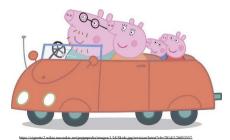


## Sunday, March 18th



- What feast was St. Mary of Egypt traveling to Jerusalem for?
- Which icon did St. Mary pray with when she couldn't get inside the church?
- True or false: There's nothing you can do that's bad enough that God won't forgive you.

## <u>Praying Together:</u>

Lord Jesus,

St. Mary of Egypt shows us that

Your Father's forgiveness is

limitless. Help us always turn to

You when we've done wrong.

Amen.

## Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs Mar.18/18, St. Mary of Egypt (5th Sunday of Lent)

- 1. What feast was St. Mary of Egypt traveling to Jerusalem for?
  - 1. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.<sup>1</sup>
  - 2. This feast takes place on September 14th.
  - 3. On this feast day we especially remember Christ's death and Resurrection, and the fact that He died of our sins.
  - 4. It is amazing that this is the feast that jumpstarts St. Mary's conversion as it truly serves as a reminder for us to take up our crosses and follow Jesus.
- 2. Which icon did St. Mary pray with when she couldn't get inside the church?
  - 1. The icon of the Mother of God.
- "'And so I stood weeping when I saw above me the ikon of the most holy Mother of God. Not taking my eyes off her, I said, "O Lady, Mother of God, who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word, I know, O how well I know, that it is no honour or praise to thee when one so impure and depraved as I look up to thy icon, O ever-virgin, who didst keep thy body and soul in purity. Rightly do I inspire hatred and disgust before thy virginal purity. But I have heard that God Who was born of thee became man on purpose to call sinners to repentance. Then help me, for I have no other help. Order the entrance of the church to be opened to me. Allow me to see the venerable Tree on which He Who was born of thee suffered in the flesh and on which He shed His holy Blood for the redemption of sinners an for me, unworthy as I am. [...] but as soon as I have seen the Tree of the Cross I will renounce the world and its temptations and will go wherever thou wilt lead me." Thus I spoke and as if acquiring some hope in firm faith and feeling some confidence in the mercy of the Mother of God, I left the place where I stood praying. And I went again and mingled with the crowd that was pushing its way into the temple. And no one seemed to thwart me, no one hindered my entering the church. I was possessed with trembling, and was almost in delirium.""
- 3. True or false: There's nothing you can do that's bad enough that God won't forgive you.
  - 1. True
  - 2. This is a lesson that Judas didn't learn, as evidenced by his hanging.
  - 3. Judas wasn't the only disciple who let Jesus down, though: Peter denied Him three times, the other apostles fled, Thomas doubted Him. They came back to Christ, however, and proceeded to share in His Life and Resurrection.
  - 4. St. Mary of Egypt reiterates this lesson with her life and reminds us that we can always turn to Jesus (directly or through Mary) when we've sinned. He will always forgive us.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For more info on The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, see the chapter of the topic in A Byzantine Rite Liturgical Year, p. 219-225.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the whole story, check out <a href="http://stmaryofegypt.org/files/library/life.htm">http://stmaryofegypt.org/files/library/life.htm</a>.