

Household Devotionals: Icons and Prayers

Monday, March 27 - Sunday, April 2

Visitation of the Mother of God

March 30

A Note on the Feast

The Gorneye Convent in Jerusalem, built on the site of the Meeting of the Theotokos and Saint Elizabeth, celebrates this Feast on March 30. If March 30 should fall between Lazarus Saturday and Pascha, however, the Feast is transferred to Bright Friday.

Hesychios of Sinai

(+7th c.)

March 29

Apolytikion of the Saint Plagal of the Fourth Tone

In thee, O father, the image of God was preserved, for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow after Christ; by activity thou didst learn to disdain the flesh, as something transient, but to care for thy soul as something immortal. Wherefore, with the angels thy spirit doth rejoice, O venerable Hesychios.

Hilarion the New of Pelekete

(+754)

March 28

Apolytikion of the Saint Plagal of the First Tone

Adorned with gladness of soul as a pure vessel of the wisdom of Christ, you were a reflection of the life in God. Therefore you are resplendent with the light of virtues, O Father Hilarion, and you guide us unerringly to the salvation of our souls!

Matrona of Thessaloniki

(+3rd-4th c.)

March 27

Kontakion of the Saint Fourth Tone

Filled with the light of the Spirit, O Matrona, you regarded your prison cell as a bridal chamber; and from it you hastened to your radiant dwelling in the heavens, crying out: "In divine love for You, O Word, I gladly endured scourging."

Barsanuphius of Optina

(+1913)

April 1

Apolytikion of the Saint Plagal of the Fourth Tone

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! O our holy father Barsanuphius, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Repose of Innocent of Alaska

(+1879)

March 31

Apolytikion of the Saint Second Tone

You evangelized the northern people of America and Asia, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to the natives in their own tongues. O holy hierarch father Innocent, enlightener of Alaska and all America, whose ways were ordered by the Lord, pray to Him for the salvation of our souls in His Heavenly Kingdom!

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt **Fifth Sunday of Great Lent**

Troparion of the Saint Second Tone

The desires of thy soul and the passions of thy flesh thou hast cut down with the sword of abstinence; thy sinful thoughts thou hast choked with the silence of the ascetic life. With the streams of thy tears thou hast watered all the wilderness, and caused the fruits of repentance to spring up for us; therefore, O saint, we celebrate thy memory.

Kontakion of the Saint Third Tone

Once thou wast defiled with every impurity, but today through repentance thou hast become the Bride of Christ. Desiring the life of the angels, thou hast cast down the demons with the weapon of the Cross; therefore, O glorious Mary, thou wast made a bride of the Kingdom.

Ikos

In our hymns we praise thee now, all-venerated Mary, as the lamb and daughter of Christ. Sprung from the stock of the Egyptians, thou hast fled from all their errors and wast offered as a precious flower to the Church. In abstinence and prayer thou hast struggled above the measure of man's nature, and so thou wast exalted by Christ; for through thy life and actions, Mary all-revered, thou wast made a bride of the heavenly Kingdom.

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