



Sunday Bulletin April 2, 2017 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading Hebrews 9:11-14**

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls 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.

### **Gospel Reading Mark 10:32-45**

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he 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 spit upon him, and scourge 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 want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your 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 of 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 slave 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."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

I pray that you are enduring the self-sacrifices and an ascetic mind set as we continue on our journey through the desert of Great Lent. Today, as we commemorate the life of St. Mary of Egypt, a woman that knew whom Zosimas was from afar, who knew God's will for Zosimas to fulfill one last wish of hers that she would have the Holy Mysteries the following year, we recognize that she was a woman who, when she prayed, levitated. We have difficulty lifting up our eyes to heaven, and she was one who stood in the heavens when she prayed. She walked upon water as if on dry land. In the shadow of her humility, she called herself a miserable sinner. For many years, she struggled after she repented for her sinful lifestyle of earlier years. She had lived a life loose, sinful living and depravity. When Mary repented, she understood something that we would benefit in understanding: Labor. The key to the Christian life is laboring in Christ. The church understands this. St. Mary the sinful woman, who had been a prostitute, was a repentant of whom our Savior later said, "The harlots and the tax-collectors are coming into heaven before you", when speaking to the Pharisee. The Lord went into the home of the Pharisee and a prostitute comes in, and anointed the feet of our Lord with her tears, and with ointment. This was done as a labor of love. Because previously she had been forgiven. It *changed* her. She was thankful from the depths of her heart. This is what motivated her to anoint His feet - love.

Without labor of love, we cannot be saved. St. Mary of Egypt realized what God had done for her, and what the Mother of God had done, by praying to her Son, and helping her through her labor of love. We are to be inspired by her divine example and labor for the glory of God. This is the key to the Christian life. This is why the Church presents this woman, as great among women. St. Mary of Egypt, was great among the saints. We must stop and reflect that she had been given the same tools that we had been given. The church spoke of St. Mary of Egypt as an *angel*. She had gone above the flesh, and this was contrary to the way previously had lived.

The Christian life is simple. All we have to do is labor in Christian love. In order to understand laboring for love in the Lord is, we must understand that it is realizing on what God has done for us, and we are to act upon it. May we continue to labor in love as we serve our fellow Christians.

Prayerfully with contrition of heart serving and laboring in Christian love, before His Holy Altar, I remain.

Your humble servant,

+Fr. Michael

## Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt



The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

### Apolytikion of Sun. of St. Mary of Egypt

#### Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The image of God, was faithfully preserved in you, O Mother. For you took up the Cross and followed Christ. By Your actions you taught us to look beyond the flesh for it passes, rather to be concerned about the soul which is immortal. Wherefore, O Holy Mary, your soul rejoices with the angels.

### Titus the Wonderworker

Little is known of this Saint except that he took up the monastic life from his youth, became the abbot of a monastery, and reposed in peace.

In loving memory  
Protopresbyter Father Michael Michalopoulos  
Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος πατήρ Μιχαήλ Μιχαλόπουλος  
March 1, 1931 – April 4, 2008

Fr. Michael Michalopoulos was born in Filia, Kalavrita, Greece on March 1, 1931. As a child he served as a Novice at the Monastery of the Great Cave in Kalavrita, Greece. After graduating from high school, young Michael moved to Argentina where he met Magdalene Prodromidis; they were married in 1956 and have 2 children: Katherine and Alexandros, and five grandchildren. He was ordained Deacon in Buenos Aires in 1956 by Bishop Irinaios Kassimatis, first Greek Orthodox Bishop of South America. In 1959 Deacon Michael left for Boston to study for the priesthood at Holy Cross School of Theology, while serving as Deacon to Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America. In 1961, after his ordination to the priesthood by Archbishop Iakovos he was transferred to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fr. Michael served there for one year, and then was transferred to Brazil as the parish priest in the city of Florianopolis also serving all the cities of southern Brazil until 1966 when he was transferred to San Paulo as Archdiocesan Vicar for all Brazil. In June 1970, Fr. Michael returned to Buenos Aires to serve at the parish of The Archangels until August 1, 1981 when he was transferred to Annunciation Church in Vestal, New York. Fr. Michael served there until his retirement in 2003. As a retired priest, Fr. Michael offered his services at the Dormition of the Theotokos Church in Windham, New York every summer and in Ottawa with his son Fr. Alex Michalopoulos. Humble, kind, approachable, trustworthy; Fr. Michael was loved by everyone who met him.

When God, whom he served with fervent faith since childhood called him "Home" everyone felt that they had lost a family member. May his memory be eternal.

Ο πατήρ Μιχαήλ Μιχαλόπουλος γεννήθηκε την 1<sup>η</sup> Μαρτίου 1931 στα Φίλια Καλαβρύτων (Αχαΐα). Παιδί, ακόμα, υπηρέτησε ως δόκιμος στο Μέγα Σπήλαιο Καλαβρύτων. Αμέσως μετά την αποφοίτησή του από το Γυμνάσιο, σε ηλικία 18 ετών, μετανάστευσε στην Αργεντινή. Το 1956 παντρεύτηκε τη Μαγδαληνή Προδρομίδου. Απέκτησαν δύο παιδιά, την Αικατερίνη και τον Αλέξανδρο και, αργότερα, πέντε εγγόνια. Το 1956 χειροτονήθηκε διάκονος από τον πρώτο Ελληνορθόδοξο Επίσκοπο Νοτίου Αμερικής, Ειρηναίο Κασσιμάτη. Το 1959 μετέβη στη Βοστώνη όπου εφοίτησε στην Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού. Συγχρόνως, υπηρετούσε, ως διάκονος, του Αρχιεπισκόπου Βορείου και Νοτίου Αμερικής, Ιακώβου, χειροτονήθηκε ιερέας από τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Ιάκωβο και διορίστηκε στο Μπουένος Άιρες της Αργεντινής. Ένα χρόνο αργότερα πήρε μετάθεση για τη Βραζιλία όπου υπηρέτησε στη Φλοριανούπολη και σε άλλες πόλεις της Νοτίου Βραζιλίας. Το 1966 μετετέθη στο Σάο Πάολο ως Αρχιερατικός Επίτροπος Πάσης Βραζιλίας, εκ μέρους της Αρχιεπισκοπής Βορείου και Νοτίου Αμερικής. Τον Ιούνιο του 1970, ο πατήρ Μιχαήλ επέστρεψε στο Μπουένος Άιρες και υπηρέτησε στον ιερό ναό των Αρχαγγέλων. Την 1<sup>η</sup> Αυγούστου 1981 μετετέθη στον ιερό ναό του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου της πόλης Vestal (Νέα Υόρκη) όπου και παρέμεινε μέχρι τη συνταξιοδότησή του, το 2003. Ως συνταξιούχος ιερέας υπηρέτησε τον ιερό ναό Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου στην πόλη Windham (Νέα Υόρκη) καθώς και το ιερό Οττάβας όπου βοηθούσε τον ιερέα υιό του, πατέρα Αλέξανδρο Μιχαλόπουλο. Ταπεινός, ευγενής και προσηνής, ο πατήρ Μιχαήλ ενέπνεε εμπιστοσύνη και αγαπήθηκε από όλους όσοι τον γνώρισαν.

Για αυτό και όταν ο Κύριος, τον Οποίον από παιδί υπηρετούσε με θερμή πίστη, τον κάλεσε κοντά Του, νιώσαμε όλοι ότι χάσαμε μέλος της δικής μας οικογένειας. Ας είναι αιωνία η μνήμη του.

**Holy Week Schedule for the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation for 2017**  
**Presiding Priest/Proistamenos: Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis**

**Saturday of Lazarus, April 8th:** Orthros 9 AM Divine Liturgy 10 AM

(There will be a children's breakfast served following the Liturgy and this will be followed by the making of crosses from palms afterwards)

**Palm Sunday, April 9th:** Orthros 8:45 AM Divine Liturgy 9:45 AM

**Palm Sunday evening, April 9th:** Service of the Nymphios/Bridegroom matins  
6:30 PM

**Holy Monday, April 10th:** Service of the Bridegroom matins 7:30 PM

**Holy Tuesday, April 11th:** Service of the Bridegroom matins and Hymn of Kassiani  
7:00 PM

**Holy Wednesday morning, April 12:** Pre-sanctified Liturgy 9 AM  
(Annunciation Church)

**Holy Wednesday evening, April 12th:** Service of the Sacrament of Holy Unction  
7:00 PM (Annunciation Church), 3:00 PM (Holy Trinity Church, Binghamton)

**Holy Thursday morning, April 13th:** Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:00 AM

**Holy Thursday evening, April 13th:** Service of the Holy Passions of our Lord and  
the 12 Gospels 6:30 PM

**Holy Friday morning, April 14th:** Service of the Royal Hours 9:30 AM

All are invited to assist in the flower decoration of the Epitaphios at the conclusion of this service. Fr. Michael will provide written excuses for school absences for those children who spend the day at the church.

Camp Annunciation Holy Friday Program begins with decorating the Epitaphios followed by a light Lenten lunch at 12 noon. All are encouraged to bring and share a dish to pass that conforms with the fast of Holy Friday. A JOY/HOPE meeting will be at 1 PM. All adults and children are invited to attend.

**Holy Friday afternoon, April 14th:** Service of Great Vespers of the  
Apokathelosis (The un-nailing of our Lord from the cross) 3 PM

**Holy Friday evening, April 14th:** Service of the Lamentations matins  
6:30 PM

**Holy Saturday morning, April 15th:** Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (The First  
Resurrection of our Lord raising Adam and Eve from the dead) 10 AM

**Holy Saturday night, April 15th/April 16th:** Matins of the Pascha 11:00 PM

'O Come and Receive Ye the Light...' 11:45 PM

Reading of the Gospel of the Resurrection of our Lord 12 AM midnight  
followed by the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Easter Sunday (Pascha), April 16th:** Vespers service of Agape (Annunciation Church)  
(The Gospel will be read in multiple languages. Please see Fr. Michael if you are  
interested in reading the Gospel in ANY other language besides Greek and English)  
11 AM