





St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church

220 Mansfield Blvd. (mailing: PO Box 835), Carnegie, PA 15106

Rev. Fr. John Charest

847-910-7120 - frjohn.charest@aol.com

Deacon Evan O'Neil

Parish Hall: 412- 276-9718

President: Howard West 724-910-9627

www.orthodoxcarnegie.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

DIVINE LITURGY LIVE STREAM 9:30 AM

<https://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/divineliturgy>

SUNDAY OF ST MARY OF EGYPT

HEB. 9:11-14; MK. 10:32-45

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

DIVINE LITURGY LIVE STREAM 9:30 AM

<https://www.orthodoxcarnegie.org/divineliturgy>

PALM SUNDAY

PHIL. 4:4-9; JN. 12:1-18

TODAY'S BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY

**EVA STASKO IN MEMORY OF ANNA MAKITKA ON THE 51ST
ANNIVERSARY OF HER FALLING ASLEEP IN THE LORD.
MEMORY ETERNAL VICHNAYA PAMYAT**

2020 Parish Board of Directors

President:

Howard West

Vice President:

Mary Stevens

Rec. Secretary:

Cynthia Haluszczak

Treasurer:

John Stasko

Asst. Treasurer:

Jason Olexa

Financial Secy.

Victor Onufrey

Asst. Fin. Secy

Tracey Sally

Trustees:

Sherri Walewski

Natalie Onufrey

Alice O'Neil

Rachel Losego

Melissa Haluszczak

Vestrymen:

Steven Sawchuk Jr.

Michael Kapeluck

Auditors:

Michele Kapeluck

Ron Wachnowsky

Alex Sawchuk

**The Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin is published weekly by
The Senior Chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League**

Editor: Michael Kapeluck

Bulletin Submissions are due by 8:00 am Thursday morning. Written submissions can be:

-hand delivered to the editor

-placed in the Bulletin envelope in the church vestibule.

-mailed to: 300 East Main Street, Carnegie, PA 15106

-e-mailed to: kapeluck@verizon.net

We welcome you today

We would like to remind our visitors of the following;:

- ❖ All people are encouraged to participate in the sacred services of our Church. We hope that you will be able to worship as well as have fellowship with us. Should you wish any information about the Orthodox Faith or this parish in particular, please see the rector or any member of the church. We are able to place you on our mailing list.
- ❖ Only Orthodox Christians may receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion) in the Orthodox Church. In like manner, Orthodox Christians may not receive the sacraments in a non-Orthodox Church. While we hope that one day all Christians will find unity and be able to approach the chalice of our Lord together, we observe the teachings of the Church that the Eucharist is a gift of unity and not a means of unity.

We remind our faithful and visitors of the following guidelines concerning the Holy Sacraments in the Orthodox Church.

- ❖ Orthodox Christians are urged to receive Holy Communion frequently.
- ❖ Communicants should be at peace with others before approaching the chalice (Mt 5:23-24)
- ❖ Realize the importance of making a thorough examination of sins and transgressions against God, ourselves and others and having prayed for forgiveness before coming to Holy Communion.
- ❖ Frequent communicants should come to Holy Confession at least four times a year (during the four fasting periods of the year). and additionally when an examination of conscience reveals the necessity to do so in order to heal any sinful behavior.
- ❖ Communicants should fast from all foods and liquids from the evening before receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ Communicants should read prayers in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ All Orthodox Christians must receive the sacraments at least once a year.
- ❖ Those who are late for Divine Liturgy (after the reading of the Epistle and Gospel) should not approach the chalice.
- ❖ Those who are ill or who have special physical needs are exempt from the above guidelines.
- ❖ Infants and children (up to the age of seven) who are Orthodox Christians may receive Holy Communion and are exempt from the above guidelines.

Thank you for gathering to worship with us today. Together we have glorified the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we be brought closer to one another and closer to God by following the eternal teachings of our Lord.

Нагадуємо нашлім гостям., що:

ми заохочуємо всіх до участі у Священній Літургії в нашій Церкві; ми сподіваємося, що Ви зможете не лише молитися тут, але й стати членом нашої громади. Якщо Ви хочете отримати якусь додаткову інформацію про Православну віру, чи, зокрема, про нашу парафію, звертайтеся, будь ласка, до отця настоятеля чи до будь-кого із членів нашої парафії. Ми можемо внести вашу адресу до парафіяльного списку розсилки;

лише православні християни можуть отримати Євхаристію (Святе Причастя) у православної церкви і, відповідно, православні християни не можуть отримувати святого причастя у неправославної церкві Плекаючи надію на те, що у майбутньому всі християни досягнуть єдності і зможуть разом пити із чаші нашого Господа, ми дотримуємося вчення церкви про те, що Євхаристія - це дар єдності, а не засіб до єдності.

НАГАДУЄМО НАШИМ ВІРНИМ І ГОСТЯМ ПРО ПРАВИЛА, ЩО СТОСУЮТЬСЯ СВЯТОГО ПРИЧАСТЯ У ПРАВОСЛАВНІЙ ЦЕРКВІ:

ми спонукаємо православних християн часто ходити до Святого Причастя;

ті, хто причащаються, повинні бути у мирі з іншими перш, нас підійти до євхаристичної чаші (Св.Матвій 5:23-24);

перед тим, як прийти на Святе Причастя, дуже важливо ретельно осмислити гріхи і порушення, які було вчинено проти Бога, нас самих та інших і помолитися за їх відпущення;

тим, хто часто причащається, слід приходити на святу сповідь принаймні чотири рази на рік (під час кожного із чотирьох щорічних постів);

ті, хто причащається, повинні з вечора перед прийняттям Святого Причастя, припинити вживання всякої їжі і напоїв;

ті, хто причащається, повинні шляхом молитов підготувати себе до прийняття причастя;

всі православні християни повинні, принаймні, раз на рік отримати Святе Причастя;

ті, хто спізнився на Божественну Літургію (пришов після того, як було прочитано Апостол і Євангеліє) не можуть підходити до чаші; **хворі**, і **ті**, хто має обмежені фізичні моеисливості, звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

немовлята та діти до семи років, які належать до Православної християнської віри, можуть отримувати Святе Причастя і звільняються від вище викладених вимог;

Дякуємо за те, що Ви прийшли помолитися з нами сьогодні у церкві Ісуса Христа. Разом з вами ми віддали славу Єдиному Господу, Отцеві, і Синові, і Духові Святому. Нехай дотримання вічного вчення нашого Господа наблизить нас один до одного Богу

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT ST MARY OF EGYPT

TROPARIUM TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews; while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body; Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting peace to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom! Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

TROPARIUM TO ST MARY - TONE 8

The image of God was truly preserved in you, mother, for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away, but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal. Therefore your spirit, holy mother Mary, Rejoices with the angels!

KONTAKION TO ST MARY - TONE 3

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a Bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, most glorious Mary, you are a Bride of the Kingdom!

KONTAKION TO THE RESURRECTION TONE 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

PROKIEMON

Let Thy mercy be upon us, for we have trust in Thee, we have trust in Thee
Verse; Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! For it cometh the just to be thankful.

Mary of Egypt

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

Alleluia Verses

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

v: I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication.

Lesson from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Hebrews

(c. 9, v. 11-14)

Brethren, Christ appeared as the high priest of the blessings to come through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, which was not built by human hands and did not belong to this creation. He entered the sanctuary once for all, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood and granted us an eternal redemption.

The Jews believe that the ceremonial sprinkling with the blood of bulls and goats, and with the ashes of a heifer purifies and sanctifies defiled persons. Then, the blood of Christ, who through the Holy Spirit offered himself to God as an immaculate sacrifice, will much more cleanse our conscience than lifeless observances, and enable us to worship the living God.



До євреїв 9:11-14

Але тепер прийшов Христос, первосвященик нового добра, яке ми зараз маємо. Він служить у Наметі, величнішому й досконалішому — нерукотворному. Він не належить цьому земному світові. ¹Христос приніс кров не козлів і телят, а Свою власну. Він приніс її і з нею ввійшов до Святаго Святых, здобувши вічну спокуту за всіх нас. Бо якщо кров козлів і биків або попіл телиці покропили тих, хто був розбещений, і відновили їх до тілесної чистоти, то наскільки ж дієвішою буде кров Христова! Духом Святим приніс Він Себе, бездоганного, Богу в жертву. Тож Його кров очистить нашу свідомість від злих вчинків, і ми зможемо поклонятися живому Богу.

The Gospel According to Saint Mark (с.. 10, v. 32-45)

At that time, Jesus took his twelve Disciples aside and began to explain to them what would befall him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem. There the Messiah will be betrayed into the hands of the high priests and the scribes ; they will sentence him to death; they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him; they will flog him ; and they will kill him. But he will rise again on the third day."

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached him and said: "Master, we want you to do for us whatever we ask." Jesus asked them: "What do you want me to do for you ?" They replied: "Grant us that we may sit one at your right and one at your left in the day of your glory." Jesus said to them: "You do not know what you ask. Can you drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They answered him: "We can."

Jesus said to them: "Indeed, you will drink the cup that I drink, and you will be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But to sit at my right and at my left is not mine to grant, for it belongs to those for whom it has been prepared."

When the other ten Disciples heard this request, they began to be very indignant at James and John. Thereupon Jesus called them 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 must not be so with you. On the contrary, whoever wants to be great among you must be your minister; and whoever wants to be your leader must be the servant of all. For the Messiah has not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."

Від Марка 10:32-45

Сталося це по дорозі до Єрусалиму. Ісус ішов попереду. Його учні були збентежені, а ті, котрі йшли позаду, відчували страх. Знову Ісус відкликав дванадцятьох і почав розповідати їм про те, що має статися з Ним в Єрусалимі: «Ми йдемо до Єрусалиму. Там Сина Людського буде віддано до рук головних священиків та книжників. Вони засудять Його на смерть і віддадуть поганам. Ті збиткуватимуться з Нього, плюватимуть на Нього й битимуть Його батогами, а потім вб'ють. Але через три дні Він воскресне з мертвих». Яків та Іоан, сини Зеведеєві, підійшли до Ісуса й кажуть: «Учителю, ми хочемо, щоб Ти зробив для нас те, про що ми попросим Тебе». Ісус запитав їх: «Що ж ви бажаєте, щоб Я зробив для вас?» А вони кажуть: «Дозволь нам розділити з Тобою велику Славу Твою: дозволь одному з нас сидіти по праву руку від Тебе, а другому — по ліву».

Ісус відповів: «Ви не знаєте, про що просите! Чи зможете ви випити чашу страждань, яку Я випити маю, і прийняти таке хрещення, яке Я приймаю?» Вони відповіли: «Так, ми зможемо». Тоді Ісус сказав їм: «Істинно кажу вам, ви вип'єте з чаші, яку Я питиму, і приймете таке хрещення, яке Я приймаю, але кому сидіти від Мене праворуч чи ліворуч — те не Мені вирішувати. Господь приготував ці місця для обранців Своїх».

Почувши це, інші десять учнів розгнівалися на Якова та Іоана. Тоді Ісус покликав їх до Себе і сказав: «Ви знаєте, що погани обирають правителів, які люблять показувати владу свою над людьми, а їхні намісники гноблять народ. Але ж не так має бути між вами: хто хоче бути великим, хай стане слугою для вас; хто хоче стати першим серед вас, хай буде рабом для всіх. Бо навіть Син Людський прийшов не для того, щоб Йому служили, а щоб Самому служити іншим й віддати життя Своє як викуп за багатьох».

Prayer List

Heavenly Father, Who sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be the Physician of our souls and bodies, Who came to heal sickness and infirmity, Who healed the paralytic, and brought back to life the daughter of Jairus, Who healed the woman who had been sick for twelve years by the her mere touch of the hem of your robe, visit and heal also your beloved servants:

Fr. Paisius McGrath	Kay Patridge	Pamela Graham	Reggie Warford	Jane Allred
Fr. Mykola Dilendorf	Sharon Welsh	Peter Zinski	Pearl Homyrda	Kathryn Ostaffy
Fr. Victor Wronski	James Horowitz	Stephen Sheptak	Richard Beighy	Sally T.
Dn Nicholas Zachary	Elissa Lopez	Irene Palahunik	Mary Ellen Heitzman	Patty Valentino
Shirley Neal	Sam Jarovich	Christopher	Olha Cherniavska	Rose Zalenchak
Tim Cromchak	Andrew Brennan	Jabrell	Alexander Zbalishen	Helen Wilwert
Eva Stasko	Penny T.	Ann F.	Steven Smyczek	Joanne Klein
Patty Spotti	Steve Sivulich	Dan Rosga	Shelly Cameron	Michael Klein
Deborah Schricker	Jack Schricker	Lynda West	Claudia Losego	Ben Cramer
Tetiana Kozak	Willie Haluszczak	Pat Dorning	Jackson Janosek	Corwin Cosentino
Jennifer Marley	Cynthia Mycyk	Yaroslava Dhzyrha	Donna Forbes	Teresa Stacy
Jason Bell	Catharine Livak	MaryAnn Sklaryk	Judee Shoup	Charlie Shoup
Sarah Winn	Baby Sean	Mary Lou Bender	Lesia Federova	James Morgan
Natalia Basladynsky-Mahalay		James Morgan	Athena Mycyk	

by the power and grace of Your Christ. Grant them the patience that comes from believing that You are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil. Grant them strength of body, mind and soul. Raise them up from the bed of pain. Grant them full recovery. May they experience the same surge of healing power flow through their bodies, as did the sick woman who touched your robe. For we, too, are touching your robe today, dear Lord, through this our prayer. We approach you with the same faith she did. Grant them the gift of health. For You alone are the source of healing and to You we offer glory, praise and thanksgiving in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Mnohaya Lita - Many Blessed Years

Names Days

- April 8 St. Alla** –
Alice O'Neil, Alice Sivulich
April 8 St Larissa of Crimea
Mat. Larissa
April 8- Archangel Gabriel
Gabrielle Mills

Anniversaries

- April 5 Ruslan Reiterovych
April 8 Pani Stephanie Swindle
April 9 Victoria Swindle

Birthdays

- March 30 Rachel Losego
April 3 Carol Haluszczak
April 4 Joseph Kauer

Feast Days of:

Pray for our friends and relatives serving in the armed forces.

Patrick Klyuber, Catherine Sheerin, Gregory Markiw, Ethan Rock, Michael Hrishenko, John Howe

Pray for our Catechumens

John Barth

Pray for our parishioners in vocational studies

Deacon Evan O'Neil, Sue Leis



Stewardship

THANK YOU FOR THESE RECENT DONATIONS:

General Collection 3/29/20

- Envelopes & Basket \$955.00
- Candles \$
- Vestments/ David & Connie Markiw \$200.00

Weekly Envelopes and Donations

Dear Parishioners,
Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the recent postponement of our Divine Liturgies on Sundays please send your weekly envelopes and any donations directly to:

John Stasko
202 Midfield Circle Drive
McDonald, PA 15057

Continue to make the checks out to the church. I will gather all donations and make a deposit. This will save trips to Carnegie and the post office. I can make one trip to the bank once a week. Your mailed donations will help assist in paying the normal bills that will continue to come through during this difficult time. Many thanks to you for your help in this matter. Reminder - please do not send cash.

Another way to donate is to use the donate button on the website (www.orthodoxcarnegie.com) under the Support section.

Make an online donation with your credit or debit card via our Tithely "DONATE" button link. You can select the ministry area to donate to from the drop down option menu.

- General Fund [Supports general expenses and necessities of the parish for example]
- Parishioner Commitments [Supports the "*Parishioner donation*" promise]
- Cemetery Fund [Supports the upkeep and maintenance of our Parish Cemetery]
- Restoration Fund [Supports the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish Buildings and Grounds]
- Stewardship Fund [Supports charities that are supported by the Parish]
- General Ministries of the Parish [Supports various ministries of the Parish]
- Charest Adoption Fundraising [Supports the fundraising efforts for their adoption efforts]

PLEASE NOTE:

- >You may place a short comment about your donation in the "Note/Memo" section on the donation page.
- >If you would like your donation to be a "*Re-curring Donation*", please check the "recurring giving" box.
- >If you would like to help cover the cost of the processing fee of the online donation, please check the "cover cost" box.

Parishioners, please use your "*Envelope Number*" for the "Member ID#" on the donation page.

Thank you and God Bless
John M. Stasko
412-304-1841

The Life of St. Mary of Egypt

St Zosimas was a monk at a certain Palestinian monastery on the outskirts of Caesarea. Having dwelt at the monastery since his childhood, he lived there in asceticism until he reached the age of fifty-three. Then he was disturbed by the thought that he had attained perfection, and needed no one to instruct him. "Is there a monk anywhere who can show me some form of asceticism that I have not attained? Is there anyone who has surpassed me in spiritual sobriety and deeds?"

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Zosimas, you have struggled valiantly, as far as this is in the power of man. However, there is no one who is righteous (Rom 3:10). So that you may know how many other ways lead to salvation, leave your native land, like Abraham from the house of his father (Gen 12:1), and go to the monastery by the Jordan."

Abba Zosimas immediately left the monastery, and following the angel, he went to the Jordan monastery and settled in it. Here he met Elders who were adept in contemplation, and also in their struggles. Never did anyone utter an idle word. Instead, they sang constantly, and prayed all night long. Abba Zosimas began to imitate the spiritual activity of the holy monks.

Thus much time passed, and the holy Forty Day Fast approached. There was a certain custom at the monastery, which was why God had led St Zosimas there. On the First Sunday of Great Lent the igumen served the Divine Liturgy, everyone received the All-Pure Body and Blood of Christ. Afterwards, they went to the trapeza for a small repast, and then assembled once more in church.

The monks prayed and made prostrations, asking forgiveness one of another. Then they made a prostration before the igumen and asked his blessing for the struggle that lay before them. During the Psalm "The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear? The Lord is defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 26/27:1), they opened the monastery gate and went off into the wilderness.

Each took with him as much food as he needed, and went into the desert. When their food ran out, they ate roots and desert plants. The monks crossed the Jordan and scattered in various directions, so that no one might see how another fasted or how they spent their time.

The monks returned to the monastery on Palm Sunday, each having his own conscience as a witness of his ascetic struggles. It was a rule of the monastery that no one asked how anyone else had toiled in the desert. Abba Zosimas, according to the custom of the monastery, went deep into the desert hoping to find someone living there who could benefit him.

He walked into the wilderness for twenty days and then, when he sang the Psalms of the Sixth Hour and made the usual prayers. Suddenly, to the right of the hill where he stood, he saw a human form. He was afraid, thinking that it might be a demonic apparition. Then he guarded himself with the Sign of the Cross, which removed his fear. He turned to the right and saw a form walking southward. The body was black from the blazing sunlight, and the faded short hair was white like a sheep's fleece. Abba Zosimas rejoiced, since he had not seen any living thing for many days

The desert-dweller saw Zosimas approaching, and attempted to flee from him. Abba Zosimas, forgetting his age and fatigue, quickened his pace. When he was close enough to be heard, he called out, "Why do you flee from me, a sinful old man? Wait for me, for the love of God."



The stranger said to him, "Forgive me, Abba Zosimas, but I cannot turn and show my face to you. I am a woman, and as you see, I am naked. If you would grant the request of a sinful woman, throw me your cloak so I might cover my body, and then I can ask for your blessing."



Then Abba Zosimas was terrified, realizing that she could not have called him by name unless she possessed spiritual insight.

Covered by the cloak, the ascetic turned to Zosimas: "Why do you want to speak with me, a sinful woman? What did you wish to learn from me, you who have not shrunk from such great labors?"

Abba Zosimas fell to the ground and asked for her blessing. She also bowed down before him, and for a long time they remained on the ground each asking the other to bless. Finally, the woman ascetic said: "Abba Zosimas, you must bless and pray, since you are honored with the grace of the priesthood. For many years you have stood before the holy altar, offering the Holy Gifts to the Lord."

These words frightened St Zosimas even more. With tears he said to her, "O Mother! It is clear that you live with God and are dead to this world. You have called me by name and recognized me as a priest, though you have never seen me before. The grace granted you is apparent, therefore bless me, for the Lord's sake."

Yielding finally to his entreaties, she said, "Blessed is God, Who cares for the salvation of men." Abba Zosimas replied, "Amen." Then they rose to their feet. The woman ascetic again said to the Elder, "Why have you come, Father, to me who am a sinner, bereft of every virtue? Apparently, the grace of the Holy Spirit has brought you to do me a service. But tell me first, Abba, how do the Christians live, how is the Church guided?"

Abba Zosimas answered her, "By your holy prayers God has granted the Church and us all a lasting peace. But fulfill my unworthy request, Mother, and pray for the whole world and for me a sinner, that my wanderings in the desert may not be useless."

The holy ascetic replied, "You, Abba Zosimas, as a priest, ought to pray for me and for all, for you are called to do this. However, since we must be obedient, I will do as you ask."

The saint turned toward the East, and raising her eyes to heaven and stretching out her hands, she began to pray in a whisper. She prayed so softly that Abba Zosimas could not hear her words. After a long time, the Elder looked up and saw her standing in the air more than a foot above the ground. Seeing this, Zosimas threw himself down on the ground, weeping and repeating, "Lord, have mercy!"



Then he was tempted by a thought. He wondered if she might not be a spirit, and if her prayer could be insincere. At that moment she turned around, lifted him from the ground and said, "Why do your thoughts confuse you, Abba Zosimas? I am not an apparition. I am a sinful and unworthy woman, though I am guarded by holy Baptism."

Then she made the Sign of the Cross and said, "May God protect us from the Evil One and his schemes, for fierce is his struggle against us." Seeing and hearing this, the Elder fell at her feet with tears saying, "I beseech you by Christ our

God, do not conceal from me who you are and how you came into this desert. Tell me everything, so that the wondrous works of God may be revealed."

She replied, "It distresses me, Father, to speak to you about my shameless life. When you hear my story, you might flee from me, as if from a poisonous snake. But I shall tell you everything, Father, concealing nothing. However, I exhort you, cease not to pray for me a sinner, that I may find mercy on the Day of Judgment.

"I was born in Egypt and when I was twelve years old, I left my parents and went to Alexandria. There I lost my chastity and gave myself to unrestrained and insatiable sensuality. For more than seventeen years I lived like that and I did it all for free. Do not think that I refused the money because I was rich. I lived in poverty and worked at spinning flax. To me, life consisted in the satisfaction of my fleshly lust.

"One summer I saw a crowd of people from Libya and Egypt heading toward the sea. They were on their way to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. I also wanted to sail with them. Since I had no food or money, I offered my body in payment for my passage. And so I embarked on the ship.

"Now, Father, believe me, I am very amazed, that the sea tolerated my wantonness and fornication, that the earth did not open up its mouth and take me down alive into hell, because I had ensnared so many souls. I think that God was seeking my repentance. He did not desire the death of a sinner, but awaited my conversion.

"So I arrived in Jerusalem and spent all the days before the Feast living the same sort of life, and maybe even worse. "When the holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Venerable Cross of the Lord arrived, I went about as before, looking for young men. At daybreak I saw that everyone was heading to the church, so I went along with the rest. When the hour of the Holy Elevation drew nigh, I was trying to enter into the church with all the people. With great effort I came almost to the doors, and attempted to squeeze inside. Although I stepped up to the threshold, it was as though some force held me back, preventing me from entering. I was brushed aside by the crowd, and found myself standing alone on the porch. I thought that perhaps this happened because of my womanly weakness. I worked my way into the crowd, and again I attempted to elbow people aside. However hard I tried, I could not enter. Just as my feet touched the church threshold, I was stopped. Others entered the church without difficulty, while I alone was not allowed in. This happened three or four times. Finally my strength was exhausted. I went off and stood in a corner of the church portico.

"Then I realized that it was my sins that prevented me from seeing the Life-Creating Wood. The grace of the Lord then touched my heart. I wept and lamented, and I began to beat my breast. Sighing from the depths of my heart, I saw above me an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos. Turning to Her, I prayed: "O Lady Virgin, who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word! I know that I am unworthy to look upon your icon. I rightly inspire hatred and disgust before your purity, but I know also that God became Man in order to call sinners to repentance. Help me, O All-Pure One. Let me enter the church. Allow me to behold the Wood upon which the Lord was crucified in the flesh, shedding His Blood for the redemption of sinners, and also for me. Be my witness before Your Son that I will never defile my body again with the impurity of fornication. As soon as I have seen the Cross of your Son, I will renounce the world, and go wherever you lead me."

"After I had spoken, I felt confidence in the compassion of the Mother of God, and left the spot where I had been praying. I joined those entering the church, and no one pushed me back or prevented me from entering. I went on in fear and trembling, and entered the holy place.

"Thus I also saw the Mysteries of God, and how God accepts the penitent. I fell to the holy ground and kissed it. Then I hastened again to stand before the icon of the Mother of God, where I had given my vow. Bending my knees before the Virgin Theotokos, I prayed:

"O Lady, you have not rejected my prayer as unworthy. Glory be to God, Who accepts the repentance of sinners. It is time for me to fulfill my vow, which you witnessed. Therefore, O Lady, guide me on the path of repentance."

"Then I heard a voice from on high: 'If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest.' "I immediately believed that this voice was meant for me, and I cried out to the Mother of God: 'O Lady, do not forsake me!'"

"Then I left the church portico and started on my journey. A certain man gave me three coins as I was leaving the church. With them I bought three loaves of bread, and asked the bread merchant the way to the Jordan.

"It was nine o'clock when I saw the Cross. At sunset I reached the church of St John the Baptist on the banks of the Jordan. After praying in the church, I went down to the Jordan and washed my face and hands in its water. Then in this same temple of St John the Forerunner I received the Life-Creating Mysteries of Christ. Then I ate half of one of my loaves of bread, drank water from the holy Jordan, and slept there that night on the ground. In the morning I found a small boat and crossed the river to the opposite shore. Again I prayed that the Mother of God would lead me where She wished. Then I found myself in this desert."

Abba Zosimas asked her, "How many years have passed since you began to live in the desert?" "I think," she replied, "it is forty-seven years since I came from the Holy City." Abba Zosimas again asked, "What food do you find here, Mother?" And she said, "I had with me two and a half loaves of bread when I crossed the Jordan. Soon they dried out and hardened. Eating a little at a time, I finished them after a few years." Again Abba Zosimas asked, "Is it possible you have survived for so many years without sickness, and without suffering in any way from such a complete change?"

"Believe me, Abba Zosimas," the woman said, "I spent seventeen years in this wilderness (after she had spent seventeen years in immorality), fighting wild beasts: mad desires and passions. When I began to eat bread, I thought of the meat and fish which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also missed the wine that I loved so much when I was in the world, while here I did not even have water. I suffered from thirst and hunger. I also had a mad desire for lewd songs. I seemed to hear them, disturbing my heart and my hearing. Weeping and striking myself on the breast, I remembered the vow I had made. At last I beheld a radiant Light shining on me from everywhere. After a violent tempest, a lasting calm ensued.

"Abba, how shall I tell you of the thoughts that urged me on to fornication? A fire seemed to burn within me, awakening in me the desire for embraces. Then I would throw myself to the ground and water it with my tears. I seemed to see the Most Holy Virgin before me, and She seemed to threaten me for not keeping my vow. I lay face downward day and night upon the ground, and would not get up until that blessed Light encircled me, dispelling the evil thoughts that troubled me. "Thus I lived in this wilderness for the first seventeen years. Darkness after darkness, misery after misery stood about me, a sinner. But from that time until now the Mother of God helps me in everything."

Abba Zosimas again inquired, "How is it that you require neither food, nor clothing?" She answered, "After finishing my bread, I lived on herbs and the things one finds in the desert. The clothes I had when I crossed over the Jordan became torn and fell apart. I suffered both from the summer heat, when the blazing heat fell upon me, and from the winter cold, when I shivered from the frost. Many times I fell down upon the earth, as though dead. I struggled with various afflictions and temptations. But from that time until the present day, the power of God has guarded my sinful soul and humble body. I was fed and clothed by the all-powerful word of God, since man does not live by bread alone, but by

every word proceeding from the mouth of God (Dt 8:3, Mt.4:4, Luke 4:4), and those who have put off the old man (Col 3:9) have no refuge, hiding themselves in the clefts of the rocks (Job 24:8, Heb 11:38). When I remember from what evil and from what sins the Lord delivered me, I have imperishable food for salvation."



When Abba Zosimas heard that the holy ascetic quoted the Holy Scripture from memory, from the Books of Moses and Job and from the Psalms of David, he then asked the woman, "Mother, have you read the Psalms and other books?"

She smiled at hearing this question, and answered, "Believe me, I have seen no human face but yours from the time that I crossed over the Jordan. I never learned from books. I have never heard anyone read or sing from them. Perhaps the Word of God, which is alive and acting, teaches man knowledge by itself (Col 3:16, 1 Thess 2:13). This is the end of my story. As I asked when I began, I beg you for the sake of the Incarnate Word of God, holy Abba, pray for me, a sinner.

"Furthermore, I beg you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, tell no one what you have heard from me, until God takes me from this earth. Next year, during Great Lent, do not cross the Jordan, as is the custom of your monastery."

Again Abba Zosimas was amazed, that the practice of his monastery was known to the holy woman ascetic, although he had not said anything to her about this.

"Remain at the monastery," the woman continued. "Even if you try to leave the monastery, you will not be able to do so. On Great and Holy Thursday, the day of the Lord's Last Supper, place the Life-Creating Body and Blood of Christ our God in a holy vessel, and bring it to me. Await me on this side of the Jordan, at the edge of the desert, so that I may receive the Holy Mysteries. And say to Abba John, the igumen of your community, 'Look to yourself and your brothers (1 Tim 4:16), for there is much that needs correction. Do not say this to him now, but when the Lord shall indicate.'" Asking for his prayers, the woman turned and vanished into the depths of the desert.

For a whole year Elder Zosimas remained silent, not daring to reveal to anyone what he had seen, and he prayed that the Lord would grant him to see the holy ascetic once more.

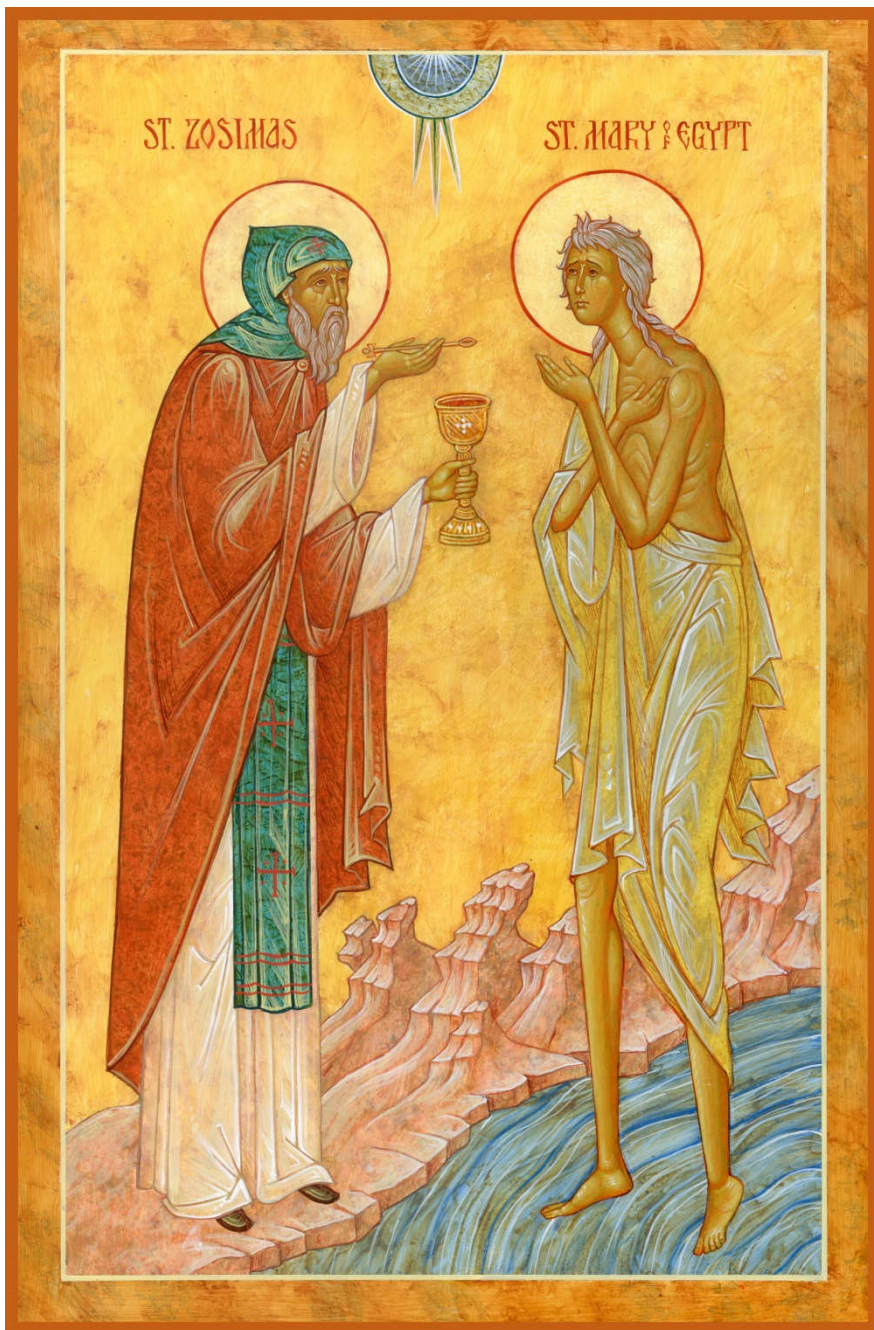
When the first week of Great Lent came again, St Zosimas was obliged to remain at the monastery because of sickness. Then he remembered the woman's prophetic words that he would not be able to leave the monastery. After several days went by, St Zosimas was healed of his infirmity, but he remained at the monastery until Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday, Abba Zosimas did what he had been ordered to do. He placed some of the Body and Blood of Christ into a chalice, and some food in a small basket. Then he left the monastery and went to the Jordan and waited for the ascetic. The saint seemed tardy, and Abba Zosimas prayed that God would permit him to see the holy woman.

Finally, he saw her standing on the far side of the river. Rejoicing, St Zosimas got up and glorified God. Then he wondered how she could cross the Jordan without a boat. She made the Sign of the Cross over the water, then she walked on the water and crossed the Jordan. Abba Zosimas saw her in the moonlight, walking toward him. When the Elder wanted to make prostration before her, she forbade him, crying out, "What are you doing, Abba? You are a priest and you carry the Holy Mysteries of God."

Reaching the shore, she said to Abba Zosimas, "Bless me, Father." He answered her with trembling, astonished at what he had seen. "Truly God did not lie when he promised that those who purify themselves will be like Him. Glory to You, O Christ our God, for showing me through your holy servant, how far I am from perfection."

The woman asked him to recite both the Creed and the "Our Father." When the prayers were finished, she partook of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. Then she raised her hands to the heavens and said, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen Your salvation."



The saint turned to the Elder and said, "Please, Abba, fulfill another request. Go now to your monastery, and in a year's time come to the place where we first time spoke." He said, "If only it were possible for me to follow you and always see your holy face!" She replied, "For the Lord's sake, pray for me and remember my wretchedness."

Again she made the Sign of the Cross over the Jordan, and walked over the water as before, and disappeared into the desert. Zosimas returned to the monastery with joy and terror, reproaching himself because he had not asked the saint's name. He hoped to do so the following year.

A year passed, and Abba Zosimas went into the desert. He reached the place where he first saw the holy woman ascetic. She lay dead, with arms folded on her bosom, and her face was turned to the east. Abba Zosimas washed her feet with his tears and kissed them, not daring to touch anything else. For a long while he wept over her and sang the customary Psalms, and said the funeral prayers. He began to wonder whether the saint would want him to bury her or not. Hardly had he thought this, when he saw something written on the ground near her head: "Abba Zosimas bury on this spot the body of humble Mary. Return to dust what is dust. Pray to the Lord for me. I reposed on the first day of April, on the very night of the saving Passion of Christ, after partaking of the Mystical Supper."

Reading this note, Abba Zosimas was glad to learn her name. He then realized that St Mary, after receiving the Holy Mysteries from his hand, was transported instantaneously to the place where she died, though it had taken him twenty days to travel that distance.

Glorifying God, Abba Zosimas said to himself, "It is time to do what she asks. But how can I dig a grave, with nothing in my hands?" Then he saw a small piece of wood left by some traveler. He picked it up and began to dig. The ground was hard and dry, and he could not dig it. Looking up, Abba Zosimas saw an enormous lion standing by the saint's body and licking her feet. Fear gripped the Elder, but he guarded himself with the Sign of the Cross, believing that he would remain unharmed through the prayers of the holy woman ascetic. Then the lion came close to the Elder, showing its friendliness with every movement. Abba Zosimas commanded the lion to dig the grave, in order to bury St Mary's body. At his words, the lion dug a hole deep enough to bury the body. Then each went his own way. The lion went into the desert, and Abba Zosimas returned to the monastery, blessing and praising Christ our God.

Arriving at the monastery, Abba Zosimas related to the monks and the igumen, what he had seen and heard from St Mary. All were astonished, hearing about the miracles of God. They always remembered St Mary with faith and love on the day of her repose.

Abba John, the igumen of the monastery, heeded the words of St Mary, and with the help of God corrected the things that were wrong at the monastery. Abba Zosimas lived a God-pleasing life at the monastery, reaching nearly a hundred years of age. There he finished his temporal life, and passed into life eternal.

The monks passed on the life of St Mary of Egypt by word of mouth without writing it down. "I however," says St Sophronius of Jerusalem (March 11), "wrote down the Life of St Mary of Egypt as I heard it from the holy Fathers. I have recorded everything, putting the truth above all else." "May God, Who works great miracles and bestows gifts on all who turn to Him in faith, reward those who hear or read this account, and those who copy it. May he grant them a blessed portion together with St Mary of Egypt and with all the saints who have pleased God by their pious thoughts and works. Let us give glory to God, the Eternal King, that we may find mercy on the Day of Judgment through our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor, majesty and worship together with the Unoriginate Father, and the Most Holy and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen."



O Lord, God Almighty, Who had ordered, by Thy servant Moses, the vestments of the high priest, priestly and Levitical, and those various decorations in comeliness and beauty of the temple and Your sanctuary; mercifully hear now our entreaty...

(taken from the service to bless vestments)

Our parish will be purchasing new vestments for those who serve and will serve in the altar. The current vestments that the altar servers wear are about 50 years old. While they were taken care of very well, it is time to update them and plan for future generations. We will be purchasing different colors, White for the 40 days after Pascha and Christmas through the leave-taking of Theophany, Purple for the 50 days of Great Lent, and Gold for every other day of the year. The purchase of altar server vestments will include the purchasing of priest and deacon vestments. While some church organizations have come forward to help cover the cost of the vestments there is still an opportunity to donate to the purchasing of vestments. In each color we will be purchasing four adult size vestments at \$105 per vestment, six child size vestments (that we will order longer than we need, hem, and let out the hem as the boys grow) at \$85 per vestment, Deacon vestments at \$218 per set, Priest vestments at \$273 per set, and matching chalice covers at \$63 per set. If you're interested in contributing to the general purchase or would like to make a specific donation to cover certain vestments please contact John Stasko 412-304-1841 or jmstasko@gmail.com. If you're curious about the project, (why we chose these colors, where the vestments are being made, etc.) please reach out to Fr. John



Calendar of Events

June 12 – 15	St Nicholas Special Needs Family Camp
June 21-July 13	Diocesan Church School Camp
July 5-18	Teenage Conference
July 22-26	23 rd Annual UOL Convention
July 27-31	Mommy & Me /Daddy & Me Camp

Parish Weekly Schedule

Monday

Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble & School

Rehearsals begin every Monday at 6:00 pm. Classes for all ages.

For more info call Director Natalie Kapeluck or just stop down any Monday.

Thursday Morning

Senior Coffee Hour

You're invited to our FREE coffee and donuts, and sometime pancakes, French toast or waffles every Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:30 . . .or whenever it's over. At the parish hall. YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING!!! However, bring a Friend!!! Need A Ride, Call: Steve Sivulich, (Hall Phone: 412-276-9718) SPONSORED BY:

Sts. Peter & Paul Kitchen Workers

3rd Sunday of the Month

St John & Martin's Closet

Clothing for men, women and children. Bedding & towels

Trade something old for something new, leave a donation. or just take what you need.

Donations of clean, gently used or new clothing/bedding accepted when the closet door is open. all 276-9718 to schedule a donation.

Parish Website/Social Media

To Submit items for publication on website & social media:

>email information/items to orthodoxcarnegie@gmail.com

>if you have a flyer (not required) submit in picture format if possible

>allow 24 to 48 hours for request to be completed.

If needed sooner, please indicate and text Chris Mills at 412-716-0562.

>an email can be submitted from Parish Website | Contact Page ; using the technology email form

Find & follow us on:



BULLETIN SPONSOR DATES

April 5 _____
April 12 _____
April 19 _____
April 26 _____

May 3 _____
May 10 _____
May 17 _____
May 24 _____
May 31 _____

BULLETIN SPONSOR FORM

Sponsor _____
In Honor of _____
In Memory of _____
Date of Bulletin you wish to sponsor _____
Donation (\$20. minimum suggested) _____
(Please make checks payable to "Sr. UOL Chapter") _____



SS. Peter & Paul
Ukrainian Orthodox Church
PO Box 835
Carnegie, PA 15106

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED