

**Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:****For Memory of:**

**Nikolai Taran Sr**, father of Holly, offered by the Dawson Family.

**Readings:**

**Hebrews 6:13-20** (*4th Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)

Ephesians 5:9-19 (*St John Climacus*)

**Mark 9:17-31** (*4th Sunday of Great Lent, St. John of the Ladder*)

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 – After Vespers by appointment.)  
 (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**

2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

**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:**

- There will be a meeting of the **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God** today, April 7<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.
- **We are serving the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday** evenings at 6:30 pm during Great Lent. This liturgy is the solemn Lenten Vespers with Holy Communion added to it. Fasting for Presanctified Liturgy should begin after consumption of lunch.
- Each Sunday afternoon during Great Lent, the New Jersey Deanery holds a **Lenten Vespers Service** open to everyone. This year the schedule for NJ Deanery Sunday Lenten Vespers includes:
  - **Today**, Sunday April 7, 4:00 pm – St Spyridon Church, Perth Amboy, NJ
  - Sunday April 14, 4:00 pm – Holy Cross, Medford, NJ (with Archbishop Michael)
- Donations are needed for the Sisterhood's Paschal basket to be raffled off on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet posted downstairs to volunteer to bring an item. Tickets for the basket raffle cost \$1.00, and each parishioner is asked to sell 10 tickets. Tickets are now available, please see Tammy Zimmerman or Linda Dantine.

**Reminders:**

- Announcements or Prayer Requests for the bulletin, can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org Upcoming bulletins can also be sponsored by using the signup sheet at the candle stand. **If using the signup sheet, please give two weeks' notice.**
- The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

The lives of the saints remembered today can be read at:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/04/7>

**4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint 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).

*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 — Tone 4

**St. Tikhon the Patriarch of Moscow, and Enlightener of North America (transferred to Monday, April 8)**

Read about St. Tikhon at:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/04/07/101016-st-tikhon-the-patriarch-of-moscow-and-enlightener-of-north-ameri>

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**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**The Most Reverend Michael**

Archbishop of NY & the Diocese of NY/NJ

**V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searforce,**

Temporary Rector

856-227-6915



**Glory to Jesus Christ**

**Glory Forever**

*4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)*

*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 — Tone 1

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT • Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America (1925—March 25 O.S.) • St. John Climacus (of The Ladder) • St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mytilene (9th c.) • Ven. Daniel, Abbot of Pereslavl-Zalesky (1540) • Martyr Calliopos at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia (304) • Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 20 soldiers with them at Sinope (ca. 310) • Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.) • (Note: The service for St Tikhon is transferred to April 8.)**

**April 7, 2019**

Tone 4 of the Octoechos

Week 8 of the Lenten Triodion

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent