

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **EGG DYEING:** Volunteers needed to dye red eggs for Pascha! Philoptochos will provide a kit with the red dye, tulle and instructions and you provide 2 dozen eggs. Kits will be picked up on Palm Sunday and dyed eggs need to be returned Holy Thursday. To sign up or learn more contact Christianna Politis 720-335-1195 (text or call).
- **Palm Folding, Saturday April 27th**-we will be folding palms for Palm Sunday. We would love to have your help! This year, to make things easier, we are asking that you watch a short "how to" YouTube video (please see the link below). Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to seeing you! Place this URL into your web browser: www.youtube.com/watch?v=znDyR8_POCU or Search: "How to make a Palm Leaf Cross (easy tutorial)" in YouTube.

Prom Drive Donations

You have the opportunity to make prom magical for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). From now until May 14, join us for a prom clothing and accessories drive benefiting Laradon- a local nonprofit that empowers kids and adults in the IDD community. They are seeking donations of gently used prom dresses (bridesmaid dresses work too), suits & ties, dress shoes, accessories, and grooming items. Donations in a variety of sizes- with sizes large and x-large being the most requested, are greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off directly with Toula Stathopulos-Contact her at: 303-792-5661 or: TStathopulos@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE

Camp Emmanuel Registration is Open! Camp will be June 23-29, 2024. Early Bird pricing is available until April 14th. Join the GOYA OneChurch Group, or visit the Metropolis website and click on the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries page to access the registration. Contact Maja Buck with any questions: maja@stcatherinechurch.org.

SAINT CATHERINE STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

For 2024, as of April 17th we have 331 stewards pledging \$955,866 and we have received \$349,325. If you did not receive a stewardship packet at home, you may pick one up in the Narthex or the Fellowship Hall. Contact Jenée Horan at: Jenee@stcatherinechurch.org.

ST. CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5555 South Yosemite Street, Greenwood Village, CO, 80111

303-773-3411 • www.stcatherinechurch.org • stcatherinechurch.onechurchsoftware.com

Clergy: Father Theodore Dorrance, Protospesbyter • Father Dino Sinos, Ekonomos
• Deacon Konstantinos Bardossas

Staff: Jenée Horan, Office/Facilities Manager • Valerie LeVier, Executive Assistant to Father Theodore/Communications Coordinator • Mary-Elaine Priddy, Accountant • Presvytera Stacey Dorrance, Lead Chanter
Maja Buck, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Director • James Tavlarides, IT Support
• Stephen Woodruff, Facility Assistant

Parish Council: Alex Buck (President), Judy Jones (1st VP of Fellowship), Elena Paich (2nd VP of Stewardship), Mike Hillier (Treasurer), John Holder (Secretary), Kris Bates, Dr. Nicholas Gagner, Dr. Andrew Gaines, Dr. Leon Greos, Todd Hallberg, Douglas Kasten, Pete Papilion, Jamie Payne, Niko Poulos, Evan Stathopulos.



WELCOME TO SAINT CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

"There are no strangers here; only friends you have not met!"

SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT-APRIL 21, 2024

**Ianouarios the Holy Martyr & Companions
Alexandra the Empress**

An Egyptian Prodigal

The life and times of St. Mary of Egypt are infamous due to her conversion *while* being a baptized Christian. She was known to be baptized at a young age, like so many of us. It is unclear how she practiced her faith in Christ while living at home but her life story is clear in that she left home at the age of 12 and, as we say today, "slept around" during her teen years.

The phrase "sleeping together" is used today perhaps as a way to distract from the serious relationship results of sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship.

In a different meaning, Jesus uses the word "sleep" to describe someone who is dead but is able to awake and rise into a new day and life.

Applying Jesus' meaning to St. Paul's teaching about "dead works" in his letter to the Hebrews 9.11-14, we can say that Mary's decision making in her young life was filled with dead works. One consequence of her lifestyle prevented her from entering a local Church while everyone around her entered the sacred building without problem.

God's love and grace being always accessible to Mary inspired a profound realization.

Like the prodigal son reflecting on all he lost then suddenly realized all he could gain by returning home, Mary realized she too lost more than her virginity in her young life- she lost her relationship with God but could gain it by waking up from her "slumber of sin" and live like God guides.

In a completely opposite lifestyle, she dedicated the rest of her life, forty-seven years, to praying for God's mercy and forgiveness along with living in thanksgiving of God's unconditional love for her.

Her life is a beautiful example of how purposefully living in union with God satisfies all our needs and wants at the very core of our being. How we choose to live this out is up to how we feel God is calling us.

Discussion Topics/Questions

1. We all stray in some way from God's guidance for living a whole and healthy lifestyle. How are we finding a healthy balance in the tension of being saintly and righteous while also realizing we sin and may even feel at times, like Mary did, that is, wretched?
2. As we enter the final week of Great Lent and anticipate feasting after fasting how will we ensure that our feasting continues in virtuous and holy ways even after Great Lent?

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

- **SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT Orthros 8:15am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am**
- Memorials: Today we have a 40-day memorial for Nick Michas. May his memory be eternal!
- Coffee Hour is hosted by the Michas Family in memory of Nick Michas.
- **PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS 5:00pm @ St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church**

MONDAY, APRIL 22

- **GREAT COMPLINE 6:30pm**

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- Men's Spiritual Discussion 7am-(Hybrid)-In person or on Zoom link at: stcatherinechurch.org/calendar
- Bible Study 10am-(Hybrid)-In person or on Zoom link at: stcatherinechurch.org/calendar

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- **PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:00pm (followed by community potluck)**
- Choir Practice after Liturgy

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

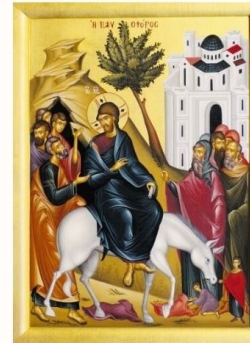
- Myrrh Bearing Practice 4:30pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- **Saturday of Lazarus-Service of Preparation 9:00am, Teaching Liturgy 9:30am**
- Community Breakfast 11:00am
- Palm Folding 12:00pm
- Baptisms/Chriasmations 1:00pm
- **Great Vespers 3:00pm**

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- **PALM SUNDAY Orthros 8:15am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am**
- No Church School
- Luncheon Sponsored by Philoptochos
- **BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 7:00pm**



ST. CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Sunday-April 28th

- Palm Sunday Orthros 8:15am, Divine Liturgy 9:30am
- Luncheon hosted by Philoptochos
- Bridegroom Service 7:00pm

Holy Monday- April 29th

- Presanctified Liturgy 9:00am
- Bridegroom Service 7:00pm

Holy Tuesday-April 30th

- Presanctified Liturgy 9:00am
- Bridegroom Service (Hymn of Kassiani) 7:00pm

Holy Wednesday-May 1

- Presanctified Liturgy 9:00am
- Holy Unction 4:00pm
- Bridegroom Service with Anointing 7:00pm

Holy Thursday-May 2

- Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil 9:00am
- Passion Gospels 7:00pm

Holy Friday-May 3

- Royal Hours 9:00am
- Holy Friday Youth Retreat 10:30am
- Tomb Decorating from 10:30am to 1:00pm
- Taking Down of Jesus from the Cross 1:30pm
- Lamentations 7:00pm

Holy Saturday-May 4th

- Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Bishop Constantine 9:00am
- Pascha Egg Hunt 11:30am
- Resurrection Service 11:15pm
- Resurrectional Orthros & Divine Liturgy at Midnight followed by Anastasi Dinner hosted by Parish Council
- [Great & Holy Pascha-May 5th-Christ is Risen! Chistos Anesti!](#)
- AGAPE VESPERS AT 1PM

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Holy Friday Retreat

May 3, 2024

9:00am-1:30pm

St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church
Register on OneChurch or Scan the QR Code

Contact Maja Buck or Youth Ministry Leaders
with any questions
maja@stcatherinechurch.org



HYMNS AND READINGS FOR THE SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION MODE PL 1: Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him, for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.

FOR ST MARY OF EGYPT MODE PL. 4: In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. CATHERINE-5TH TONE: We sing praises in memory of the bride of Christ, Catherine the Holy Protectress of Holy Mount Sinai, of her who is our helper and our comforter, silencing the impious ones with her brilliance. All by the power of the Spirit! And she pleads for us all great mercy, since she has been crowned a martyr of the Lord.

KONTAKION MODE 2: A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker, unwavering, reject not the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good; Your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you; hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos, for those who honor you.

THE EPISTLE READING IS FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 9:11-14: Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

THE GOSPEL READING IS FROM MARK 10:32-45: At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Mary of Egypt—The 5th Sunday of Lent & April 1st:

Mary was baptized as an infant and raised in an Orthodox home. When she 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 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 venerated the precious Cross, 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, and fought off the fierce attacks of the spiritual enemies. For many years, she was plagued by distorted memories and thoughts of her past life. She endured extreme heat in the summer and extreme cold in the winter. She ate only what the desert provided. All the while God showed His mercy and compassion, pouring upon this repentant servant His forgiving and sanctifying grace. 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 April 1st. Her life was recorded by Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem.



Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sponsored by Philoptochos

April 28th, Following Liturgy

Menu

Salad

Spaghetti with Marinara (GF option available)
Pasta Arrabiata with Shrimp (GF option available)

RSVP by April 21st

using the QR Code or by clicking the link [HERE](#)



A love offering can be made during the luncheon.