center. The center also uses donations of clothes and toys to be able to send home with these families as well to help provide as much support as possible. The parents are required to do chores around the center to "pay" for their childcare services and are required to do a specified number of hours per week depending on their Child's schedule. The center is filled with so many amazing people and has touched so many lives.

In the Mother of God Chapel, we are collecting the following items:

Trash bags (Large 39 gallon or 13 gallon); Toilet Paper; Paper towels; Napkins; Cleaning Products; Hand soap; Diapers; Wipes; New or gently used clothes/shoes (kid's sizes); New or gently used toys; Blankets

We are collecting these donations in the Mother of God Chapel until Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

***St. Gregory's Prayer List***

***Kindly remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who struggle with sickness, pain, hardship, or any special need: Charles & Maureen Cerny, Theresa Lokes, Nancy Romza, Andy & Joan Sakmar, Rita Smochko, Michael Sirochman, John Tury and Agnes Yanchak.***