

A Brief Account of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the [veneration](#) of the Holy [Cross](#). Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an [icon](#) of the [Theotokos](#). She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt [conversion](#) at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an [ascetic](#). She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the [priest](#) St. [Zosima](#) in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great [humility](#) while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the [Holy Mysteries](#). Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his [monastery](#) and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the [monks](#) and [abbot](#) there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. [Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem](#) (cf. "External links").

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



April 17, 2016

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

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Commemoration of: Symeon the Holy Martyr and Bishop Persia;
Makarios, Bishop of Corinth

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Ton sinanarhon Logon (Hymn of the Day) Tone 5

En si mitir akrivos (St. Mary of Egypt) Tone 8

In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

Tu Stavru Su (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion

Prostasia ton Hristianon Tone 2

Champion of Christians not put to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten your intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, O Theotokos, those who honor you.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 9:11-14

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.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was 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?" And 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 of 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 your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of 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."

Today

✠ SUN, 4/17– *St. Mary of Egypt; Holy Theotokos of Iveron Icon with us*

This Week

✠ TUE, 4/19– *Moms and the Orthodox Family*– 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

✠ WED, 4/20 - *Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*- 6 PM

✠ SAT, 4/23 - *Saturday of Lazarus– Orthros & Divine Liturgy* 8:30/9:30 AM;
Palm Folding & Detail Cleaning and Preparation of the Church for Palm Sunday and Holy Week following services.

✠ SUN, 4/24– *Palm Sunday; Bridegroom Service*– 6:30 PM

Announcements

Baptism & Chrismation– We are very happy to announce the Baptism of Insuk Kelley and the Chrismation of Paul Kelley on Holy Saturday, April 30th. Following the Vesper/Liturgy of St. Basil, their entrance into the Holy Orthodox Faith begins that coming morning. The approximate time of the Baptism and Chrismation will be at about 11 a.m. that day.

Holy Week Schedule– Copies are available in the narthex, and you can visit our website at www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org for more information.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.