

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Lurie Children Easter Bag Project. With your help, we were able to make 100 bags filled with crayons, paints, play dough, notepads, card games and much more. It will definitely be a brighter time for these children! God Bless!

Spiritual Book Club –We'll discuss chapters 9 and 10 from The Mountain of Silence. If you'd like more information, please reach out to Pres. Nicole at nicole.hillas3@gmail.com

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS RETREAT: On Saturday April 20th after Liturgy, we will be hosting our annual Saturday of Lazarus Retreat. We'll start with lunch, learn about Holy Week and do some creative activities related to Pascha. This event is primarily targeted to JOY but we welcome Hope (pre K- 5) and Goyans as well. Please join us! RSVP to cynthiapearl@msn.com so we can plan accordingly for lunch, crafts, and games. Parents can stay and fold palm crosses, but we would appreciate 1-2 volunteers (parents or Goyans) to assist with the retreat as well.

Sunday, April 21st - Palm Sunday Luncheon - Bring your entire family and join fellow parishioners for a traditional fish, skordalia and pasta. For reservation call: (773) 334 4515

Reservation by April 16th Adults \$12.00 Children 4-12 \$6.00

Reservation after April 17th Adults \$20.00 Children 4-12 \$10.00 **Children 0 - 3 Free**

SENIOR CIRCLE will meet on Monday May 6th at noon at Psistaria restaurant.

Don't forget to bring an egg with you. We will have some surprises. Reservation a must. Mrs. Alexopoulos (847) 998 5232



Wednesday, April 17 - Dinner, Speakers, and General Meeting. Topic: Caring for our aging parents, friends, ourselves. After Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (7:30pm) - Please make plans to join us for a light lenten dinner and presentation from professionals who will share information about programs available that help us care for the elderly. Then, please stay for a short meeting as we discuss the Good Friday Outreach, personal hygiene drive, and other business. Our meetings are productive. There is a lot going on within our Philoptochos chapter. We need you there so that we can hear your input!

Thursday, April 18 - Red Egg Volunteers Needed! 10am, in the Kitchen

This year we are dyeing eggs prior to Palm Sunday as a fundraiser to sell red eggs at the Palm Sunday Luncheon. Please join us in dyeing red eggs and wrapping them in tulle on Thursday, April 18th at 10:00 am. You are welcome to bring two dozen personal eggs for your home and a Lenten dish to share. Contact Diane White at 773-837-7403 or nikonmama@aol.com. Happy Pascha!

Sunday, April 21 - Bake Sale - In the foyer

Please support this year's bake sale. Koulourakia, Moustokouloura, Melamokarona - \$9 per dozen. Baklava, Galaktoboureko - \$12 for 8 pieces. Tsoureki - \$10 a loaf. Red Dyed Easter Eggs - \$6 per dozen. Orders can be sent to Anastasia at anastasia_chg@yahoo.com or by stopping by our table this Sunday after Liturgy. All items will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday, or during Holy Week.

Friday, April 26 - Good Friday Outreach Meal Packaging event 9am-1pm

This year, on Good Friday, we will, again, come together as a parish and prepare 10,000 packaged meals. These meals will be going to local food pantries. We will need a minimum of 50 volunteers (kids and adults welcome) and \$3,000 to accomplish this goal. This type of outreach cannot be accomplished with just some... we will need everyone's participation. You can help by donating your time and/or with a monetary donation. Come help with this outreach opportunity. Click on the following link to sign up: <https://signup.com/go/EFJMHam>. Various shifts, jobs, and times available. Come join our St. Andrew family on this holy day, plan on staying for a light Lenten lunch, and then the 3pm service.

Saturday, May 4 - Soup Kitchen 11:15am - 1pm. First Presbyterian Church of Evanston

Will you be available to help on this first Saturday of May? If yes, please email Timi at timpapa417@yahoo.com.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church

"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"

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E-mail: info@standreworthodox.org

Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos

Fr. Athanasios Minetos - Associate Priest

Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory



SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE – *The Best Word That Describes A Good Steward Of God's House Is Effort! Remember The Words Of Charles M Schultz; " No One Need Ever Be Ashamed Of Fingernails Made Dirty By A Hard Days Work, " Effort Is The Word That Leads To Success Of God's Steward.*

MEMORIAL

Presbytera Angie Kutulas - 1 year

Antonios Maris- 2 years

TRISAGION

Eleftherios Mantis

May Their Memory Be Eternal!!!

Artoclasia in memory of Roumen's mother Nadejda Bon

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• **FOR NON-ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS:** We welcome those Christians not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. We do however invite you to receive the blessed bread that is given out to all at the end of service. Thank you for coming and worshiping with us.
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The Sunday Of St. Mary Of Egypt

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the coming week Great Lent will be over. Next Saturday is Lazarus Saturday, which is followed by Palm Sunday, the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, and then by Passion Week. However, today we commemorate another entry into Jerusalem, not the Entry into Jerusalem of our Lord, but the entry into Jerusalem of Mary of Egypt. Who was she and what is her significance today?

Born in Alexandria in Egypt in the middle of the fifth century, as a young girl Mary fell into the vice of prostitution. For seventeen years, from the age of 12 until the age of 29, she lived the life of a harlot. However, once finding herself in Jerusalem, out of curiosity, she went to see the Precious Cross of Christ. She found that she was unable to enter the church where St Helen had placed the Cross, for some invisible force prevented her from entering in. So frightened was she at this that she asked the Mother of God through an icon at the entrance to the church, why this was. The Mother of God replied to her that Mary first needed to repent and obey her. Only after promising to do this was Mary allowed to enter the church in Jerusalem. After then entering and venerating the Cross, Mary heard the Mother of God telling her: 'If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace'.

So shaken was Mary by these events that she did indeed forsake all her old life and, having taken communion, she crossed the Jordan, and went to live there in the desert. We do not know the exact details of her day-to-day life, but we do know that she dwelt there as a hermitess, eating plants, living in torments and struggle with passionate thoughts, and eventually obtaining the grace to work miracles, crossing the Jordan as if on dry land. She lived naked and became withered and emaciated, as we can see in the icon of her, but nevertheless she survived there for some forty-eight years. Then she was discovered by a pious monk, Zosimas, who is portrayed in the icon together with her. It was to him that she related her life which we have today.

The Life of St Mary teaches us many things. Perhaps the first and most obvious lesson we can learn from her is that we should never judge, never pre-judge. Who will be saved? It is impossible to answer this question, for it is never too late to repent, even for us. Humanly speaking, when we consider the life of Mary until her twenty-ninth year, we might think that salvation had become impossible for her. And yet the service to her calls her 'the greatest of saints'. Humanly speaking, we are condemned; but by the grace of God everything, including the

height of repentance, is possible. No man has the right to judge another.

The Life of St Mary of Egypt also teaches us something about human nature. In each of us there is the desire for worldly pleasures, for amusement and entertainment, for food and drink, for the pleasures of the senses. But there is also the desire for pleasures of a higher sort, pleasures that are lasting, which we may call joys. Those joys are so much higher than the fleeting pleasures of the senses that they alone constitute the path to lasting happiness. Societies which are devoted only to the satisfaction of the pleasures of the senses, pleasure-seeking societies, are societies without lasting joys, they are full of sad faces.

The Life of St Mary teaches us that the values of the Church are quite different from those of the world. She went out into the desert and had nothing, no friends, no home, no possessions, no clothes and hardly any food and drink. The world looked for pleasure, the satisfaction of the senses, money and power, but St Mary was moneyless and powerless in the world. Today's Gospel confirms the choice of St Mary, for it says that those who wish to be great must be servants. This is upside down from all the ways of this world. But our Lord preached this and like Him St Mary lived this.

Indeed, as we have already said, the Church calls St Mary 'the greatest of saints'. The use of this word 'great' may surprise. In everyday life, we use 'great' in other meanings. The world speaks of 'great politicians', 'great soldiers', great film-stars', 'great performances by sportsmen', 'a great holiday', 'a great car', 'a great amount of money'. But the Church calls St Mary 'great' and a thousand and a half years after she lived we ask for her prayers, but not for those of any politician or soldier or film-star or sportsman. Let us think more carefully before next we utter this word 'great'.

And as this last week of Great Lent begins, let us also ponder on the words of the Mother of God, which led Mary to her salvation through repentance and her greatness: 'If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace'. These mysterious words are today also addressed to each of us; the interpretation of their mystery is open to the souls of each of us, but only if we ask the Mother of God and St Mary to guide us. And then we shall find our own 'entry into Jerusalem'.

Holy Mother Mary, pray to God for us!
Amen.

Taken from the writings of the Orthodox Church of England

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 took his twelve disciples, and 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."

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday, April 17th

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 19th

Decorate inside of Church with Palms 6:00 p.m.

You may have noticed a lot of construction going on at St. Andrew recently and may have heard what it's related to. We are proud to announce that we've entered a 5 year agreement with Sacred Heart Schools (SHS) whereas they will be renting the classrooms on the 2nd floor of our facility. SHS will be starting a pre-Kindergarten and a junior Kindergarten program for 5 days a week beginning September 2019 along with hosting summer services as well.

The modernization process began within the last several weeks. The modernization program will include the renovation of the 2nd floor classrooms, a complete rehab of the 2nd floor boy's & girl's restrooms along with providing an updated fire life safety system and adding air conditioning to the entire upstairs. In addition to the modernization program, a new exit will be created from the north stairwell out to the courtyard. SHS will also have access to various parts of the church including the gym, president's room and kitchen, however, we don't anticipate any adverse impact to church activities and operations, in fact, the St. Andrew community will benefit from the facility improvements and partnership with SHS.

Sacred Heart Schools was founded in 1876 and is Chicago's oldest, independent school, educating students for over 143 years. We are looking forward to this mutually beneficial relationship with Sacred Heart Schools for the next 5 years.