



MARY OF EGYPT

## Mary of Egypt

d. 421

1 April Orthodox  
Desert Monastic

- ✠ Left home at 12 for prostitution in Alexandria
- ✠ Converted in Jerusalem at the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
- ✠ Lived alone for 47 years, subsisting on herbs
- ✠ Met Zosima and asked him to bring her Communion next Holy Thursday
- ✠ Walked across water to received communion, died that same night

“O mother, filled with the spirit, by your mode of life it is evident that you live with God and have died to the world. The Grace granted to you is apparent – for you have called me by name and recognized that I am a priest, though you have never seen me before. Grace is recognized not by one’s orders, but by gifts of the Spirit, so give me your blessing for God’s sake, for I need your prayers.”

(Zosima to Mary)

Since the time I communicated in the temple of the Forerunner before crossing the Jordan even to this day I have not approached the Holy Mysteries. And I thirst for them with irrepressible love and longing. and therefore I ask and implore you to grant me my wish, bring me the lifegiving Mysteries at the very hour when Our Lord made His disciples partake of His Divine Supper.

St. Sophronius, *Life of Mary of Egypt*