

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

April 6th – SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Epistle Reading: Galatians 3:23-29; Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:36-50; Mark 10:32-45

Troparion – Tone 8

In you, O Mother, was preserved with exactness what was according to the image; / for you took up the Cross and followed Christ. / By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh, for it passes away; / but to care for the soul, since it is immortal. / Therefore, O Venerable Mary, your spirit rejoices with the Angels.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protosphyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis, Pamela, Rebecca and Maritsa.

*** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski***

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantage@gmail.com

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 6th, 2025

SAINT 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 set 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.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 5th of April

Annual Spring Cleaning from 9 am – 5 pm

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 6th of April

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers at 5 pm at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Randolph NJ

Wednesday 9th of April

Presanctified Liturgy at 6:30 pm at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, West Nyack, NJ

Friday 11th of April

Presanctified Divine Liturgy at 6:30 pm

Saturday 12th of April

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 13th of April

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM – PALM SUNDAY

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Bridegroom Matins at 5 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitor Welcomed!

After Sunday's Divine Liturgy you are invited to join us for light refreshment in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation and ask any question you may have.

Council Members

We are pleased to announce that on the Precious Cross Sunday, March 23rd, the following individuals were installed as members of the Church Council. Timothy Kachur, Senior Warden; Seth Fleishman, Junior Warden; Michael Olsen, Treasurer; Matushka JoAnne Kedala, Secretary, SubDeacon Mark Benda and Rodni Chalet, Council Members. We thank them for their direction and service to our parish. May God bless their work in guiding our church community.

Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers 2025

The fourth Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers will take place at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 120 Dover Chester Rd, Randolph Nj on Sunday 6th of April 2025 at 5 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Brotherhood of "Three Hierarchs" Presanctified Liturgy

We thank Very Reverend Archpriest Iakovos Fitzpatrick for hosting Presanctified Liturgy at his parish, Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption, Windham NY, on Wednesday 2nd of April. The next brotherhood Presanctified Liturgy will take place in the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 1 Mary Crest Road, West Nyack, NY, 10994 on Wednesday 9th of April 2025 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed!

Confessions

Will be heard every Wednesday before Presanctified Liturgy and Saturday evening before or after Vespers. Alternatively, you can always make an appointment with me.

Flowers for Pascha

Please donate towards the floral decoration of the Church for the Paschal season. Use the Paschal flowers envelope or put a note with your donation. Flowers may be dedicated to the departed of the health and salvation of the living.

Bagels at Coffee Social

For the past many years, The Bagel Station generously donated bagels to our church for the Sunday Coffee Social. With the recent change in ownership, we now need to purchase bagels, which cost approximately \$30 per week. You're always welcome to enjoy a bagel, and if you're able, we ask for donation to help cover the cost. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Nadine Olsen. Thank you, and enjoy!

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the needs of the Sussex Help Center did not change and that they are accepting peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes and other non-perishables. **They are also in need of donation of used shopping bags.**