

**ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

**COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS,
AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"**

APRIL 7, 2019



CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York & Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

V. Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, *Pastor of St. Nicholas*
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V. Rev. Fr. Elias Mitchell, *Pastor Emeritus*

Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff
Rev. Deacon Theodore Sirotko

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WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located on the table in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us for refreshments & fellowship in the Cultural Center.

We believe **Holy Communion** to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith is encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, & regular confession are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

WHO WE ARE

St. Nicholas is a worshipping community in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian tradition that preserves, proclaims, and practices the Faith given by Christ to the Apostles, serving Him, one another and our neighbors. We manifest His love through sacramental and liturgical life, education, hospitality, works of mercy, and fellowship.

We would love to share more about our Orthodox Faith with you. Our website and our bookstore are great resources to assist you in learning more about us and what we believe! Also, feel free to make an appointment with our pastor.

We trust that you will experience Christ's presence as you worship with us today.



THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

On the Sundays of Great Lent, the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is served in place of the typical Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The main difference is in the prayers said by the Priest, which can be followed in the white spiral-bound Divine Liturgy book or in the red Service Book (page 132).

HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

HYMNS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS (TONE 8)

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS (TONE 4)

Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our soul.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (TONE 8)

To thee our captain Queen of war, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos, as though hast might which none by war can overcome, from all forms of danger has thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail O virgin, unwedded bride.

EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people.
The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

SYNAXARION

(LIVES OF THE SAINTS OF THE DAY)

On April 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Kalliopios of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

Verses

John, dead in the flesh and also living,
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.
Amen.

WELCOME BACK

We are so happy to have Fr. Elias and Marian Mitchell back at St. Nicholas! Please extend a warm welcome back to both!

HOLY OBLATION IS OFFERED

For the health and blessings of the Servant of God, Oscar Charles Adolphson upon his entrance into Church by Eileen Adolphson. May God grant him many years!

In memory of Earl Loss by the Storey family. May his memory be Eternal!



SERVING MINISTRIES

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Epistle Readers:	Cece Olson	Rebekah Kaufman
Coffee Hour:	No Host	Food For Hungry People

** All families are encouraged to host at least one Coffee Hour each year. Feel free to invite another family to partner with you if you prefer. When selecting a Coffee Hour date, take into account significant dates such as: memorials, anniversaries, names day, significant birthdays, etc. The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet can be found on the Parishioners' table in the Narthex. As a reminder, Coffee Hour does not have to be elaborate. It can be as simple as Coffee and bagels. We have all of the paper products and coffee supplies on hand.*

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

LIVING

Vera Mijatovic	LaVerne Audy	Cheri Donahue
Audrey Nicoloff	Eva Rose Saseen	Barbara Lawrence
Ralph Thomas	Dennis Hattem	Barbara Sielaff
David Corey	Richard Traxler	Adele Trimble
Mary Martin	Kh. Cynthia Hogg	

If you desire a name to be added to this prayer list, Holy Oblations may be offered, with the option of being added to the bulletin Prayer List for 40 days.

DEPARTED

Victims of the continued conflicts in the Middle East, and the natural disaster in Southern Africa.

PARISHIONERS DEPARTED IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

4/04/2007	Alem Berih
4/07/2015	Margaret Salhaney
4/10/1968	Albert Yared
4/12/1981	Alexander Koory
4/12/2012	Jodi Longstreet
4/13/1957	Jennie Bander
4/14/2009	James Abraham
4/15/2003	Nicholas Wawee
4/17/1947	Saied Bohysic
4/18/2010	Josephine Orange
4/22/1972	Mary Salhaney
4/23/1981	Minerva Bashara
4/24/1978	Elizabeth Thomas
4/25/1971	Louis Simon
4/25/2015	Wade Abraham
4/28/1959	Mansour Simon
4/30/1964	V. Rev. John Mickel
4/30/1980	George Amash
4/30/1989	Edward David