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Fifth Sunday of The Great Fast

(St. Mary of Egypt)

Tone 8

Menologion

Mary of Egypt was born somewhere in the Roman Province of Egypt, and at the age of twelve ran away from her parents to the city of Alexandria. There, she lived an extremely dissolute life.

Propers

Pages: 223-224

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated today.

Liturgical Schedule

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

Confessions

One half hour before
the divine liturgy or by
appointment

The Divine Liturgy intention is for the parish family

If you would like to schedule a Litrgy please talk to Father Vasyl or use the sign up sheet in the vestible.

Confession is available on Sundays prior to Divine Liturgy and throughout the week by appointment.

St. John Climacus' guide to spiritual combat by Philip Kosloski - Article from Aleteia In the 6th century, St. John Climacus was a highly regarded monk in the East, whose spiritual teaching would influence the entire Catholic Church for centuries after his death. In particular, his Ladder of Divine Ascent would become an influential book, detailing the many steps of spiritual combat.

Pope Benedict XVI offered a succinct summary of his life and teachings during a general audience in 2009. Among other highlights of John Climacus' life, Benedict explains how spiritual combat is explained in both positive and negative terms. "The struggle against the passions ... is steeped in the positive; it does not remain as something negative thanks to the image of the "fire" of the Holy Spirit: that "all those who enter upon the good fight (cf. 1 Tm 6: 12), which is hard and narrow ... may realize that they must leap into the fire, if they really expect the celestial fire to dwell

ALL SOULS SATURDAYS will take place in February, March, and June. Please submit the First Names of your deceased on the envelope.

Fasts & Feasts

March

Sun 22 Fifth sunday of the Great Fast (our (St. Mary of Egypt))

Wed 25 The Annunciation Of The Theotokos And Ever-Virgin Mary.
9 am

Thu Apr 2 April Holy Thursday Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil

Fri Apr 3 Good Friday Vespers

Sat Apr Resurrection Matins Blessing of Baskets

Sun Apr 5 Resurrection of Our Lord

Pascha

9:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Baskets.

St. Mary of Egypt is commemorated in the Eastern Church, particularly during the Great Lent. Her life story is a powerful example of repentance and transformation.

Key Dates

Feast Day: April 1st, the day of her repose. Commemoration: Fifth Sunday of Great Lent.

Life Summary

Early Life: Born in Egypt, she left home at age 12 and lived in Alexandria for 17 years, engaging in a life of debauchery.

Turning Point: Attempted to enter the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem but was blocked due to her sinful life. This led her to seek repentance.

Desert Life: After a profound moment of realization, she crossed the Jordan River and lived in the desert for 47 years, dedicating her life to God.

Important Themes

Repentance: St. Mary's story emphasizes the power of repentance and the possibility of redemption.

Spiritual Journey: Her encounter with Father Zosimas highlights the importance of spiritual guidance and community.

Sunday of St Mary of Egypt (29 March 2026): a former prostitute who spent forty-seven years in the desert in repentance and prayer and attained profound holiness. This Sunday proclaims that no sin is so great that repentance cannot overcome it.

in them" (1,18; 636). The fire of the Holy Spirit is the fire of love and truth. The power of the Holy Spirit alone guarantees victory."

Benedict continues by explaining how, "according to John Climacus it is important to be aware that the passions are not evil in themselves; they become so through human freedom's wrong use of them. If they are purified, the passions reveal to man the path towards God with energy unified by asceticism and grace and, 'if they have received from the Creator an order and a beginning ... the limit of virtue is boundless.'" This explanation of spiritual combat is similar to what others have said over the years, reflecting on the roots of the word for "sin" in Greek, which means "to miss the mark." Our passions are sinful when they "miss the mark" and are disordered. As a result, spiritual combat is chiefly the reordering of our passions, directing their energy toward God. St. John Climacus explains how spiritual combat will begin with the negative side. Those who enter this contest must renounce all things, despise all things, deride all things, and shake off all things, that they may lay a firm foundation. After we have renounced our sinful ways, being purified by the fire of the Holy Spirit, then we can start adding virtues, and reorienting our love to God. Pope Benedict XVI explains this next step of the "ladder."

The power of human love can be reoriented to God, just as a cultivated olive may be grafted on to a wild olive tree (cf. Rm 11: 24) (cf. 15, 66; 893). John is convinced that an intense experience of this eros will help the soul to advance far more than the harsh struggle against the passions, because of its great power. Thus, in our journey, the positive aspect prevails. St. John Climacus provides for us a powerful guide to spiritual combat, showing us how we are to renounce our sinful ways, but then we must let our hearts be directed toward God, letting the fire of his love remain in us.

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