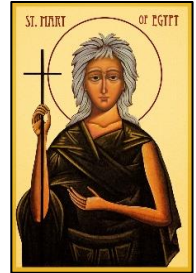


**ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA**  
**BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 stnicholasfontana.org  
[st.nicholas.fontana@gmail.com](mailto:st.nicholas.fontana@gmail.com)  
 9112 OLEANDER AVENUE  
 FONTANA, CA 92335  
 (909) 822-9917  
 Served by: Rev. Stephen Casmus



**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST MARY OF EGYPT**  
**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

**MAR 18, 2018**  
**Glory forever!**

+++++

**DIVINE LITURGY**

Sunday 10:00 AM                      Holydays 7:00 PM

Sunday 1:30 PM at St. Philip the Apostle  
 923 W Congress St, San Bernardino, CA 92410

Confession: Sunday 9:00-9:30 AM or by appointment

**Welcome to all visitors** to St. Nicholas Church. If you are new and wish to register as a parishioner, please see Fr. Stephen after the Divine Liturgy.

**Parish Membership**

The Family of Saint Nicholas of Myra is open to any Catholic, and to anyone:

- Who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacred Mysteries.
- Who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Who will help us form a community based on the Lord’s love.
- Who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church.
- Who acknowledges the authority of the Pope, Bishop and Pastor.
- Who will attend Liturgical Services on Sunday, and on the Great Holydays.
- Who is willing to support the growth of the Church by sharing their Time, Talent and Treasure.
- Who will participate in the yearly Eparchial Appeal

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUN. MAR 18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast  
 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy  
 Heb 9:11-14, Mark 10:32-45

MON. MAR 19 – Chrysanthus & Daria, Martyrs  
 7:00 PM – Pre-sanctified Liturgy (St. Philip's)  
 Gen 27:1-41, Prov 19:16-25

WED. MAR 21 – James of Catania, Bishop-Confessor  
 7:00 PM – Pre-sanctified Liturgy  
 Gen 17:1-9, Prov 15:20-16:9

FRI. MAR 23 – Nicon & Others, Venerable-Martyrs  
 7:00 PM – Lazarus Vespers  
 (St. Philip's)

SAT. MAR 24 – Lazarus Saturday  
 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy  
 Heb 12:28-13:8, John 11:1-45

SUN. MAR 25 – Palm Sunday, Annuciation of the Theotokos  
 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy  
 Phil 4:4-9 & Heb 2:11-18  
 John 12:1-18 & Luke 1:24-38

Please make an effort to attend as many of these services as you can so your Lenten Spiritual Journey may be rich and bear much fruit.

**Please join us** in the hall after the liturgy for fellowship and light refreshments.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK & INFIRMED OF OUR PARISH & PARISHIONERS RELATIVES:**

Paul Bruckler, Robert Gubany, Teresa Sandoval and Gloria Brissette.

**03/11/18 Attendance: 15**

**Parish Income:** Tithes -\$230.00, Donations -\$20.00, Fund Raising -\$220.00,  
Recycle - \$9.78

**Total - \$479.78**

**The Fontana Breakfast Lion's Club** hosts **BINGO** here at St. Nicholas on **Saturday evenings**. The kitchen has become a significant source of income for the parish. Please participate in this fundraising effort. It is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners. Many hands make light work, but currently there are few that regularly participate. Please sign up in the hall to ensure there are at least three working.

### **Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt**

Born probably about 344; died about 421. At the early age of twelve Mary left her home and came to Alexandria, where for upwards of seventeen years she led a life of public prostitution. At the end of that time, on the occasion of a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, she embarked for Palestine, not however with the intention of making the pilgrimage, but in the hope that life on board ship would afford her new and abundant opportunities of gratifying an insatiable lust. Arrived in Jerusalem she persisted in her shameless life, and on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross joined the crowds towards the church where the sacred relic was venerated, hoping to meet in the gathering some new victims whom she might allure into sin. And now came the turning-point in her career. When she reached the church door, she suddenly felt herself repelled by some secret force, and having vainly attempted three or four times to enter, she retired to a corner of the churchyard, and was struck with remorse for her wicked life, which she recognized as the cause of her exclusion from the church. Bursting into bitter tears and beating her breast, she began to bewail her sins. Just then her eyes fell upon a statue of the Blessed Virgin above the spot where she was standing, and in deep faith and humility of heart she besought Our Lady for help, and permission to enter the church and venerate the sacred wood on

which Jesus had suffered, promising that if her request were granted, she would then renounce forever the world and its ways, and forthwith depart whithersoever Our Lady might lead her. Encouraged by prayer and counting on the mercy of the Mother of God, she once more approached the door of the church, and this time succeeded in entering without the slightest difficulty. Having adored the Holy Cross and kissed the pavement of the church, she returned to Our Lady's statue, and while praying there for guidance as to her future course, she seemed to hear a voice from afar telling her that if she crossed the Jordan, she would find rest. That same evening Mary reached the Jordan and received Holy Communion in a church dedicated to the Baptist, and the day following crossed the river and wandered eastward into the desert that stretches towards Arabia.

Here she had lived absolutely alone for forty-seven years, subsisting apparently on herbs, when a priest and monk, named Zosimus, who after the custom of his brethren had come out from his monastery to spend Lent in the desert, met her and learned from her own lips the strange and romantic story of her life. As soon as they met, she called Zosimus by his name and recognized him as a priest. After they had conversed and prayed together, she begged Zosimus to promise to meet her at the Jordan on Holy Thursday evening of the following year and bring with him the Blessed Sacrament. When the appointed evening arrived, Zosimus, we are told, put into a small chalice a portion of the undefiled Body and the precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and came to the spot that had been indicated. After some time Mary appeared on the eastern bank of the river, and having made the sign of the cross, walked upon the waters to the western side. Having received Holy Communion, she raised her hands towards heaven, and cried aloud in the words of Simeon: "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace, because my eyes have seen thy salvation". She then charged Zosimus to come in the course of a year to the spot where he had first met her in the desert, adding that he would find her then in what condition God might ordain. He came, but only to find the poor saint's corpse, and written beside it on the ground a request that he should bury her, and a statement that she had died a year before, on the very night on which he had given her Holy Communion, far away by the Jordan's banks. Aided, we are told, by a lion, he prepared her grave and buried her, and having commended himself and the Church to her prayers, he returned to his monastery, where now for the first time he recounted the wondrous story of her life.