

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS,
AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

APRIL 14, 2024

ST. NICHOLAS
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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CLERGY

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
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

Reverend David Khorey
Associate Pastor

Rev. Theodore Sirotko
Rev. Deacon Justin Adolphson
Rev. Deacon Clement Nicoloff

Rev. Deacon John Kaufman
Subdeacon Nicholas Rock



WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book and taking a visitor's packet both 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 Church is a worshipping community, living and sharing the Faith Christ gave to the Apostles.

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.



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

O Lord, how magnified are Thy works.

In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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.”

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 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy.

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

We welcome Fr. Christopher Rowe, Assistant Director of Development of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). He will be sharing some special OCMC highlights. Please welcome him personally at Coffee Hour.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY

In memory of the Handmaiden of God, Inad Kallas Sabbagh, on her 40-day falling asleep in the Lord, offered by George, Sophia (Kallas), Christina and John Soukar. May her memory be Eternal!

QUOTES FROM ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

*Do not make judgments,
and you will travel no quicker road
to the forgiveness of your sins.
'Judge not, so that you may not be judged' (Lk. 6:37).*

*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 honor your patience.*

Humility is constant forgetfulness of one's achievements.

*Become aware of God,
in whose presence you are while you pray . . .
Then take a formula of prayer
and recite it with perfect attention
both to the words you are saying
and to the Person to whom you are saying them.*

REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

*Names are added to the Prayer List
for one week by offering Holy Oblation
or for up to 40 days in the case of an ongoing serious illness.*

LIVING

Metropolitan PAUL
Archbishop JOHN
Archpriest Joseph
Priest Christopher Rowe

And all the victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in the Middle East, Ukraine, and throughout the world.

For our teen SOYO retreat youth.

Subdn. Nicholas Rock	Kathy Corey
MaryAnn Maloley	Tillie Sayfie
Audrey Nicoloff	Maddison Frawley
Joe Corey	Wadih Choueiri
David Corey	Michelle Spruit



DEPARTED

For the newly departed victims of tragedy, violence, and poverty
in the Middle East, Ukraine, and throughout the world

DEPARTED

Inad Kallas Sabbagh