

Feast day of Mary of Egypt



The Church today venerates the memory of Mary of Egypt.

This saint lived a depraved life in Alexandria until roughly the age of 30.

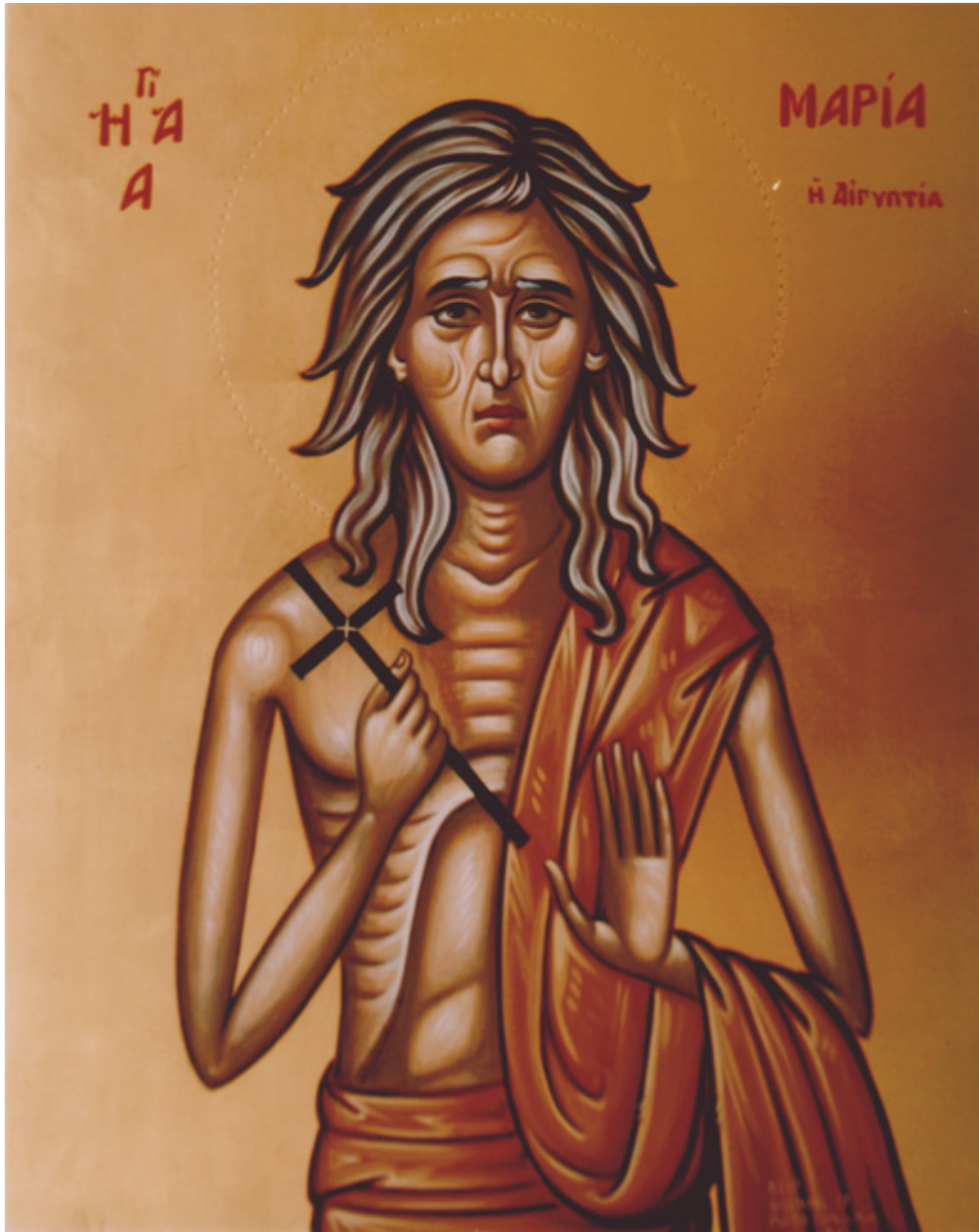
Moved by curiosity, she accompanied pilgrims to Jerusalem, where she might witness the Exaltation of the venerable Cross.

Even in the Holy City she gave herself over to every kind of licentiousness and drew many into the depth of perdition.

Desiring to go into the church on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross, she repeatedly perceived an invisible force preventing her entry, whereas the multitude of people about her entered unhindered.

Awestruck by this sign, she decided to change her way of life and reconcile herself to God by means of repentance. Invoking our Lady the Theotokos as her protectress, she asked her to open the way for her to worship the Cross, and vowed that she would renounce the world. And thus, returning once again to the church, she entered easily. When she had worshipped the precious Wood, she departed that same day from Jerusalem and passed over the Jordan. She went into the inner wilderness and for 47 years lived a most austere manner.

Her death is reckoned by some to have taken place in 378, by others in 437, and yet by others, in 522. She is commemorated also on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt's life was recorded by St. Sophronius of Jerusalem.



Apolytikion of 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.



Saint Joseph the Hesychast

Documentary



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