

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For health of:**

**Andrew and Robert Morris** on their birthdays, offered by Grandmother and Mother-in-law Lore Stefy.

**Walter Romanofsky**, father of Andrew, on his 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Readings:**

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

**BRETHREN**, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a 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 for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**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."

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****Sunday service:**

**Hours** - 9:40 AM

**Divine Liturgy** – 10:00 AM

**Private Confession** - Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

**General Confession** - 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month.

**Pannikhidas** - after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

**Church School** – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

**Coffee hour** - after Liturgy

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

**Announcements:**

- **This week's services of Great Lent:**
  - **April 17 (Wednesday)** 6:30PM **Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts** with potluck supper to follow.
  - **April 20 (Saturday)** 6:30PM **Vespers**
  - **April 21** Sunday of St Mary of Egypt – **Divine Liturgy 10AM**
- **Choir practice for Pascha services** will be held every Sunday at 9:30
- **Today, and on the Sundays of Lent**, there will be a special collection for **Easter flowers** and other related expenses for Pascha.
- **This Saturday**, April 20, there will be a **parish clean-up day** starting at 9:00 am. Please come and help make our church building look great.
- **Next Sunday**, April 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a **Parish Council meeting** after coffee hour.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2013, Total Parish Membership Fee is \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Sunday of St John Climacus:**

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).

In this book, he describes *thirty stages* of spiritual development, which he likens to thirty steps upward on a ladder. The steps lead the spiritual striver to *theosis*, divinization, salvation—the ultimate goal of askesis or spiritual struggle:

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| Step 1. On renunciation of the world                          | Step 18. On insensibility   |
| Step 2. On detachment   | Step 19. On sleep, prayer, and psalmody with the brotherhood                      |
| Step 3. On exile or pilgrimage                                | Step 20. On bodily vigil and how to use it to obtain spiritual vigil.             |
| Step 4. On blessed and ever-memorable obedience               | Step 21. On unmanly and puerile cowardice   |
| Step 5. On painstaking and true repentance                    | Step 22. On the many forms of vainglory   |
| Step 6. On remembrance of death                               | Step 23. On mad pride and unclean blasphemous thoughts                            |
| Step 7. On joy-making mourning                                | Step 24. On meekness, simplicity and guilelessness                                |
| Step 8. On freedom from anger and on meekness                 | Step 25. On the destroyer of passions, most sublime humility                      |
| Step 9. On remembrance of wrongs                              | Step 26. On discernment of thoughts, passions and virtues                         |
| Step 10. On slander or calumny                                | Step 27. On holy stillness of body and soul                                       |
| Step 11. On talkativeness and silence                         | Step 28. On holy and blessed prayer   |
| Step 12. On lying   | Step 29. Concerning Heaven on earth, or Godlike dispassion and perfection         |
| Step 13. On despondency                                       | Step 30. Concerning the linking together of the supreme trinity among the virtues |
| Step 14. On that clamorous mistress, the stomach              |   |
| Step 15. On incorruptible purity and chastity                 |   |
| Step 16. On love or money, or avarice                         |   |
| Step 17. On non-possessiveness (that hastens one Heavenwards) |   |



See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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**St John Climacus  
The Ladder of Divine Ascent**

**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

*Dweller of the desert and angel in the body  
you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father John  
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer:  
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.  
Glory to Him who gave you strength!  
Glory to Him who granted you a crown!  
Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!*

Troparion

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent • St. John Climacus (of The Ladder) • St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655) • Martyrs Anthony, John and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania—1347) • Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4th c.) • Martyr Azades the Eunuch and 1,000 Martyrs of Persia (ca. 341)**

**April 14, 2013**

Tone 4 of the Octoechos  
**Triodion week 8**

**Sunday of St John Climacus (of the Ladder)  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent**