

**Українська Католицька
Церква Св.Родини**

Парох: о. Микола Олів'ян Попович
225 N. 4th St.

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Phone: (631) 225-1168 / **Fax:** (631) 225-1177

E-mail: popovici1@aol.com

Web Page: www.holyfamilyucc.com

Facebook: Saturday School:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUKrainianSchool>



**Holy Family Ukrainian
Catholic Church**

225 N. 4th St., Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Pastor: Fr. Olvian Nicolae Popovici

Phone:(631) 225-1168 / **Fax:**(631) 225-1177

Parish Center: (631) 225 - 1203

E-mail: olvianpopovici@yahoo.com

Trustees: Silvia Smith (516) 712 - 5526

Nadiya Moskalyuk (631) 579-1519

Choir Director: Iryna Popovych 943-3348

Nataliya Popovici – **English cantor**

Web Page: www.holyfamilyucc.com

Sunday Divine Liturgies: 9:00 am - English / 10:15 am - Ukrainian

Weekday Divine Liturgies: 8:00 am or 9:00 am or 7:00 pm

Holy Days Liturgy: 9:00 am or Previous Day at 7:00 pm

No. 14/19

CHURCH BULLETIN – ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

April 7, 2019 / Квітень 7, 2019

DIVINE LITURGIES SCHEDULE:

5th Sunday of the Great Fast. (Commemoration of Our Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt), April 7, 2019. *Our Venerable Father George.*

Tone 5: Epistle: Hebrew 9:11 - 14. / Gospel: Mark 10:32 – 45.

Note: *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.*

9:00 a.m. – (God's Blessing upon Fr. Olvian N. Popovici & Family, req. Oksana Vladychack) – **English.**

10:15 a.m. – Pro Populo – **Ukrainian.**

12:00 Noon - Special Divine Liturgy for children/family – E. /U.

Note: **This week's Sanctuary Candle Light for God's Blessing upon Nadiya Chornomydza, req. Rosary Society**

Monday, April 8, 2019. *The Holy Apostle s Herodion, Agabus, Rufus and Other with them.*

Alliturgical day week, Divine Liturgy of John Chrisostom is not prescribed.

7:00 p.m. – Akathistos to the Passion of Christ

Tuesday, April 9, 2019. *The Holy Martyr Eupsichius.*

7:00 p.m. – Great Compline - **Ukrainian**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019. *Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompeius and Others with Them.*

9:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – E/U

7:00 p.m. - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. / (Prostrations) – **Ukr.**

Thursday, April 11, 2019. *The Holy Priest – Martyr Antipas.*

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Reading of the Holy Bible (New Testament)

Friday, April 12, 2019. *Our Venerable Father and Confessor Basil.*

9:00 a.m. - Holy Cross of the Way – **English**

7:00 p.m. – Holy Cross of the Way / Хресна Дорога – **Ukrainian.**

Lazarus Saturday, April 13, 2019 – *The Holy Priest – Martyr Artemon and Those with Him.*

8:00 a.m. – ☩ Volodya, req. Peter Podkasik

6:00 p.m. – **Vespers (Вечірня)**

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019. *Our Holy Father Martin the Confessor.*

9:00 a.m. – Pro Populo – **English.**

10:30 a.m. – (God's Blessing upon Rostyslav Moskalyuk & Family, req. Nadiya Moskalyuk) – **Ukrainian.**

Confessions: Can be heard by appointment daily and on Sundays before or after the Divine Liturgy.

Baptism and Chrismation: By appointment. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics.

Marriage: Please contact the Pastor at least six (6) months in advance. *Attendance at pre - Cana is required.*

Ukrainian Culture School will be held **Every Saturday from 9:15 am until 1:35 p.m.** For more information please call the Rectory or contact the Director, Mr. Roman Vaskiv at (631) 225 -1203 or visit our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/HFUKrainianSchool>.

Ukrainian Cultural Dances for children ages 5 to 12 are provided by Mr. Gregory Momot and Khrystyna Momot of Paramus, NJ, every Saturday, by groups: ages (6 – 9) 1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.; ages (10 – 14) 2:40 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.; ages (15 – 19) 4:10 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Religious Education: Classes for religious education will be held every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 5:55 p.m./6:00 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. Please contact the rectory for further information.

Ministry to the Sick: Father Popovici will make visits to the sick on the first Friday of the month. It is the responsibility of an immediate family member to kindly notify Rev. Popovici at the Rectory office about any sick or aged individual who is hospitalized or confined at home or in a nursing home, and he will gladly visit and administer the sacraments. In case of emergencies please call any time.

Pray the Rosary: The Apostleship of Prayer requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **First Sunday** of each month, beginning 20 minutes before Divine Liturgy. The Rosary Society requests members and parishioners pray the Rosary on the **Third Sunday** of the Month beginning at 10:00 a.m. before Ukrainian Divine Liturgy.

Mothers in Prayer: Next prayer group will be held on **May 3, 2019 at 8:15 p.m.**

Rectory Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm; Evenings by appointment. **Attention:** Monday is a free day for the priest. In case of an emergency, please call at any time.

Divine Liturgy: Dear Parishioners! Remember your faith; please come every Sunday and Holy Days to Church.

Divine Liturgy for Children: Special Divine Liturgy (English/Ukrainian language) for family/children will be today **Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 12:00 Noon.** All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

Noon. All parents are requested to bring their children to church to celebrate the Holy Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Notices should be phoned in or brought to the Parish Office **NO LATER** than 12:00 noon on the Friday prior to the Sunday of publication.

Bequests: In making out your will, kindly remember your church. Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church of Lindenhurst, N.Y. is our legal title.

New Parishioners: Welcome to Holy Family Church! To all who are tired and need rest, to all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are friendless and need friendship, to all who are discouraged and need hope, to all who are hopeless and need sheltering love, to all who sin and need a Savior, this Church opens wide its doors in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please stop by the Rectory to introduce yourselves and register. We look forward to meeting you.

Change in address or telephone? Parishioners, kindly provide the rectory with your new address and telephone numbers as soon as possible.

Parishioners and guests: after each Divine Liturgy, coffee, rolls, & cakes are served in the Parish Center for a donation of \$3.00 per person.

Sunday Collection – March 31, 2019.

Ad Bulletin: \$75.00,
"Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." (Sir. 35: 9 – 10).

Candles: \$235, Church Debt: \$25, Rice Bowl: \$7, Poor: \$50, Pyrohy: \$212, Flowers: \$85,
 Church in Need: \$162, Annual Support: \$50, Sundry: \$270, Annunciation: \$10, Fish Fry Lunch: \$680,

Pledge: \$25.00, Sunday Offering: \$1,323.00, Total - \$3,209.00.

Dear Parishioners: *Sincere thanks for the offerings made on Sunday',
 March 31st, 2019. May God bless you all for your generosity.*

Our Prayer: *Please remember all those parishioners who are ill or elderly within your families. They are part of our parish and need to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Communion. To schedule a visit by the priest, please call the rectory for an appointment.*

Attention: *To all who celebrate their birthday during the month of April 2019, our best wishes and many happy healthy years! Mnohaya Lita and God's Blessing.*

Our Church News:**1. Upcoming events:**

A. On April 14, 2019, there will be a Second Collection after each Divine Liturgy to raise necessary funds for support (Rice Bowl and Poor Collection); also to partially support the trips for missionary priests as well as our regular monthly collection. They come for confessions at our parish and preach the Lenten Retreat in preparation for Easter so that the resurrection of Christ can enrich and fulfill our Christian life.

B. Regular church cleaning: The next voluntary second collection will be collected on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

C. Due to our Lenten Sorokousty Services the next Divine Liturgy for the deceased will be on May 18, 2019.

2. Outreach program for the Easter Season:

A. Please be as generous as possible for the needy in our community. Items needed are: canned vegetables, fruit juice, gravy, coffee, tea, tuna fish, baked beans, pasta sauce, etc. Please bring your items to the church vestibule no later than April 22nd, 2019. Also, we will gratefully accept cash donations toward the purchase of items for the Easter baskets. The following Parishioners made special donations for the outreach program: Anonymous Donator - \$200; Rosary Society - \$100, MM Slawomir & Helen Samilo - \$100, Mothers in Prayer - \$100, Mrs. Nataliya Popovici - \$100. Total funds collected - \$600.00.

B. SVYACHENE: On May 5, 2019, Myrhhbearers Women Sunday (both Calendars), our parish will hold a Pascal Luncheon (Svyachene) after both Divine Liturgies in the Parish hall. All are welcome. More information will appear in the next Bulletins!

3. We wish to express our sincere thanks to:

a. Mrs. Oleksandra Blyshchak, Mrs. Ganna Maksymova, Mrs. Nataliya Popovici and Mrs. Neli Voitovych who on Friday evening, March 29th volunteered to bake poppy seed rolls for our coffee social hours.

b. Mrs. Olena Zakharyuk, Mrs. Nataliya Antoniv, Mrs. Yaroslava Klymovets, Mrs. Oksana Romaniuk and Mrs. Khrystyna Nykolyn who came on Saturday March 30th and prepared all necessary food for our Lenten Fish Fry/Shevchenko Day.....

c. Mr. Oleksandr Prystash who volunteered to perform needed repairs in our parish center this past week. Mr. Sergey Shelestov who on Saturday March 30th cleaned our parish hall and set up all the tables and chairs for our Fish Fry luncheon.

d. those members of the Rosary Society and friends: Mrs. Oleksandra Blyshchak, Mrs. Ganna Maksymova, Mrs. Khrystyna Nykolyn and Mr. Sergey Shelestov, for organizing, heating all the food, and serving it during our Lenten Fish Fry Luncheon/Shevchenko Day last Sunday. The net amount for this fundraiser was **\$1,250.00**, of which \$250 was donated to the Saturday Cultural School and \$430 for the needs of our parish. Expenses were \$570.

e. M/M Martin & Silvia Smith who purchased and donated 10 children's Bibles for the parish children who will receive their First Solemn Holy Communion this year. *May God bless all those who volunteered or made other donations and may He reward you with His choicest Blessings.*

4. Pyrohy for sale with: potatoes, potatoes/mushrooms, cheese, (onions included). The price for one dozen is \$6.00. This is a church fundraiser. We welcome all offerings above \$6 as well.

5. Interested in learning about "Pysanky"? - Mr. Roman Vaskiv will present and teach our parish adults and children (over 10 years of age) on Sunday April 7, 2019 starting at 2:00 p.m. on the first floor of our parish center. Please come and join us and it will bring joy to your Easter basket with decorated eggs. More information is attached to our Church Bulletin.

Pilgrimage - 11 Day France: October 6 – 17, 2019.

Paris - Versailles- Senlis- Amiens- Saulx les Chartreux-Mon-Sen-Michel-Rennes - Bordeaux-Lourdes-Rocamadour-Nevers-Paris.

Dear Parishioners: Our fourth parish pilgrimage is planned to France and is scheduled from October 6 - 17, 2019. A minimum of **30 seats are required to hold this pilgrimage. The sign up deadline is May 1, 2019 and ALL payments for accommodations must be made by June 10, 2019.** Join us on a ten day spiritual journey focusing on the life and times of certain saints and Holy Places. We invite you, not just on another trip, but a spiritual journey you will never forget. **For more information ask Fr. Popovici or see the attached flyer.**

The Horror of Committing Sin. *Why that one 3 letter word is so dangerous to mankind? 2 Maccabees 6:12-16: Now I urge those who read this book not to be depressed by such calamities, but to recognize that these punishments were designed not to destroy but to discipline our people. In fact, not to let the impious alone for long, but to punish them immediately, is a sign of great kindness. For in the case of the other nations the Lord waits patiently to punish them until they have reached the full measure of their sins; but he does not deal in this way with us, in order that he may not take vengeance on us afterward when our sins have reached their height. Therefore he never withdraws his mercy from us. Though he disciplines us with calamities, he does not forsake his own people. Luke 11:48-51: So you are witnesses and consent to the deeds of your fathers; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it shall be required of this generation. Matthew 23:30-36: saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of innocent Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly, I say to you, all this will come upon this generation. Matthew 5:25-26: Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison; truly, I say to you, you will never get out till you have paid the last penny. 1 Corinthians 6:18: Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. 1 John 5:16.*

Prayer Reminder: Please remember God created each of us to know Him, to love Him and to obey Him. Knowledge precedes love. We cannot love that which we do not know. Through diligent and thoughtful prayer, we receive the Graces necessary to know God and to be worthy of His great love for us. Jesus taught that if we deny God the love and honor due Him, He will deny us before His Father at the Seat of Judgment. Jesus waits for us in the tabernacle. You are invited to pray in our church or at home to be united with us in prayer at 9:00 pm every evening. It is hoped that at least one parish family will pray in church each evening. Those who remain home or who are otherwise occupied should remember to pray at about the same time each evening so that we may make our supplication to God together.

What to Confess?

Learn to do well . . . And then come and accuse Me, saith the Lord . . . if your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made white as snow. Isaiah, 1:17 Take courage, saith the Lord, change your life, come to Me, and if I do not pardon you, accuse Me. As if he were to say, Accuse Me of lying and bad faith; but, no, I shall not be unfaithful: your conscience now so black, shall be My grace become as white as snow. No; I will not chastise you if you reform, says the Lord, because I am God, not man. I will not execute the fierceness of My wrath, because I am God and not man. --Osee 6:9. He says besides, that men never forget an injury, but that when He sees a sinner penitent, He forgets all his offences. I will not remember all his iniquities that he hath done. --Ezech. 18:2. Let us then at once return to God, but let it be at once. We have offended Him enough already, let us not tempt His anger any further. Behold Him, He calls us, and is ready to pardon us if we repent of our evil deeds, and promise Him to change our lives.

What to Confess? A guide to Examination of Conscience

I John 5:16-17: He that knoweth his brother to sin a sin which is not to death, let him ask: and life shall be given to him who sinneth not to death. There is a sin unto death. For that I say not that any man ask. All iniquity is sin. And there is a sin unto death. As said above, one only needs to confess mortal sins ("sins unto death"), so a good grasp of what this means is imperative. For a sin to be mortal, it has to meet three conditions: **Grave matter:** does it involve breaking one of the 10 Commandments, committing one of the Sins that Cry out to Heaven, or failing to uphold the 6 Precepts of the Church? **Full knowledge:** did you know or should you have known that the act was sinful?

Deliberate consent: was your consent to this act sufficiently deliberate so as to be a choice? Were conditions present that influenced your ability to choose? If you are unclear as to whether a sin meets all of the requirements above for a mortal sin, be safe and confess it, telling the priest of your lack of clarity. As to venial sins (sins that don't meet the above requirements), you are free to confess them or not. *Confessing them is definitely encouraged*, but do be mindful of the priest's time and the time others need who may be standing in line behind you. If your Confession is before Mass, time is running short before Mass begins, there is a long line behind you, and you are wanting to confess venial sins only, you might want to hold off so that others who might have mortal sins to confess can see the priest before Mass starts. If you are plagued by feelings of "not being forgiven" or being "unworthy" of the Sacrament of Penance, don't confess venial sins that you are doubtful about lest you find yourself with a **case of "the scruples."** A

"scrupulous" person is one who has "an unfounded apprehension and consequently unwarranted fear that something is a sin which, as a matter of fact, is not" (Catholic Encyclopedia). This doesn't refer to isolated incidents, but to a habitual way of feeling or thinking, an

unwarranted fear, a sort of emotional obsession; it doesn't refer to true questions as to whether a particular action or behavior is a sin or not.

A guide to Examination of Conscience

Anxiety is involved, and often a doubt as to the power of confession, the genuineness of one's contrition, and the extent of God's mercy. If you have a good Confessor, trust him and his advice, and tell him about any scruples from which you needlessly suffer; he may be able to help you! And pray to St. Alphonsus Liguori, the great moral theologian who suffered from scruples himself and is now the patron saint of the scrupulous. If you have a hard time memorizing (which is OK!), you can pray aloud using your own words to the same effect -- i.e., expressing your contrition for having displeased God and resolving to sin no more and avoid the near occasions of sin -- but you should try to memorize the traditional Act of Contrition and teach it to your children.

Absolution: Christ through His priest, grants you absolution in a form that includes the words below. Without the words the Sacrament is not valid: **Prayer of absolution:** "May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you; and by His authority I absolve you from every bond of excommunication and interdict, so far as my power allows and your needs require.

[making the Sign of the Cross:] Thereupon, I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." The Sacrament is now complete. The priest will dismiss you, perhaps with a final blessing. Thank him, cross yourself, and leave the confessional.

Carrying out your Penance: As soon as possible, carry out the penance you were given. Do all you can to avoid near occasions of sin, to bear patiently the temporal effects of the sins you've committed, to make restitution to anyone you've harmed. You may add penances of your own in addition to the one(s) the priest gave you.

After Confession: Rejoice and be grateful! Consider what has been done for you! Savor the sweet knowledge that you are forgiven. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world! He has said the word, and you have been healed! Now you must imitate Christ by forgiving others as you have been forgiven: Matthew 6:9-15. Thus therefore shall you pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our super substantial bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Amen. For if you will forgive men their offences, your heavenly Father will forgive you also your offences. But if you will not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive you your offences. Consider the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant: Matthew 18:21-35 - Then came Peter unto him and said: Lord, how often shall my brother offend against me, and I forgive him? Untill seven times? Jesus said to him: I say not to thee, till seven times; but till seventy times seven times. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened to a king, who would take an account of his servants. And when he had begun to take the account, one was brought to him that owed him ten thousand talents. And as he had not wherewith to pay it, his lord commanded that he should be sold, and his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. But that servant falling down, besought him, saying: Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And the lord of that servant being moved with pity, let him go and forgave him the debt. But when that servant was gone out, he found one of his fellow servants that owed him an hundred pence: and laying hold of him, throttled him, saying: Pay what thou owest. And his fellow servant falling down, besought him, saying: Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he paid the debt. Now his fellow servants seeing what was done were very much grieved, and they came and told their lord all that was done. Then his lord called him; and said to him: Thou wicked servant, I

forgave thee all the debt, because thou besoughtest me: Shouldst not thou then have had compassion also on thy fellow servant, even as I had compassion on thee? And his lord being angry delivered him to the torturers until he paid all the debt. So also shall my heavenly Father do to you, if you forgive not every one his brother from your hearts. Think of those against whom you hold grudges. Consider vengeful feelings you might have, or any petty ways you strike back at or undermine others. Make peace with those you've wronged; forgive those who've wronged you. This doesn't mean to be stupid, to "forget" that you've been wronged, or to allow yourself to be abused. It means simply letting go of anger and vengeance, and praying that the evil-doers stop doing their evil and come to Christ.

One other way the grace of the Sacrament of Penance may be received:

As indicated above, perfect contrition absolves sin in itself. Thus, if one is sorry for one's sins but is trapped on a desert island without a priest, one needn't fear being damned if unable to confess in the normal way. We are bound by the Sacraments; God is not, and has many ways of pouring out His grace to us! Perfect contrition, though, includes the desire to obey God and not offend Him further -- and God wants us to confess our sins to a priest. Therefore, if one can, one must go to Confession if there is a mortal sin to confess, or at least once a year. If one is unable to confess in the normal way, but would confess in the normal way if it were possible, then merciful God provides.

Notes and Tidbits on Confession: "General Absolution" such as is given in "communal penance services" in which a priest "absolves" an entire group of their sins is highly illicit unless it is a serious emergency (you're on a sinking ship, you are among a group of soldiers preparing for battle, etc.) If you are in a group that receives such an "absolution," you are still required to go to individual Confession if it is at all possible. If, for serious and just reason, you need to make a Confession to a priest outside of a Confessional, kneel and carry on as above. The priest might lay his stole on your shoulder as you confess. Confession of venial sins to laymen is a sacramental and has the same power to remit sins as does the use of such things as Holy Water. The practice is also healing to human relationships, so if you've sinned against someone, confess your sorrow to him in addition to confessing to your priest! There is a beautiful Lenten custom practiced before going to see the priest for Lenten Confession: one bows before each member of the household and to any one has sinned against, and says, "In the Name of Christ, forgive me if I've offended you." The one being asked for forgiveness responds with "God will forgive you." This lovely practice doesn't have to be for Lent only.....For inspiration, read how Christ forgives from the Cross (Luke 23:33-34), the story of Mary Magdalene, the Parable of The Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50), and the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32).

St. Mary of Egypt – Fift Sunday of Lent



On this day, the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the memory of our holy and venerable Mother, Mary

of Egypt. The recorder of the life of this wonderful saint is St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. A hieromonk, the elder Zossima, had gone off at one time during the Great Fast on a twenty-day walk into the wilderness across the Jordan. He suddenly caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body and with hair as white as snow, who fled in its nakedness from Zossima's sight. The elder ran a long way, until this figure stopped at a stream and called, "Father Zossima, forgive me for the Lord's sake. I cannot turn around to you, for I am a naked woman." Then Zossima threw her his outer cloak, and she wrapped herself in it and turned around to him. The elder was amazed at hearing his name from the lips of this unknown woman. After considerable pressure on his part, she told him the story of her life. She had been born in Egypt and had lived as a prostitute in Alexandria from the age of twelve, spending seventeen years in this way of life. Urged by the lustful fire of the flesh, she one day boarded a ship that was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she attempted to go into one of the churches to venerate the Precious Cross, but some unseen power prevented her from entering. In great fear, she turned to an icon of the Mother of God that was in the entrance and begged her to let her go in and venerate the Cross, confessing her sin and impurity and promising that she would then go wherever the Most Pure One led her. She was then allowed to enter the church. After venerating the Cross, she went out again to the entrance and standing in front of the icon, thanked the Mother of God. Then she heard a voice saying, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace." She immediately bought three loaves of bread and set off for the Jordan, arriving there the same evening. She received Holy Communion the following morning in the monastery of St. John the Baptist, and then crossed the river. She spent the next forty-eight years in the wilderness in the greatest torments, in terror, in struggles with illicit thoughts like gigantic beasts, and she ate only on plants. Later, when she was standing in prayer, Zossima saw her lifted up in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the next year on the bank of the Jordan, and she would come to receive it. The following year, Zossima came with the Holy Gifts to the bank of the Jordan in the evening and stood in amazement as he saw her cross the river. He saw her coming in the moonlight and, arriving on the further bank, make the sign of the Cross over the river. She then walked across it as though it were dry land. When she had received Holy Communion, she begged him to come again the following year to the same stream by which they had first met. The next year Zossima went and found her dead body there on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zossima, bury in this place the body of the humble Mary. Give dust to dust. I passed away on April 1, on the very night of Christ's Passion, after Communion of the Divine Mysteries." For the first time, Zossima learned her name and also the awe-inspiring marvel that she had arrived at that stream the previous year on the night of the same day on which she had received Holy Communion - a place that he had taken twenty days to reach. And thus Zossima buried the body of the wonderful saint, Mary of Egypt. When he returned to the monastery, he recounted the whole story of her life and the wonders to which he had been an eyewitness. Thus the Lord glorifies repentant sinners. She entered into rest in about the year 530 A.D. St. Mary is remembered today, as we reach the end of the Great Fast, to arouse the energy of the slothful and to urge sinners to repentance, imitating her example. She is also commemorated on April 1. The Righteous Zossima, who buried St. Mary, is commemorated on April 4. O Christ our God, through the intercessions of our venerable Mother Mary of Egypt, have mercy on us and save us. The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of Saint Mary of Egypt, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (Lk 5.32). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life—or in Lent—to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.