



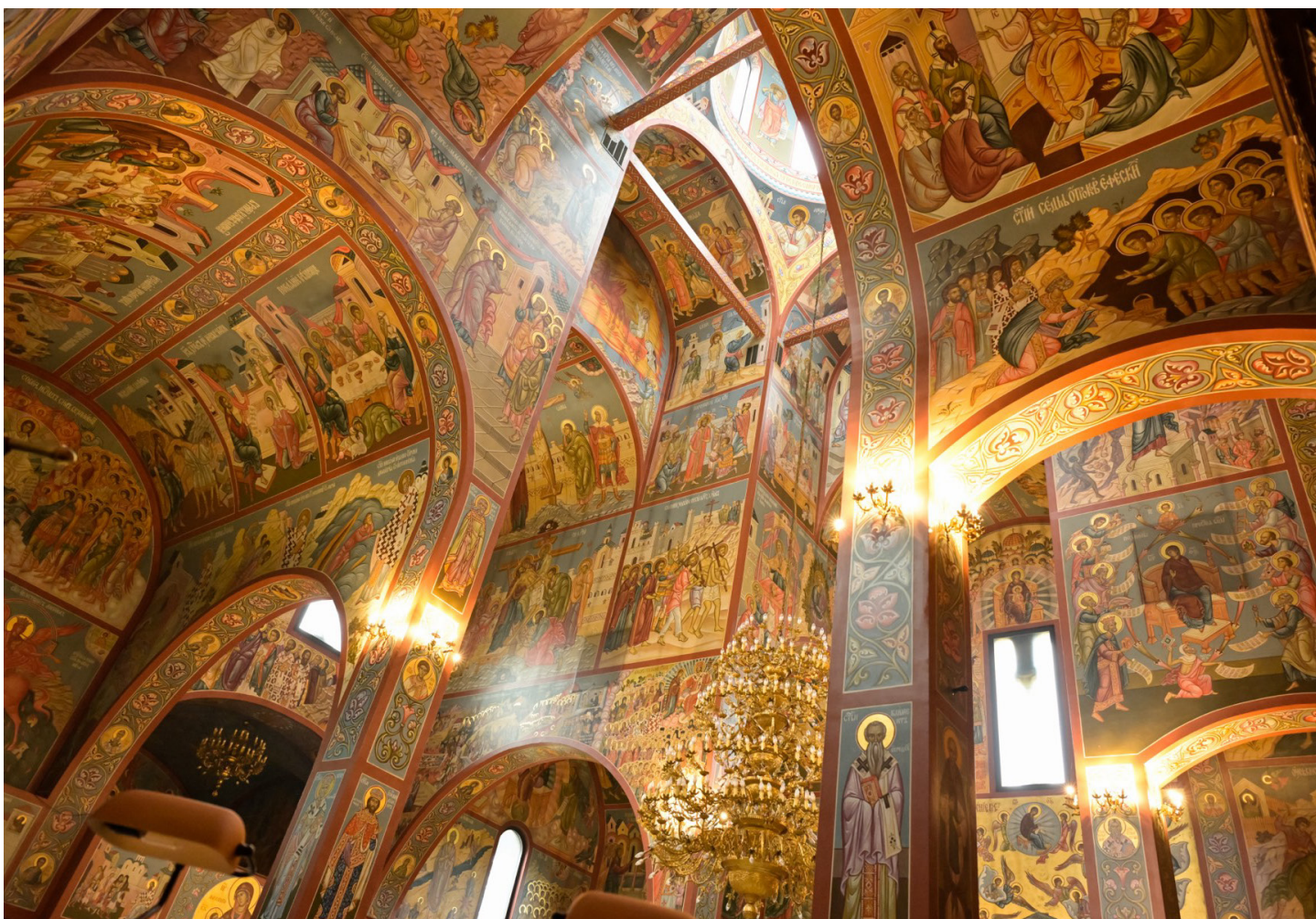
SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF NEW
GRACANICA
MIDWESTERN AMERICA

#5

April 06, 2025.
Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

WEEKLY BULLETIN

With the blessing of His Eminence Longin
Archbishop of New Gracanica-Chicago and
Metropolitan of Midwest America SOC



Metropolitan Longin To His Faithful People

Does Christ expect us to go to the same extremes as St. Mary did in repenting for our own sinful ways? Yes, in theory, the Lord wants us to forsake all our sins. He expects us to make a «U-Turn in our lives and follow Him. He desires that we look at His Blessed Mother and the Saints and realize how greatly we fall short, and then do what we can to become a better person. But in practice, we shouldn't think that can be done by simply leaving this world, this society. What we are asked to do is more difficult, in a way, than the path chosen by Holy Mother Mary. We must strive to live a Christ-like life in a godless society! We must close our eyes to temptations that surround us every day and seek only God's way. May the life of St. Mary inspire us to repent sincerely and live piously as we seek the Kingdom of Heaven.

EPISTLE

(Hebrews 9:11-14)

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?

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

(10, 32-45)



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 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?" 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."

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT- FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Once, during Great Lent, a certain priest-monk (heirm monk), the Elder Zosimas, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan, a twenty-day trek. Suddenly, he caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body, whose hair was as white as snow, and who fled from Zosimas's sight. The elder ran for a long while, until this person stopped at a brook and cried out: «Abba Zosimas, forgive me for the sake of the Lord. I cannot face you, for I am a naked woman.» Zosimus then threw his outer garment to her, which she wrapped around herself, and then she showed herself to him. The elder was frightened upon hearing his name spoken from the mouth of this woman whom he did not know. Following his prolonged insistence, the woman related her life's story. She was born in Egypt, and at the age of twelve began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria, where she spent seventeen years in this perverted way of life. Driven by the adulterous flame of the flesh, she one day boarded a boat which was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she wanted to enter the church in order to venerate the Honorable Cross, but some invisible force restrained her, preventing her from entering the church. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the All-holy Mother of God in the narthex (vestibule) and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross, all the while confessing her sinfulness and uncleanness, and promising that she would go wherever the All-pure One would direct her. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross, she went back to the narthex and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice



saying: «If you cross over Jordan you will find true peace!» Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan, arriving there that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment and fear, struggling with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She ate vegetation. After she finished her narrative, when she stood for prayer, Zosimas saw her levitate in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the following year on the shore of the Jordan, where she would then come to receive it. The following year Zosimas arrived with Holy Communion on the shore of the Jordan in the evening. He wondered how the saint would cross the Jordan. Then, in the light of the moon, he saw her approach the river, make the sign of the Cross over it and walk upon the water as though upon dry land. After Zosimas communed her, she begged him to come the following year to the same brook where they had first met. Zosimas came and discovered her lifeless body on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: «Abba Zosimas, bury the body of the humble Mary on this site; render dust to dust. I died on April 1, the same night of the saving suffering of Christ, after having received Communion of the Divine Mysteries.» From this inscription Zosimas first learned her name and the other and awesome miracle--that the previous year, when she received Holy Communion, she arrived that same night at this brook, which took him twenty days to reach. Thus, Zosimas buried the body of this wonderful saint, Mary of Egypt. When he returned to the monastery, Zosimas related the entire story of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners. She reposed in about the year 530 A.D.

NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF NEW GRACANICA MIDWESTERN AMERICA



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APRIL 4

SPRING OVERNIGHT CAMP **\$80 PER CHILD**

For High Schoolers

April 4th 2025 from 07:00PM until April 5th 2025 until 10:00PM
Salvation Army Wonderland Camp
9241 Camp Lake Road
Camp Lake, WI 53109
Organized by the Youth Department of the New Gracanica Midwestern
Metropolitanate Serbian Orthodox Church
**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR TEXT
DN JOVAN ANICIC AT (312)-659-4723**

“O Son of Life,
fill the earth of my body and Soul
with Your life,
so that I may have something
with which to appear
among the living angels.”

Saint Nikolai Velimirovich
(**Prayers by the Lake**)