

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health and prosperity of:**

Christopher Dawson on his birthday, offered by his family,
Recovery of **Kennedy Rios**.

Nicholas Zimmerman on his birthday, offered with love by his family

Kyra, niece of Tatsiana DaGrosa, offered by the parish

For the memory of:

Olga Romanofsky, one year today. Mother of Andrew Romanofsky

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 forever 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 3rd Sunday of each month

Services of Great Lent:

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – Wednesdays 6:30 PM with potluck to follow.

Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room

Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

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

Announcements:

- There will be a **Parish Council meeting today** after coffee hour.
- The **Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos** will be meeting **next Sunday, April 6th**, after coffee hour. **Sisterhood dues for 2014 are \$15.00** and are now being collected by treasurer Linda Dantine. If anyone would like to join the Sisterhood, please see Lore Stefy, Sisterhood president.
- **Basket raffle:** The Sisterhood will be raffling off a traditional Slavic Paschal basket that will include ham, kielbasa, paschal bread and cheese, dyed eggs, chocolates, condiments, and a bottle of cheer. Individual tickets are \$1.00 and are available for purchase through Lore Stefy. The basket will be raffled off on Palm Sunday, April 13th.
- **The Sisterhood is sponsoring a Cinderella cheesecake sale**, featuring delicious, creamy cheesecakes. Orders are being taken by Tamara Zimmerman and **are due today March 30th**. The cheesecakes are priced at \$20 - \$23. Delivery will be before Pascha.
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. The cost of the trip is \$3,500. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.
- **On Saturday, April 12**, there will be a **parish clean-up day** starting at 9:00 am. Please come and help make our church building look great.

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.

This week’s services of Great Lent:

- **April 2** (Wednesday) 6:30PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with potluck supper to follow.
- **April 5** (Saturday) 6:30PM Vespers
- **April 6 Sunday of St Mary of Egypt – Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM**

New Jersey Deanery South - Lenten Vespers :

- **Today** at 4:00 PM at **Annunciation Church, 360 Van Zile Road, Brick NJ.**
- **Sunday, April 6** at 4:00 PM at **Holy Cross Church, 11 Wilkins Station Road, Medford NJ.** The Celebrant and Homilist will be our bishop, The Right Reverend MICHAEL

(Fellowship and refreshments are available after both services)

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
 E-Mail us at: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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St John Climacus

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

**Christ is in
our midst!**

**He is and ever
shall be!**

*You offered us your teachings as fruits of everlasting freshness,
To sweeten the hearts of those who receive them with attention.*

*O blessed and wise John, they are the rungs of a ladder,
Leading the souls of those who honor you from earth to Eternal glory in Heaven!*
Kontakion -Tone 1

Today the Church remembers:

- FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT • St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*)**
- Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, author of *The Ladder* (6th c.) • St. Sophroný (Sophronius), Bishop of Irkutsk (1771) • Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11—10th c. B.C.) • Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Cæsar, and Epaphroditus, of the Seventy (1st c.) • St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303)
 - Ven. John the Silent of St. Sabbas’ Monastery (6th c.) • St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662).

March 30, 2014

Tridion week 8

Tone 7 of the Octoechos
4th Sunday of Great Lent