

WELCOME TO

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th, 2021

————— **Strict Fast/Great Lent** —————

**Tone 4/ Eothinon 1; Fifth Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – Next Sunday: Palm Sunday**

A warm welcome to all who celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with us. **Visitors who are not Orthodox, please note that although non-Orthodox may not receive Communion, which is reserved for the Orthodox faithful, we invite everyone to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to receive the Priest's blessing and blessed bread.** Fr John or most members of the parish will be glad to answer **any** questions. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the back of the church. If you wish to join the church mailing list, then please include your email address.

### Today's Hymns and Readings

**Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 4:** Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

**Apolytikion of St. Mary of Egypt Tone 8:** Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O mother Mary; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

**Kontakion for Sundays in Great Lent Tone 8:** To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

#### **Trisagion (Thrice-Holy) Hymn:**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (x3)  
Glory to the Father and to Son and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages amen. Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (Priest: With strength!)  
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

### The Epistle

*Make your vows and pay them to the Lord our God. God is known in Judaea. His Name is great in Israel.*

*The Reading is from St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 9:11-14*

Brethren, Christ having appeared a High Priest of the good things to come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; neither through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, entered in once for all into the holy place, having found eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of bulls and goats 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?

### The Holy Gospel

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel is according to St. Mark 10:32-45*

At that time, Jesus took His twelve Disciples, and 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 scourge Him, and spit upon 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 would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire" And Jesus said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Thy right hand and one at Thy left, in Thy 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 at 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 servant 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."



## Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

On this fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy.

A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary's story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other's presence on their journey.


This Sunday's theme has three parts:

1. No amount of past sin and wickedness can keep a truly repentant person from God.
2. Christ himself has come *to call sinners to repentance* and to save them from their sins (Luke 5:32).
3. In Saint Mary we see that it is never too late in life, or in Lent, to repent.

### Parish Treasury Report

2021	March 2021	YTD
Income:	\$17,266.19	\$37,493.81
Expense:	\$16,644.76	\$36,053.76

4/5/2021 Checkbook: \$50,876.69 Mortgage: \$120,650.96



AN ORTHODOX COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE FIND TRANSFORMATION IN JESUS CHRIST

# SAINT NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

3171 South 48th Street, Springdale, AR 72762

Please visit us at: [StNicholasAR.org](http://StNicholasAR.org)

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Parish Priest:  
Very Rev. Father John Atchison ✝ [fatherjohna@att.net](mailto:fatherjohna@att.net)

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church is a parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast within the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

( [Domse.org](http://Domse.org) ✝ [Antiochian.org](http://Antiochian.org) )

Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.