Repentance is the theme of the Lenten Season. St. Mary of Egypt is remembered today because most of her life was spent ATONING for sins in her early years.

To achieve this, St. Mary lived alone in the wilderness beyond the Jordan for 48 years. Her story would have remained untold if she had not accidentally been discovered there by a monk named Zossima, who was on a personal Lenten pilgrimage in the desert.

In addition to telling Zossima the details of her sordid past and subsequent conversion, St. Mary spoke of the tremendous struggle she endured as she strove to do her penance and dedicate her life to the Lord. “For 17 years,” she reflected, “I struggled with my mindless passions. I wanted to eat and drink in abundance. I wanted to hear lustful songs. I wept bitterly, and prayed to the Mother of God to remove these thoughts from me. When I had wept enough, I then saw a light that flooded over me from all sides, and I WAS FILLED WITH A WONDERFUL PEACE.”

What a powerful lesson these words bring to us as our Lenten journey comes to a close! Repentance does not come easy, nor do our sins give up on us without a struggle! It is only through fervent prayer and constant spiritual laboring that this is accomplished.

Our goal must be to attain this state of purity, so that we, too, can be filled with the wonderful peace that comes from confidently feeling that our life is pleasing to God. May this shining example give us the strength and courage that is necessary for us to accomplish repentance.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin

Saint Mary of Egypt

We rejoice in the loving kindness of our God and His willingness to receive a repentant sinner.

Sunday April 18, 2021
April 18, 2021
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Orthros 8:30am / Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Memorials
James Lafter + 1 Year
Eleni Kardasis + 3 Months

FLOWERS & CANDLES
Donated by Their Loving Families

PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK: This year, since COVID-19 restrictions are lighter than last year, we are encouraging more people to attend Church than as many as we can fit safely. For that reason, on Palm Sunday we will be offering two simultaneous Liturgies, one in our Sanctuary and one in our large hall. We can hold approximately 400–450 people using this method. Please arrive before 9:30 a.m. to have a seat. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday we will also be utilizing these additional seating areas, as well as live—streaming these services to these other rooms, but our limit will still be at no more than 450 people. Thank you for your patience.

PARISH PROCEDURES AND DIRECTIVES UPDATED BY OUR METROPOLIS: Please visit the church’s website for the updated parish procedures and directives as provided by the Metropolis of Detroit.

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CHURCH: Interested in receiving the Weekly Church Bulletin and other communications from the church via email? Please email the church office at Office@StNicholasTroy.org so we can add you to our email distribution list. Once set up, you will receive the Church Sunday Bulletin the Friday before as well as any other electronic communications. It’s that simple! However, if you unsubscribe for any reason, your email address will be removed and you will need to RESUBSCRIBE through the Church office. https://www.stnicholastroy.org/document_center/ParishCouncil/20210301%20Metropolis%20-%20COVID%20Reopening%20Directives.pdf

CAREFUL IN THE NARTHEX! Though we might be all tired of COVID-19 safety measures, it is still important ESPECIALLY IN THE NARTHEX that we maintain social distancing, wear our masks correctly, and keep our conversations to a minimum. Please arrange to socialize outside the church whether in the parking lot or your homes, but in church please respect safety measures that are in place. For more information related to our COVID-19 protocols and procedures please visit our website. ~Thank you for your support and cooperation.

KOLIVA and COVID-19: Koliva that will be distributed after Divine Liturgy must have already been placed in individual sealed plastic bags and placed in a basket for distribution. Koliva will not be served from a tray in church until further notice. If you should bring Koliva on a tray, you may not serve it yourself, you must take it home.

EASTER CANDLES: The St. Nicholas Philoptochos will be selling Easter Pascha candles from now until Easter/Pascha. They will be set up outside of the Church office. Monday—Fridays 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Candles are $5 each. Checks should be made payable to St. Nicholas Philoptochos. ~Thank you for your support and Kalo Pascha.

ECHO DEADLINE THE 10TH OF EVERY MONTH: All Echo items should be submitted NO LATER than the 10th of every month. Please email your flyers or announcements to Maggie at echo@stnicholastroy.org. Make certain all submissions have been spell-checked, grammar-checked and reviewed before submitting them.

2021 St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

Scholarships

Each year St. Nicholas presents scholarships to graduating high school students.

Eligibility Requirements:

• Applicant must be a high school senior student, graduating in the Spring (Summer of 2021)
• Applicant must be accepted or on a wait list for an institution of higher learning for the 2021-2022 academic year
• Applicant must be baptized or raised in an Orthodox Christian family
• Applicant must have parents that have been members of St. Nicholas for at least one year and are in good standing with St. Nicholas
• The applicant must have at least a 3.0 G.P.A. to qualify.

Applications are available on our website at www.stnicholastroy.org. Please email completed applications to Office@StNicholasTroy.org or mail to the church office by May 7, 2021.

NO JULY APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

God Bless, our graduates!

Easter Lily Donations

For those interested in making a donation to decorate the altar and the church for Pascha, please fill out the information below. Please return to the church no later than Friday, April 23, 2021.

Donation: $25 per plant.
Names/memorials will be listed in the Pascha Bulletin.
Please contact Maggie at 248-362-9575 or send an email to office@stnicholastroy.org for any questions. We thank you for your support and may God Bless your loved ones.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT OUT

March 2021

GOAL: $500,000

Number of Pledge YTD: 257
Average Pledge: $800
YTD Total: $205,710
2021 Stewardship Goal: $500,000

New pledges this period: 22
New number of stewards: 6
If no non pledging contributors: 90
Total donated by Non Pledging Contributors: $23,650

Expenses: Planned Budget $704,894
YTD spent $174,233

Daily Cost to run our Church: $1,931

Did you know?
Our new Stewardship Committee is working hard to improve the way we communicate throughout the Church.
In the next couple of months you will see improvements in the way we communicate to our parishes.
If you have any recommendations please contact the church office and let us know.
Y.A.L: Due to Easter/ Pascha falling on the first Sunday in May, the Y.A.L’s monthly meeting will be delayed by a week. The next general body meeting will be held in-person on May 9 at 7p.m. in the St. Nicholas Community Center! If you have any questions about the organization or if you or someone you know may be interested in joining Y.A.L, please reach out to YAL@stnicholastroy.org or sign up for the meeting at https://bit.ly/3tfJfHD. Hope to see you all there!

GOLF LEAGUE: Calling all golfers! The St. Nicholas Golf League will be starting soon. We play on Monday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. at Sylvan Glen Golf Course in Troy. If you are interested in joining our league please call: Joann Kefalas 248-766-9492

BOOKSTORE: The Holy Week-Easter/Pascha service book, hardcover $30, is a very meaningful book to have in hand. It will further enrich your understanding of all the services throughout Holy Week as you follow along in church or from home by livestream. Authentic Easter Egg Dye imported from Greece now available. Contact Maria at bookstore@stnicholastroy.org or 248-362-9575 to reserve your copy of the Holy Week-Easter/Pascha book or for other book or icon inquiries. The bookstore opens immediately after and not during Divine Liturgy until 12:30 p.m. and also, weekdays during regular office hours.

Το Περιβόλι Της Παναγίας (PANAGIA’S GARDEN): We are looking for experienced gardeners to supplement and beautify the already splendid grounds of our St. Nicholas church. This group will work as a team and under the direction of a master gardener to create spaces of reflection, prayer, and enjoyment of God’s creation on our church property. If you are interested in becoming a part of the ‘Panagia’s Garden’ team, please e-mail the church office at: office@stnicholastroy.org or simply call 248-362-9575 and let us know!

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING: Our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has mandated that all individuals who interact with our youth must participate in online abuse prevention training and a screening program through Presidium. Online training is done using the Armatus® Learn to Protect System. The training sessions need to be completed annually and the background check every two years. You will be receiving (or have received) reminder emails from them indicating that you are due to renew your training certification. Log in at http://praesidiuminc.com/login to see your updated requirements. If you cannot remember your password, please click the link on the login screen to reset your password. The Presidium Support Team is also available to help you log in at: support@praesidiuminc.com. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to maintaining a safe environment for our children!

METROPOLIS OF DETROIT SUMMER CAMP (MDSC): Camper registration opened on March 15! We are moving forward with hope and a mission to gather safely in Rose City for the 2021 camp season, but also working on a backup plan should our circumstances change. We welcome registration for campers entering grades 3-11 for Weeks 1-5 and entering grade 12 or first year of college for Week Zero. Note, our capacity will be adjusted this season, so don’t wait to register! Staff positions are also available for ages 17 and older. Please visit www.gomdsc.org to register and learn more about our camp programs or call us at 248-909-6372 for more information.

The Lenten Lecture Series April 21

Faith in Action (Part 2) Father John Chakos, an eminent clergyman of our Archdiocese will tell us about the true story of the establishment and growth of Orthodox Christianity in Guatemala. Father John has extensive experience as a mission priest in Guatemala, and will bring us up to date on what’s happening there, the success stories, and the stunning and spiritual accounts of lives transformed by the love of Christians, and The Orthodox Faith in action. Presv. Katerina 248.778.6205 or Fatti Spiliadis-Bologna pattibologna@mac.com
**PRAYER OF PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth: You are everywhere filling all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us of every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (3).

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Amen.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**PRAYER OF PROTECTION FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

At this time, Jesus took His twelve disciples, and He began to tell them what was about 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?" But 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 at 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 slave to 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."

Mark 10:32-45

**Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

**The Gospel According to Mark**

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Mark 10:32-45
Epistle Reading

Sunday of the St. Mary of Egypt

O Lord, how manifold are Your works. You have made all things in wisdom.
Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have 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, taking not the blood of goats and calves but 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.

Hebrews 9:11-14

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.
Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχή μου τὸν Κύριον.

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς δὲ παραγενόμενος ἄρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων ἁγάθων, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελειωτέρας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιητοῦ, τοῦτ᾿ ἐστίν, οὐ ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι᾿ ἀίματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ δὲ τοῦ ἱδίου ἁμαρτών εἰσῆλθαν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἄγα, οἰκονόμων λύτρωσιν εὐφράμενος. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ ἁμα τῶν καὶ τραγῶν, καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλως μαντίζοσα τοὺς κεκοιμημένους, ἀγάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, πόσῳ μάλλον τὸ ἁμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὡς δὲ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἐαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἁμώμων τῷ θεῷ, καθαρίζῃ τὴν συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων, εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι;

Ἑβραίους 9:11-14

Of the Church

A Standard of firm belief and an icon of gentleness, of self-control an instructor, you were revealed to your sacred flock, by the reality of your deeds, for this reason you acquired, by humility, heaven’s heights, and by poverty riches, Father and Great Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, to sanctify and save our souls.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα προστήσεως, ἑγκρατείας Διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξε στῇ ποίησις σου ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἁλίθεσις διὰ τοῦτο εἰκόνα τῆς τοποθετεῖται ὑφή, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ Ἴεράρχη Νικόλαε πρεσβεύει Χριστό τῷ θεῷ, σωθήσας τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

KONTAKION

Of the Prodigal Son

O Protection of Christians unshamable, mediation with the Creator immovable, we sinners beg you, do not despise the voices of our prayers, but anticipate, since you are good, and swiftly come unto our aid as we cry out to you with faith: Hurry to intercession, O Theotokos who defend now and ever those who honor you.

Προστάσια τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκατάσχετα, μεσημέρι, πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμέτρητα, μὴ παρίσχει, ἀμαρτωλῶν διέσωσεν φωνάς, ἀλλὰ προάρθοι, ὡς ἀγαθή, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶν κραυγαζόντων σοι Τάξειν τοῦ πρεσβεύας, καὶ σπευδὸν ἐκαθέσας, ἐν προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμῶντων σε.

SMALL ENTRANCE

(WITH THE BOOK OF THE HOLY GOSPELS)

Come, let us worship and bow before Christ. Save us, O Son of God who rose from the dead, as we sing to You: Alleluia.

APOLYTIA

Resurrectional
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>Orthros Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church 760 West Wattles Rd Troy MI, 48098 248–362–9575</td>
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<td>2nd Salutations to the Virgin Mary</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Grand Compline</td>
<td>Parish Council Meeting</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>248–362–9575</td>
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<td>4th Salutations to the Virgin Mary</td>
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<td>248–362–9575</td>
<td>9 a.m.–2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Office Hours Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>Orthros Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday Vespers</td>
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<td>Grand Compline</td>
<td>Philoptochos Zoom Meeting</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>The Akathist Hymn</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Argonauts Meeting</td>
<td>Men’s Group Meeting</td>
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<td>5th Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>Orthros Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Grand Compline</td>
<td>AHEPA Meeting</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5th Presanctified Liturgy</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Orthros Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Holy Monday</td>
<td>Bridegroom Service</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Holy Tuesday</td>
<td>Bridegroom Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Holy Wednesday</td>
<td>Sacrament of Holy Unction</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Holy Communion</td>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>The Passion of Christ</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Holy Friday</td>
<td>Reading of the Royal Hours</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Vesperas of the Descent from the Cross</td>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>The Lamentations</td>
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**April 2021**

COFFEE HOUR CANCELLED. ALL SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED. PLEASE GO TO WWW.STNICHOLASTROY.ORG