On this day, the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the memory of our holy and venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt. We focus on the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary was born in Egypt, left home at the age of 12, and spent the next 17 years taking advantage of men for her own physical pleasure. Not until she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem (for all the wrong reasons, but God works even through our wrong choices) did she begin to question the path she was taking. It was when she was unable to enter the church to venerate the Holy Cross that she realized something was wrong. The Theotokos herself helped Mary to understand the severity of her sins, and she repented. She repented so completely that she spent the rest of her days in the desert, fighting against her own fleshly desires and sins. God was with her there in the desert, and he showed His presence to her by providing for her needs and helping her to learn the scriptures and the ways of the Church even without another human there to teach her about them. This allowed Mary to grow more and more holy. A holy monk, Zosimas, was the lone person she saw, and she did not see him until 47 years after she fled to the desert. They had only two encounters, both of which encouraged each of them. Zosimas was able to learn of Mary’s story, and Mary was able to receive Holy Communion at the hand of Zosimas right before she died. Each of these two people longed for holiness in their own life, and both were humbled by the other’s presence on their journey. This humility is an interesting contrast to Mark 10:32-45, the Gospel reading for this Sunday. This Gospel reading reminds us of the squabbling disciples, who are fighting for greatness in this passage. It is interesting that the Church has chosen to offer us the opportunity to study the life of St. Mary, who fought her pride and humbled herself in the desert for most of her life; and then contrast it with the disciples’ desire to sit at Christ’s right hand in His kingdom. It is as though the Church is saying to each of us, “Here are two approaches to life in the Kingdom of God. Who will you choose to be like?” We all know who we should emulate, but repenting and humbling ourselves as completely as St. Mary did is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. Yet here is her life, offered to us as we approach the end of Great Lent, encouraging us to continue to fight the good fight as she did; to abstain from our passions so completely that we learn from Christ Himself and find ourselves humbled when we are in the presence of even the humblest of fellow humans. Holiness is not limited to those with a perfect background. Although God can certainly work in and through those who have always lived holy lives (as did Abba Zosimas), He also brings healing and holiness to those of us who repent completely and turn our focus away from the things of this earth and completely on Him (as He did in the life of St. Mary of Egypt). Glory to God who embraces us as we struggle and meets us in that place!
First Week Memorial For The Servant of God

**ISAM FUAD BABA**

This Sunday, April 18th, 2021

May His Blessed Memory Be Eternal

By his Children GINA HABASH, NICOLAS, CHRISTIAN, & NATALYA BABA, X wife NANCY BABA, Beloved Brother AFIF (NAJWA), WAFI (BADER) BABA, ANN MARIE (JEFF) ANDERER, Nieces & Nephews & all the BABA Families in blessed One Week Memorial For the Servant of God ISAM FUAD BABA. May His Blessed Memory Be Eternal.

Six Months Memorial For the Servant of God

**NASEEF NIMER YACOB MUSLEH**

This Sunday April 18th, 2021

By his Beloved Wife LEILA, Children NABIL, NADER (SAMAR) MUSLEH, NAJWA (ISAM) ABU ALI, His Sisters NAWAL KHARSA & NADIA MUSLEH, all his Nephews & Nieces & all the MUSLEH & DUGMAN Families in blessed Six Months Memorial For the Servant of God NASEEF NIMER YACOB MUSLEH; Also in blessed One Year Memorial of the Handmaid of God our Sister in Christ SUAD NIMER MUSLEH. May Their Blessed Memory Be Eternal.

**BREAD ALTAR OFFERING**: The Holy Bread Altar Offerings (Corban St. Mark 7:11) will be specially offered for the holy Sanctify of the divine Liturgy:

The St. George Parish Family is deeply saddened by the passing into eternal life the Very Rev. Father QUSTANDI AMMARI in Jordan. May His Blessed Memory Be Eternal

By The St. George Parish Family for the continued good health of SAMER NIMRI.

By the St. George Parish Family in Thanksgiving to God and in Congratulations to YOUSEF & DANA & ISABELLA TOTAH on the occasion of the new baby Boy JAMIL TOTAH. Many Years

By the St. George Parish Family in Thanksgiving to God for the continued good health and speedy recovery of The Very Rev Father MOEEN HANNA.

By the St. George Parish Family in Thanksgiving to God and in Congratulations to RAMZI & MAYA HADDAD on the occasion of the Baptism their Child of God SIMONE NAIMEH HADDAD.

By the St. George Parish Family in Thanksgiving to God for the continued good health & speedy recovery of GEORGE BADDOUR.

Holy Martyrs Agathopous & Theodoulos The first was a deacon and the second a reader in the Church in Salonica; the first adorned with the white hairs of age and the second with the chastity of youth. In the time of Diocletian’s hunting of Christians, these two were summoned for trial. They went there joyfully, and, each holding the other by the hand, went in crying: ‘We are Christians!’ The whole court’s urging them to deny Christ and worship idols was in vain. After long imprisonment and starvation, they were condemned to death by drowning in the sea. Their hands were bound behind them and a large stone tied to their necks, and they were taken off to be drowned. When they went to throw Agathopous into the depths, he cried out: ‘Lo, by second baptism we are washed from all our sins, and will go cleansed to Christ Jesus!’ The sea quickly threw their drowned bodies onto the shore, and Christians gave them burial. St Theodulus appeared to his friends in the form of a shining angel in white raiment and commanded them to distribute all his remaining goods to the poor. These great soldiers of Christ suffered with honour under the Emperor Diocletian and Faustinus the governor of Salonica, in the year 30.

**THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU**

JAMILEH MUHAWIEH & Your Families

For Sponsoring Last Sunday Luncheon

May God Grant You Many Years

**~BIER OF CHRIST~**

A FRIENDLY REMINDER You are invited to give a gift for the purchase flowers for The Bier Of Christ on Good Friday and the Paschal Liturgy. Your gifts may be designated in memory/honor of a loved one or in Thanksgiving to God. If you wish to make a donation, please fill out the form on page 4

St. George Church Parish is seeking parishioner sponsorship for future luncheons. Your generous donation would be greatly appreciated for the continued prosperity of our beloved church community. Those interested, please contact Cynthia at (415)-279-0127.

We look forward to your support.

**ICONS AVAILABLE FOR DONATIONS**

**CIRCULAR ICONS IN THE CHURCH**

ABOVE THE WINDOWS

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- St. Longenious $3,000
- St. Fotini $3,000
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**ICONS IN THE FOYER**

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- St. Marina $5,000
- All Saints of Jordan $7,500
- St. Elijah $5,000
- Bride Groom $5,000
- Aphram the Syrian $5,000
- St. Paisios of Athos $5,000

Samhan the governor of Salonica, in the year 30.

Holy Martyrs Agathopous & Theodoulos The first was a deacon and the second a reader in the Church in Salonica; the first adorned with the white hairs of age and the second with the chastity of youth. In the time of Diocletian’s hunting of Christians, these two were summoned for trial. They went there joyfully, and, each holding the other by the hand, went in crying: ‘We are Christians!’ The whole court’s urging them to deny Christ and worship idols was in vain. After long imprisonment and starvation, they were condemned to death by drowning in the sea. Their hands were bound behind them and a large stone tied to their necks, and they were taken off to be drowned. When they went to throw Agathopous into the depths, he cried out: ‘Lo, by second baptism we are washed from all our sins, and will go cleansed to Christ Jesus!’ The sea quickly threw their drowned bodies onto the shore, and Christians gave them burial. St Theodulus appeared to his friends in the form of a shining angel in white raiment and commanded them to distribute all his remaining goods to the poor. These great soldiers of Christ suffered with honour under the Emperor Diocletian and Faustinus the governor of Salonica, in the year 30.
The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
Vow and pay unto the Lord your God. In Judah is God know.
Section from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (9:11-14)

Ye Brethren: When Christ came as high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, no of this creation:

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The Gospel: From St. Mark (10:32-45)

AT That time: Jesus took the twelve disciples and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him; and the third day he shall rise again. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit one on thy right hand, and the other on the left hand, in the glory.

But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal ye shall be baptized:

But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
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Music by
Tagi Haddad
Saint Titus, Apostle of the Seventy was a native of the island of Crete, the son of an illustrious pagan. In his youth he studied Hellenistic philosophy and the ancient poets. Preoccupied by the sciences, Titus led a virtuous life, not devoting himself to the vices and passions characteristic of the majority of pagans. He preserved his virginity, as the Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer (December 20) testifies of him.

For such a manner of life the Lord did not leave him without His help. At age twenty Saint Titus heard a voice in a dream, suggesting that he abandon Hellenistic wisdom, which could not provide salvation for his soul, but rather to seek that which would save him. After this dream, Saint Titus waited yet another year,
since it was not actually a command, but it did guide him to familiarize himself with the teachings of the prophets of God. The first that he happened to read was the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Having opened it to the 47th Chapter, he was struck by the words, speaking as it were about his own spiritual condition.

When news reached Crete about the appearance of a Great Prophet in Palestine, and about the great miracles He worked, the governor of the island of Crete (an uncle of Titus) sent him there. This Prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, incarnate of the Most Holy Virgin Mary Who came into the world for the redemption of the race of mankind from the oppression of ancestral sin.

At Jerusalem, Saint Titus saw the Lord. He heard His preaching and believed in Him. He witnessed the suffering and death of the Savior on the Cross, His glorious Resurrection and Ascension to Heaven. On the day of Pentecost the future apostle heard how the Twelve Apostles, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, spoke in various languages, among which was the Cretan language (Acts 2: 11).

Saint Titus accepted Baptism from the Apostle Paul and became his closest disciple. He accompanied Saint Paul on his missionary journeys, fulfilling the tasks entrusted to him. He was involved in establishing new churches, and was with Paul in Jerusalem. Saint Titus was numbered among the Seventy Apostles and was made Bishop of Crete by the Apostle Paul. Around the year 65, not long before his second imprisonment, the Apostle Paul sent a pastoral epistle to his son in the Faith (Tit. 1: 4).

When the Apostle Paul was taken like a criminal to Rome to stand trial before Caesar, Saint Titus left his flock in Crete for a time and went to Rome to be of service to his spiritual Father. After Saint Paul’s death by martyrdom, Titus returned to Gortyna, the chief city of Crete.

Saint Titus peacefully guided his flock and toiled at enlightening the pagans with the light of faith in Christ. He was granted the gift
of wonderworking by the Lord. During one of the pagan feasts in honor of the goddess Diana, Titus preached to a crowd of pagans. When he saw that they would not listen to him, he prayed to the Lord, so that the Lord Himself would show to the mistaken people the falseness of idols. By the prayer of Saint Titus, the idol of Diana fell down and shattered before the eyes of all. Another time Saint Titus prayed that the Lord would not permit the completion of a temple of Zeus, and it collapsed. By such miracles Saint Titus brought many to faith in Christ. After bringing the light of faith to the surrounding regions, Saint Titus died peacefully at the age of 97. At the time of his death, his face shone like the sun.

**Troparion — Tone 3**
Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Titus, / Entreat the merciful God, / To grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions.

**Kontakion — Tone 2**
Titus, worthy of all praise and preacher of Christ’s mysteries, / You were Paul’s companion, and with him taught us the doctrine of God. / Therefore we cry out to you: / Never cease to intercede for the sake of us all!
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