



HOLY GHOST ORTHODOX CHURCH

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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MARCH 29, 2026 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 1

ST MARY OF EGYPT

<u>Scripture Readings</u>	<u>Services</u>
<p>MONDAY, MARCH 30 Genesis 27:1-41 Proverbs 19:16-25</p> <p>TUESDAY, MARCH 31 Hebrews 7:26-8:2 Proverbs 12:8-22</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 Genesis 43:26-31, 45-1:16 Proverbs 21:23-22:4</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 2 Genesis 46:1-7 Proverbs 23:15-24:5</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 3 Genesis 49:33-50:26 Proverbs 31:8-31</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 4 Hebrews 22:28-13:8 John 11:1-45</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION Vespersal Divine Liturgy.....5:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 28 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 29, ST MARY OF EGYPT Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. “Ask the Priest” session during coffee fellowship Holy Unction.....4:00 p.m. Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 Presanctified Liturgy.....5:30 p.m. Pot-luck Lenten Snack following the service</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 4, LAZARUS SATURDAY Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. Baptism of Wayne Bloomfield Great Vespers with Litya.....4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 5, ST. PALM SUNDAY Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. Bridegroom Matins.....4:00 p.m. All Saints Orthodox Church, Hartford</p> <p>MONDAY, (HOLY WEEK - Day 1/5) Bridegroom Matins.....5:30 p.m.</p>
<p><i>All services will also be streamed online via Facebook Live as follows:</i> https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Ghost-Russian-Orthodox-Greek-Catholic-Church-681248091936330/</p> <p>Reminder: The schedule of services can be found on the front page of our website, https://holyghostbpt.com/ The schedule is recorded on the Google Calendar of the church’s acct. You can add it to your own Google Calendar by clicking the + sign on the bottom right corner of the calendar window.</p>	

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

Saint Zosimas (April 4) was a monk at a certain Palestinian monastery on the outskirts of Caesarea. Having dwelt at the monastery since his childhood, he lived there in asceticism until he reached the age of fifty-three. Then he was disturbed by the thought that he had attained perfection, and needed no one to instruct him. “Is there a monk anywhere who can show me some form of asceticism that I have not attained? Is there anyone who has surpassed me in spiritual sobriety and deeds?”



Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Zosimas, you have struggled valiantly, as far as this is in the power of man. However, there is no one who is righteous (Rom 3:10). So that you may know how many other ways lead to salvation, leave your native land, like Abraham from the house of his father (Gen 12:1), and go to the monastery by the Jordan.”

Abba Zosimas immediately left the monastery, and following the angel, he went to the Jordan monastery and settled in it.

Here he met Elders who were adept in contemplation, and also in their struggles. Never did anyone utter an idle word. Instead, they sang constantly, and prayed all night long. Abba Zosimas began to imitate the spiritual activity of the holy monks.

Thus, much time passed, and the holy Forty Day Fast approached. There was a certain custom at the monastery, which was why God had led Saint Zosimas there. On the First Sunday of Great Lent the igumen served the Divine Liturgy, everyone received the All-Pure Body and Blood of Christ. Afterwards, they went to the trapeza for a small repast, and then assembled once more in church. The monks prayed and made prostrations, asking forgiveness one of another. Then they made a prostration before the igumen and asked his blessing for the struggle that lay before them. During the Psalm “The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear? The Lord is defender of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?” (Ps 26/27:1), they opened the monastery gate and went off into the wilderness.

Each took with him as much food as he needed, and went into the desert. When their food ran out, they ate roots and desert plants. The monks crossed the Jordan and scattered in various directions, so that no one might see how another fasted or how they spent their time.

The monks returned to the monastery on Palm Sunday, each having his own conscience as a witness of his ascetic struggles. It was a rule of the monastery that no one asked how anyone else had toiled in the desert. ...

... “May God, Who works great miracles and bestows gifts on all who turn to Him in faith, reward those who hear or read this account, and those who copy it. May he grant them a blessed portion together with Saint Mary of Egypt and with all the saints who have pleased God by their pious thoughts and works. Let us give glory to God, the Eternal King, that we may find mercy on the Day of Judgment through our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom is due all glory, honor, majesty and worship together with the Unoriginate Father, and the Most Holy and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

Continue reading: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2026/03/29/18-5th-sunday-of-great-lent-st-mary-of-egypt>

Hebrews 9:11-14*(Epistle)*

11

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14

how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Galatians 3:23-29*(Epistle, Saint)*

23

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

24

Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25

But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

26

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Mark 10:32-45*(Gospel)*

32

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed, they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him:

33

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles;

34

and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

35

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.”

36

And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

Mark 10:32-45***(Gospel Cont'd.)***

37

They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

38

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

39

They said to Him, "We are able." So, Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;

40

but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."

41

And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

42

But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

43

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

44

And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Luke 7:36-50***(Gospel, Saint)***

36

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.

37

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

38

and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

39

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So, he said, "Teacher, say it."

41

"There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:36-50

(Gospel, Saint Cont'd.)

42

And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43

Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

44

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

45

You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

46

You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

47

Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

48

Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50

Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Message from Fr Mark: Great Lent is a time for us to reconcile with Christ and his Church, through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and the sacrament of confession. I will be available for confession 45 minutes before Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays; 30 minutes before Vespers on Saturdays, and after Vespers on Saturdays as long as is needed. Confession is for *you*, not for me. It is a gift from God: to approach Him with boldness and without shame, and receive His abundant grace, forgiveness, and healing. Don't wait until the end of Great Lent to make your confession!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE/SIGN-UP SHEET ... Please find attached, the schedule for services during Holy Week. There is also a sign-up sheet at the candle desk for parishioners to participate in these services. Thank you.

CANDLE DESK DUTY

March 29 – LoveAnn Curran

April 5 – Carol Kirkman

CANDLES/DONATIONS

- Altar Robes in loving memory of William and Nancy Savisky, from their family, \$200.
- A \$125 donation to the snow plowing fund in loving memory of Betty Kost from her daughter, Carolyn, & Frank Don.

COFFEE-HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW ... This week's cleanup crew is Group A through J. If this is your week to help, please see crew chief Bob Denhup.

LENTEN SOUP FUNDRAISER ... Lentil soup, which has been ordered, is available for pick up today! Please see Sue Maugeri.

ASK THE PRIEST



The “Ask *the Priest*” session is scheduled for **today**. Get your questions ready for Fr Mark!

ANNUAL DEEP-CLEANING SATURDAY! ... Many thanks to those who signed up! Please meet at Holy Ghost for cleanup day on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 8:30AM. This is our annual deep clean prior to Pascha. Please come lend a hand that day whenever you can!

EASTER PLANTS ... We will once again sell flowers in memory of a loved one or the health of a loved one for \$20 (order form is attached and available at the candle desk).

PRESANCTIFIED POT-LUCK SNACK ... As previously announced, we will have the second pot-luck snack following Presanctified Liturgy on **Wednesday, April 1**. Please bring a Lenten snack. Thank you!

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, March 18



FOCUS + FAMILY NIGHT AT BEARDSLEY SCHOOL, MARCH 26 ... FOCUS Bridgeport is hosting a Family Night for the children and families of Beardsley School as we continue building relationships with the community. The evening will include a shared meal, games for the children, and Easter baskets they can take home. You can help make this celebration possible by purchasing items from our Amazon Easter Basket Wish List, which includes the specific items needed to assemble the baskets. Thank you for your generosity and support!

[Amazon Easter Basket Wish List](#)

BAPTISM OF WAYNE BLOOMFIELD, APRIL 4 ... Our catechumen, Wayne Bloomfield, will be baptized on Lazarus Saturday morning, April 4, at Divine Liturgy at 9:00AM. Please make sure to come and support Wayne and celebrate this beautiful service as we enter into Holy Week!

EASTER COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AT ST JOHN’S MILL HILL ... St John's on Mill Hill is holding a free lunch for the neighborhood (much like our luncheon at Holy Ghost at Christmas!) on **Saturday, April 4**, 12:30-2:00PM. St John's will provide the food, but volunteers are requested! To volunteer, contact Fr Mark, or email Fr David Cochran directly pauldcochran@gmail.com.

PARISH SURVEY – FUNDRAISING MEETING APRIL 18 ... The results of last month's Parish Survey are in: we received about 50 responses! The purpose of the survey was for you to make your voice heard to shape the future of Holy Ghost Church, with God's help. We asked, you responded, and now it's time to take action, together. The full results will be published soon. In the meantime, many of you reported in the survey that you're interested in being a part of fundraising efforts. If you're one of those people, come to the Holy Ghost basement hall on **Saturday, April 18** at 5:00pm (after Vespers) for an exploratory meeting and fellowship. Food will be provided! RSVP to holyghostbpt1894@gmail.com by April 15.

MARCH 22 DIVINE LITURGY



Mission Vespers, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



*The Parish Council sponsored coffee fellowship for Fr Mark's birthday on March 20th and to welcome Baby Mary Simone Roosien, born on March 11th.
God grant them Many Years!!*

PARISH METRICS (MARCH 29 THRU APRIL 4)

BIRTHDAYS

Cathleen Durden McCormick, April 4th

God Grant her Many Years!

Многая лета!

ANNIVERSARIES

None listed

DEPARTED FROM THE PARISH METRICS

MARCH 29 – John Robstock, 1973 (89); Alexander Osedach, 1987 (74); Blaga Ivanov, 2004; Mary Lescheshen, 2004 (81); Lydia A. Small, 2005 (94)

MARCH 30 – Peter Primak, 1931 (3); Vasily (William) Firisiuk, 1957 (66); Peter Popadic, 1987 (79); Stephen Semenkovich, 2020 (94)

MARCH 31 – Sophie Gribko, 1918 (30); Anastasia Olga Nastu, 1919 (9 months); Maria Labash, 1927 (35); Havilan M. Tweedy, 1967 (55); Anastasia Tihonchik, 1970 (80); Catherine Remenchik Hodska, 1974 (77); George Bakas, 1975 (77); Michael Super, 2001 (94); Anna Mosser, 2002 (91)

APRIL 1 – Anna Chikosh, 1900 (1); Stephen Dachko, 1900 (2); Michael Chervenik, 1915 (46); Nikita Cherniak, 1933 (50); Olga Leskewich Shostak, 1961 (68); Elena Hristova, 1995 (86); Barbara Balko, 1970

APRIL 2 – Michael Lozniak, 1900 (2); Luba Besche, 1907 (35); Theodore Belbot, 1922 (32); Stephen Chervenik, 1922 (58); Anna Premak, 1927 (21); Paul Myron, 1947 (70); Ignaty Senko, 1949 (62); Maria Lukachik Becca, 1964 (40); Stephen Cherpak, 1971 (77); Gary John Somoskovec, 1973 (19); Anna Homenchuk, 1987 (64)

APRIL 3 – Vasily Mochan, 1971 (78); George Dirga, 1971 (64); Anne Pishtey, 1985 (82); Austin Manko, 1996 (74); Barbara (Turko) Albright, 2000 (65)

APRIL 4 – Mary Homenchok, 1961 (58); John Katrenic, 1964 (76); Joseph J. Demchak, 1986 (70); Mary Hamilla Karpie, 1987; Gloria S. Kruk Ivanoff, 2012 (88)

Memory Eternal!

Вечная память!

