

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

## COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

APRIL 11, 2021



### ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

2250 East Paris Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-954-2700 ▪ [info@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:info@stnicholasgr.com) ▪ [www.stnicholasgr.com](http://www.stnicholasgr.com)

#### 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*

Very Reverend Michael Nasser  
*Pastor of St. Nicholas ▪ 616-216-3537 ▪ [frmichael@stnicholasgr.com](mailto:frmichael@stnicholasgr.com)*

V. Rev. Fr. Elias Mitchell  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Reverend Theodore Sirotko  
Rev. Archdeacon David Khorey  
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson

Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff  
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



## 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.

Our parish exists to seek and share Christ's love so that ALL will find Eternal Life in Him.

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.



# HYMNS AND READINGS OF THE DAY

## HYMNS

### ***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (TONE 3)***

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the 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.  
Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God,  
bring unto the Lord glory and honor.*

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

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into “that which is within the veil,” where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest “forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

**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

On April 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Righteous Mothers Tryphaina and Matrona of Cyzicus.

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.

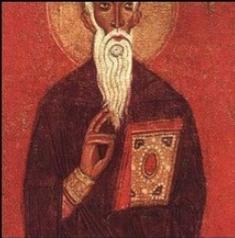
The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation 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.

## HOLY OBLATIONS

For the Health and Blessings of Leah Kaufman on the occasion of her birthday, offered by her parents Ryan and Carole Kaufman. May God grant her many years!

John Climacus



Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honour your patience.

AZ QUOTES

## REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*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.*

### LIVING

Metropolitan Paul      Archbishop John      Archpriest Joseph

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in India, Brazil, Turkey and throughout the world.

### HOLY OBLATIONS

Leah Kaufman

### ONGOING PRAYERS

Attallah Amash	Barbara Sielaff	Hatem Karadsheh
Audrey Nicoloff	Joe Corey	Marge Simon
Ralph Thomas	Laura Lee	Dan Abraham
David Corey	Shirley Salhaney	



### DEPARTED

#### NEWLY DEPARTED

Vera Mijatovic  
Herilkia Lailios  
Richard Traxler

And all the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty throughout our Nation, in Brazil, Poland, India and throughout the world.