

5 2nd Street
Herminie, PA 15637
<http://pokrov.iksnazul.com/>

Cantor
Joseph Luzanski

Liturgical Schedule

Divine Liturgy

Sunday: 8:30 am
Holyday: 9:00 am

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or by
appointment

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Tone 1

Mary of Egypt

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. His chief ministry to mankind was his appearing to the Theotokos to tell her that she was chosen Mother of the Messias. St. Gabriel was the Angel sent to Zachary also, to announce the conception of St. John the Baptist. (Confer July 13.)

Served By

Father Vasyl Yakubych
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HAMBINGO

Saint Stephen's Church will again be holding
our famous Ham Bingo today at .

1:00pm to 4:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

As early as the middle of the 6th century in the East, and the 7th century in Rome, there is evidence of this Feast celebrated on 25 March. Since this feast is connected with the Lord Jesus and to His entry into history, the revised liturgical calendar gave this feast the title of the "Annunciation of the Lord", over the more popular Annunciation of Mary. The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a Christmas feast even though it is not celebrated during the Christmas Season. Nine months before we celebrate the Lord's birth, we celebrate His incarnation in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Annunciation is the Feast celebrating the Lord's incarnation in Mary's womb, initiating a new history. It is interesting to notice that God does not send the angel to

FASTS & FEASTS

March

March 26 Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast
(St. Mary of Egypt), Synaxis of the Archangel
Gabriel

March 31 End of the Holy Forty Day's Fast (at
sunset or after Vespers or Presanctified on Fri-
day)

April 1-8 Great and Holy Week

April 1 Lazarus Saturday

April 2 Palm (Flowery) Sunday - Entrance
into Jerusalem

April 3 Great and Holy Monday

April 4 Great and Holy Tuesday

April 5 Great and Holy Wednesday

April 6 Great and Holy Thursday

April 7 Great and Holy Friday

April 8 Great and Holy Saturday

April 9 Pascha - Feast of the Resurrection
of Christ (Easter Sunday) April 9-15 Bright

Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday @ 9 am

PROTECTION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY (Pokrov)

March 26 2023

the Temple in Jerusalem, but to Galilee, a despised region, considered a haven for unbelieving pagans. Nazareth is a city that is never mentioned in the Old Testament.

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Fifth Sunday of Lent: Mary of Egypt

The dramatic story attributed to St. Zosimus about her life and conversion is one of the most famous in Christian literature, and has been so enormously popular among Eastern Christians that the last Sunday of Lent is given over to her commemoration, both as an example and a warning. Her life is also read as the conclusion to the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.

She was born around 344 AD in Alexandria, where she became a rich and beautiful courtesan. She chose to lead a selfish life of sin. Once on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, she was so wicked that she tried to seduce the men of the party! She had noticed throngs of pilgrims entering the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Curious to join them, Mary

tried to enter the Church, but was prevented by some mysterious force. Mary began to wonder if her sinful life was the cause for preventing her entrance into the Church. At that moment, she became aware of the Icon of the Mother of God above the entrance of the Church. Filled with compunction of heart, she cried for her many sins.

Mary sought a life of repentance for her wicked past by entering the desert. This we know was a time when thousands went out into the deserts of the eastern Roman empire, living in hermitages or establishing monasteries. There she lived as a hermit for nearly fifty years, willfully depriving herself of all comforts of life and exposing her beauty to the harshness of the sun. In her later years a lion accompanied her, a sign that she had achieved great inner holiness recognized by wild animals. While in the desert one day, she met Saint Zosimus. According to the custom of Palestinian monks, this priest monk had gone out into the wilderness in the first days of Holy Week to meditate on the Passion of Christ. She asked him to bring the Holy Eucharist to her on Holy Thursday. Joy and peace overcame her upon the reception of the Eucharist and she prayed the Prayer of St. Simeon: "Now you may dismiss your servant in peace, O Lord. For my eyes have seen your salvation." She related her life to the priest, and then arranged with Zosimus to meet again in a year so she could confess and receive Communion again (frequent Communion was not common among these desert dwellers). When he returned to the site in 421, she was not there, and he finally came upon her body. As happened with some other desert saints, the lion was near her body, and he helped Zosimus to bury her body, and then the lion lay down and mourned for her.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR TO ST. MARY'S, WE WANT YOU TO
KNOW HOW

WELCOME YOU ARE, WHETHER YOU HAVE COME FROM
ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY, FROM ACROSS THE WORLD,
OR SIMPLY FROM ANOTHER PARISH. WE HOPE YOU FIND OUR
WORSHIP TRUE AND REVERENT AND OUR PEOPLE HERE
FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL. IF YOU ARE SEEKING A SPIRITUAL
HOME, WE WOULD BE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE IN OUR
FAMILY.