

Great Lent:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "*not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ...*" (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "**he who endures to the end will be saved**" (Mt.24:13).

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian:

*O Lord and Master of my life!
Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness,
lust of power, and idle talk.
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience,
and love to Thy servant.
Yea, O Lord and King!
Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother;
For Thou art blessed unto ages of ages.
Amen*

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Ladder of Divine
Ascent

On this day the Church remembers:

• **Fourth Sunday Of Lent • St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*) • Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824) • Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308) • St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus. Martyrs Elpidophorus, Dius, Bithonius and Galycus.**

*The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe,
O our Father and Teacher John.*

(Kontakion- Sunday of St. John of the Ladder)

April 3, 2011

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder

4th Sunday of Great Lent | **Tone 4** of the Octoechos. | Triodion week 8

Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:**For the health of:**

Barbara Funk on her birthday, from her daughter, granddaughter, and friends.

Readings:

- **Ephesians 5:9-19 (St John Climacus)**
- **Matthew 4:25-5:12 (St John Climacus)**
- **Hebrews 6:13-20 (4th Sunday of Great Lent)**
- **Mark 9:17-31 (4th Sunday of Great Lent)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "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 your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he 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 him, 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 you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "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 he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he 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 he would not have any one 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 when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Sunday service:

9:40 AM – Hours

10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy

Church School - 9:30 Choir practice - 9:30 Coffee hour after Liturgy

2011 Services for Great Lent

Friday, April 8, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, April 15, 6:00 PM - Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 16, 6:00 PM - Vespers - Saturday of Lazarus' Resurrection

2011 Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 21, 6:00 PM - Thursday evening service (Friday Matins - 12 Passion Gospels)

Friday, April 22, 2:00 PM - Friday Vespers

Friday April 22, 6:00 PM - Good Friday Service (Called Saturday Matins)

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour downstairs.

Announcements:

- **Parish cleanup day** - Members of the parish are invited to help with cleanup and maintenance tasks at the church building and grounds. **Morning of Saturday, April 9th, starting at 9:00 AM.**
- **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** will be served every Friday, at 6:00 pm, during Lent.
- **The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos will be meeting today**, after coffee hour.
- **Choir practice** will be held at 9:30 Sunday mornings, downstairs.
- Today and throughout Lent, there will be a **special collection after the sermon**. This collection is for **Plaschinitza Flowers** and for Pascha basket raffle items.

Special Announcements:

- There will be **no General Confession** during Great Lent; Father can hear Confessions before any service. (Arrive early)
- We thank everyone who gave generously toward **recovery efforts in ravaged Japan**. Individual donations may **still be made on-line** at www.iocc.org, or by calling toll free: **877-803-4622**. Please be sure to indicate your gift as **"Relief for Japan."**
- **Dues and assessments** are being collected for the year 2011, **Total is \$175**. (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment) Partial payments are gladly accepted.