

Saint Mary of Egypt, pray for us!



# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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## Are you a servant?



Like a servant, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples.

**Have you ever played kings and queens, or princes and princesses? Probably. Have you ever played servants? Maybe not. Everybody seems to want to be in charge. Nobody wants to be the servant!**

But did you know? God wants us all to be servants. In the Gospel today, we hear these words: "whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." In just two weeks, we will see how our Lord became a servant for us! He served *us* when He died on the Cross. He did that so that one day, we could be with Him in heaven.

But how can *we* be servants? There is a great story about Saint Nektarios. He was a bishop and the principal of a school. One day the custodian at the school got sick and was going to lose his job! Every day, Saint Nektarios would wake up extra early to clean the floors, the bathrooms, and the whole school. He did that so the sick man could keep his job. Saint Nektarios was in charge, but he became a servant so he could help the poor man.

Can you think of any ways you can be humble, like a servant? Remember, God wants us to serve, not to be served!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

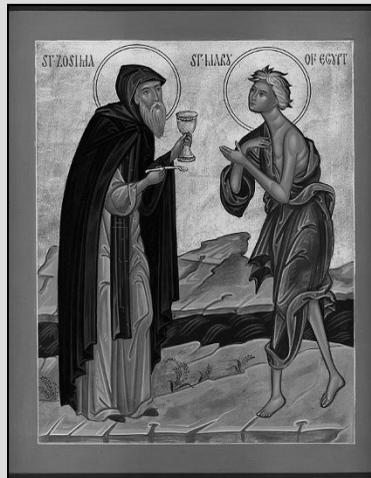
- Deaconess
- Desert
- Humility
- Mary of Egypt
- Monastery
- Platonida
- Prayer
- Saint
- Servant

S S N V Z L L H F J J E P V R  
 V O E M M V C O L J E O B M H  
 O D M R A D Q O M R S T U O U  
 L K B B V B F M T S F D N I M  
 B U O V C A Q R E R W G A Z I  
 D Y U M Y M N N Z W E H V P L  
 V M A D I N O T A L P S R S I  
 O R K U C C F P Q K X A E I T  
 J T U W A T S H Q D Y E X D Y  
 Y P C E O N U J Z E Z L W N V  
 X J D I C I W S R T H V R N U  
 S M A D M A R Y O F E G Y P T  
 V B T Z G S S E I V H S B R Y  
 X P N A W Y E Y S V Z R N I D  
 S S T K W Y R E T S A N O M K

## WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Like Saint Platonida, Saint Mary of Egypt was another holy woman who went into the desert, so she could grow closer to God!

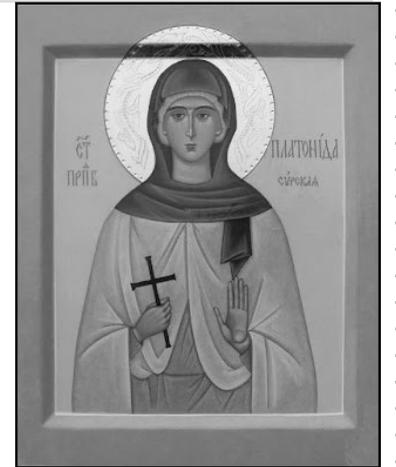
We celebrate her today, the 5th Sunday of Lent.



## REMEMBERING THE CRUCIFIXION

### SAINT PLATONIDA OF SYRIA

**Next Friday, we'll all come** together to remember Christ's holy crucifixion. We'll see the Cross in the front of the church, and we'll read the Gospels that tell us about the horrible things that our Lord suffered.



We remember these events on Holy Friday, but sometimes we forget to think about them throughout the rest of the year. This week, we celebrate a saint who always did remember our Lord's crucifixion with a lot of prayer.

Saint Platonida lived in Syria many, many years ago. She was a deaconess, and she helped serve at baptisms for women who were becoming Christians. Later on, she went into the desert to focus more on her prayers to God. She started a women's monastery there.

Saint Platonida's monastery was pretty strict! The women didn't eat much, they had lots of chores, and they prayed a lot. But on Friday, all the work would stop. Saint Platonida felt that it was so important to remember *every Friday* what our Lord suffered. So, the women would spend the whole day, filled only with prayer.

We can try to be a little more like Saint Platonida too! In the regular year, we have Fridays to remember Christ's crucifixion. We fast, and we can pray special prayers. Let's take Fridays seriously, just as Saint Platonida did!

**We remember Saint Platonida on Thursday, April 6th (OC: April 19th).**