



St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

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Week of April 6, 2025

Sunday, April 6

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. **Tone 8.** Saint Mary of Egypt.

- 8:30am** - ****Proskomede ****
- 9:30am** - **Divine Liturgy**
- 11:30am** - **Agape meal (coffee hour)**

- 6:00pm** - **Lenten Vespers**

This Sunday's Hymns and Readings

Tone 8 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 8 **Troparion** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Tone 8 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Tone 3 **Kontakion** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

Tone 8 **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!
In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon** *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

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

Epistles

Hebrews 9:11-14 & Galatians 3:23-29 *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

Tones 8 & 1 Alleluias

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior! Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication.

Gospels Mark 10:32-45 & Luke 7:36-50 *(St. Mary of Egypt)*

This Week's Schedule

Monday, April 7. Repose of St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of America.

Tuesday, April 8. Apostle Herodion of the Seventy, and those with him. Saint Celestine, Pope of Rome.

- **9:30am - 11:30am Fr Silouan's office hours**

Wednesday, April 9. Martyr Euphrosyne of Caesarea, in Cappadocia. New Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene of Lesbos.

- **6:00pm - 9th hour, Typica, & Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

Thursday, April 10. Martyr Terence and those with him at Carthage.

- **9:30am - 11:30am Fr Silouan's office hours**

Friday, April 11. Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum and Disciple of Saint John the Theologian

- **6:00 pm - Great Vespers**
- **Last day for Confessions until April 29.**

Saturday, April 12. The Raising of Lazarus (Lazarus Saturday)

- **8:30am - Matins**
- **9:30am - Divine Liturgy**
- **5:00pm - Great Vespers**

Announcements

Proskomede

This Sunday, April 6, in place of Sunday Matins I will perform the Proskomede service (the service of preparation of the bread and wine) at 8:30am in the middle of the nave. It will be a wonderful opportunity to come and hear the prayers of preparation, what those prayers mean, and how it ties in to the Divine Liturgy to follow.

Confession (Please Read)

April 11 is the last day for ecclesial confession until April 29.

Lazarus Saturday and Pancake breakfast

Saturday April 12, we will pray the Matins and Divine Liturgy, starting at 8:30am and 9:30am respectively. Following the Divine Liturgy we will have brunch: pancakes and hashbrowns.

Holy Week Schedule

Fr Silouan emailed the schedule for Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, and all Holy Week. The schedule contains important notes in bold for your consideration. Please take the time to read it over. If you have any questions, please see Fr Silouan.

A Word from the Fathers

“...man’s love has its origin in God. God’s love always comes first. Men are to love God and one another because God Himself has loved first.

God’s love is shown in the creation and salvation of the world in Christ and the Holy Spirit. All things were made by, in and for Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the “Son of His love” (Col 1.13–17; Jn 1.1–3; Heb 1.2).

When the world became sinful and dead, “God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son . . . not to condemn the world, but to save the world” (Jn 3.16, 12.47).

But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us (Rom 5.8). But when the goodness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that we might be made righteous by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life (Titus 3.4–7).

God’s love for man and His world in Christ is given in the Holy Spirit. This love is the first and greatest “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5.22), “for God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us” (Rom 5.5).

In the spiritual tradition of the Church, the aim of life as the “acquisition of the Holy Spirit” is expressed most perfectly in love (cf. Saint Macarius of Egypt, 4th c., *Spiritual Homilies*; Saint Seraphim of Sarov, 19th c., *Conversation with N. Molovilov*). Indeed, the Holy Spirit Himself is identified with God’s love by the saints, as witnessed in the writings of St Simeon the New Theologian.

O Holy Love [i.e., the Holy Spirit of God], he who knows you not has never tasted the sweetness of your mercies which only living

experience can give us. But he who has known you, or who has been known by you, can never have even the smallest doubt. For you are the fulfillment of the law, you who fills, burns, inflames, embraces my heart with a measureless love. You are the teacher of the prophets, the offspring of the apostles, the strength of the martyrs, the inspiration of the fathers and masters, the perfecting of all the saints. Only you, O Love, prepare even me for the true service of God (Saint Simeon the New Theologian, 11th c, Homily 53).

Thus God who is Love enters into union with man through the Son of His love by the Spirit of love. To live in this divine love is the spiritual life.”

--Fr Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith*, Vol IV, Spirituality.