

St. John Climacus

(The Fourth Sunday in Great Lent)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this sacred work, the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort required for entry into the Kingdom of God (Matthew 10:12).

The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is not easy, for it is "not against flesh and blood, but against . . . the rulers of the present darkness . . . the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). Yet Saint John strengthens and encourages the faithful in their labors, reminding us that, as the Lord Himself has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).



Saint John was born around the year 525 to devout and wealthy parents. Though he received an excellent education, at the age of sixteen he renounced the world and journeyed to Mount Sinai, placing himself under the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen, his Elder reposed. Thereafter, Saint John entered more deeply into the ascetic life, visiting monastic communities in Egypt before settling in the Sinai Desert. For forty years he lived in a small cell at Thora, about five miles from the Monastery of Saint Katherine, devoting himself entirely to God.

Aflame with longing for the Lord, he practiced strict self-restraint, eating only what was necessary according to the monastic rule. Through this discipline, he overcame pride and humbled the body. He kept the remembrance of death continually before him, conquered anger through obedience, and gave himself to tears, prayer, and vigilant watchfulness. He slept little, prayed fervently, and even wrote as a means of combating despondency. In all things, his life became one of unceasing prayer and love for God, reflecting the very path he describes in .

After composing The Ladder at the request of the Igoumen of Raithu Monastery, and after leading a life well-pleasing to God, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord around the year 603, at about seventy-five years of age. He is also commemorated on March 30.

"Do not say, after spending a long time in prayer, that nothing has been gained; for you have already gained something. And what higher good is there than to cling to the Lord and persevere in unceasing union with Him?"

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ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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March 22, 2026

ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

(4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT)

COMMEMORATIONS:

**BASIL THE HOLY
MARTYR OF ANCYRA,
KALLINIKI & VASSILISA
THE MARTYRS,
EUTHEMIOS THE NEW
MARTYR**



**Tone 8 - Eothinon 8
Orthros Gospel: St. John 20:11-18
Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20
Liturgy Gospel: St. Mark 9:17-31**

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - Tone 8 - From the heights Thou didst descend, O Compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord. Glory to Thee!

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.

TODAY:

ORTHROS & Confession, 8:15 a.m.

Divine LITURGY, 9:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 12:35 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

This Week
COFFEE HOUR: Crafty Kids Fundraiser (Ethiopian Food)
PROSPHORA BREAD: Gabi & Catalin Tinjala
ALTAR CANDLES: Schneider - Flora's Birthday
USHERS: TBD
CLEANING TEAM: Teens
COFFEE HOUR TEAM: Morgan T., Mark Z., Rose N., Simon K.
BULLETIN DISTRIBUTOR: Matthew Hockley

Next Week (March 29):
 All the "Mary's" of St. Philip
 Gabi & Catalin Tinjala

 TBD
 Nick T., Gabi T., Dave & Darby S.
 Kendra M., Hannah B., Daniel C., Andrew & Becky V.
 Sam Park

Mark Your Calendar:

Palm Sunday
April 5

Holy Week Services
 April 5th-12th

Great & Holy Pascha
April 12
 We live Pascha to Pascha

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS
 support the beautification of
 our church during this holy
 season. Flower offering
envelopes are available on the
literature table in the Narthex.
 Thank you!

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please take one of the Food For
 Hungry People collection boxes
(available in the Narthex) to your
 home and at Pascha bring them back filled
 to help our archdiocese food distribution
 program.

**MARCH OUTREACH
 COLLECTION:**
 Baby Care Items

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria, and all the holy land	+Christine +Sze-Tatiana +Patriarch Iliia (March Parish Diptychs)
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+Najib +Lorraine +Julia +Helen +Dina +Robert +Adele +Mary +Haritos
The leadership and community of St Emmelia Ministries, St Justin Academy, our Mission Chapel, Hades Embittered, St Tikhon's Seminary, St Raphael School, and those to whom they reach out.	<u>Catechumens</u> Matthew H Martin (Ernie) R Sean, Meghan, and John T Robert S Carolyn D Martin (Morgan) & Gabriella T Anthony V Slavek G Nevada L Josiah & Casie, Ray & Gwen L John C Daniel, Eleanor, Amos & Marigold C Adaelle S Jeff & Jasmin, Jaxon, Jonah, Jayce & Jacob P Andrew & Rebecca, Hannah, Miriam, Priscilla & Phoebe V Daniel & Jordan, Daniella, Meadow & Mason M Hannah B Samuel & Emilie, Ari & Addison P James B Nicole P Dylan H Ryan M
Elizabeth Julie Jacob & Family Wadih Matushka Cecilia Louise-Ruth Joanne Nancy-Anna Elizabeth Sister Anka Hieromonk Silouan Aristides Catherine Christine Maria John James Paraskevi Daria Photini Carol-Anna Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries Priest Nathan, Deacon Irenaeus, Theophanes, Jacob, John, Samuel, Darius & all seminarians and their families Those searching for jobs, houses, spouses & monasteries Courting, Engaged, & Newly-Crowned Couples Families struggling to conceive Expectant and new mothers and their babies Those in mourning The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unity	

This Week:

Mon, March 23: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
 PC Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Tues, March 24: Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Vespers & Artoklasis, 6:00 p.m.

Wed, March 25: **Annunciation to the Theotokos Orthros, 8:15 a.m.**
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Fasting Potluck (fish/wine/oil), 11:00 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
 FOCUS: Norristown, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, March 26: Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
Great Compline w/ Life of St. Mary of Egypt & Great Canon of Repentance, 6:00 p.m.
 FOCUS: Aviator Park, 8:00 p.m.

Fri, March 27: Confessions, 9:00 a.m.
 Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Fasting Potluck, 11:00 a.m.
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Little Compline & Akathist Hymn, 6:00 p.m.
 Q&A w/ Fr. Noah, 7:00 p.m.

Sat, March 28: Divine Liturgy & Trisagion, 8:00 a.m.
 Pysanky Workshop (Young Adults), 1:00 p.m.
 Catechism Class, 4:30 p.m..
 Confessions, 5:30 p.m.
 Great Vespers, 6:00 p.m.
 Confessions, 7:00 p.m.

Sun, March 29: **St. Mary of Egypt (Lent 5)**
 Orthros & Confessions, 8:15 a.m.
 Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.
 Coffee Hour & Sunday School, 11:15 a.m.
 Choir Rehearsal, 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers 3/14: 124 Liturgy 3/15: 271
 Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy: 127
OFFERINGS 3/14: Candles, \$606. Collections, \$1,404.02. Book Shelf Ministry, \$362. Flowers, \$65. Pastoral Discretion, \$. Pro-Life, \$370. Needy Fund, \$100. Teen Fund, \$350. Mission Chapel, \$1,612. Endowment, \$120. Building Fund, \$850. Stewardship, \$4,775.
 Total received: \$10,614.77.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!