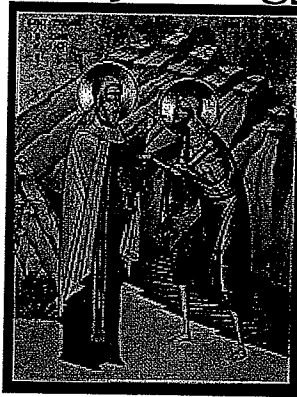


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
April 1, 2012
+ St. Mary of Egypt +



Fasting, Prayer, The sign of the cross, the Jesus prayer,
alms giving, and forgiving are the things that the
demons hate most. ~ The Holy Fathers

Upcoming Events

Wed. April 4, 6:30pm ~ Presanctified Liturgy

Fri. April 6, 6:30pm ~ Presanctified Liturgy

Pg. 1~ Cover

Pg. 2~ Troparion/ Kontakion/ Bible verse

Pg. 3~ Story

Pg. 4~ Activity



Troparion Tone 4

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O mother,
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 instead for the soul, since it is immortal.
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with
the Angels.

Kontakion Tone 8

Having been a sinful woman, You became through
repentance a Bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life,
You defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross;
Therefore, O most glorious Mary you are a Bride of the
Kingdom!

Today's Bible verse is:

*A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a broken and
contrived heart God will not despise.*

~ Psalm 51: 15

What does it mean?

*a sacrifice to God is a spirit that is broken; A good heart is
one that God will not put to shame.*

When Mary was 12, she ran away from home. She spent 17 years partying. She was bad, and although she didn't have much money, when people gave her money, she gave it back. She wasn't trying to be nice; she just wanted to attract as many boys as possible. She was very sinful. One time, a group of people were going to see the cross. The real cross that Jesus was nailed to. She went to see it with them. As soon as she tried to get in to the church, she was stopped by an invisible force. She said it was like a bunch of soldiers were standing there, and blocking her. She then realized why. She had been a very bad person. She went outside, and prayed to the Theotokos. When she was done, she went back in the church, and was able to go in. the force was gone. After that, she went, and spent the rest of her life in the desert. Zosomas came and fed her everyday, and he also gave her communion. When she died, a lion came, and dug a hole to bury her in. he did, and wrote above her "Bury now the body of humble Mary...Who departed in the month of Fermooten of Egypt, called April of the Romans, on the first day of the month." She is now remembered on April 1st.



Saint Mary of Egypt

On the fifth Sunday in Lent, the Orthodox Church remembers Mary of Egypt. Mary had many troubles in her life, but had a special feeling that she should turn her life to God. She

moved to the desert all by herself where she spent all her time praying. A priest name Zosimos visited her and brought her the sacrament of communion.