

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

March 26, 2017: Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

Epistle: Heb. 6: 13-20

Gospel: Mk. 9: 17-31

Mon., March 27	8:00	+ Souls in Purgatory (Dorothy Zinsky)
Tues., March 28	8:00	+ Zenia & Emmett Hooper (Family)
Wed., March 29	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs. March 30	8:00	+ Madelyn Zielinski (Goddaughter Sandra)
Fri. March 31	6:30 pm	Presanctified Liturgy
Sat., April 1		No Morning Divine Liturgy 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Elinor Chowanec (Family)
Sun., April 2	9:00	For Our Parishioners 11:30 + Ann Marie & Jerry Chelak (Cheryl & Dolly) 3:00 pm Sorokousty

The Sunday of St. John Climacus

Though details of the life of St. John Climacus are sketchy, it is known that he was born in the 6th century and entered the monastic life at an early age. After 40 years of living as a hermit, he was elected abbot of the monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai. Because of his reputation for wisdom and piety, pilgrims traveled from all over the East to visit him.

Many miracles were attributed to St. John during his lifetime. Yet it was above all in the gift of spiritual teaching that God manifested His grace in

him. Basing his teaching on his personal experience, he generously instructed all those who came to him. This spiritual teaching, however, attracted the jealousy of some who then spread evil rumors about his character. Although his conscience was clear, Abba John stopped teaching for a whole year, convinced that it was better to do some slight harm to his friends rather than to exacerbate the resentment of the wicked. All the inhabitants of the desert were edified at his silence and by this proof of humility, and it was only at the

insistence of his repentant detractors that he agreed to receive visitors again.

He passed to the Lord on March 30, about 649. Throughout Lent, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, the spiritual

classic authored by St. John is read in monasteries. The reading of this book is completed on this, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, and so we honor him on this day.

Metropolitan Stefan's Great Fast Meditation For the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

The Gospel tells us of a time when Jesus returns from the mountain top to find his apostles baffled, helpless, and ineffective. The apostles had fallen into despair and could not help the father with his ill son. Jesus later explains to them that this kind of cure demanded prayer. The apostles had been equipped with power, but needed prayer to maintain it. Great Fast awakes us to rekindle our relationship with God through more fervent and steadfast prayer.

Do we take our relationship with the Lord for granted, seeking Him when we are challenged or hurting, and presuming His presence in times of stability and joy? Do we harbor doubts as to the power of the Lord's help? When coming face to face with Jesus, the father of the ill boy exclaimed, "I do believe!

Help my lack of trust!" (Mk 9:24). To approach anything in the spirit of hopelessness is to make it hopeless. To approach anything in the spirit of faith is to make it a possibility. Participating within a community of faith which is vibrant in its prayer life is the surest way to ensure living in the spirit of hope. Your parish offers the gift of growing and sharing in prayer life. \ We come to realize the need for one another in our journey of faith. We come to realize the power of Christ's presence and His healing when journeying with others in shared prayer. Rekindle your relationship of prayer with Christ together with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ within your parish this Great Fast!

Spiritual Regulations for the Great Fast

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the follow-

ing are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

- Abstinance from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the

Great Fast and on Good Friday.

- Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.
- Reception of the Holy Mysteries of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist during the period from the onset of Great Fast to the Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.
- The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who en-

gage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regulations.

- All the faithful are urged to attend the Lenten services such as the Presanctified Liturgy and the Commemoration of the Deceased (Sokrousty).
- Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful.

Great Fast Liturgical Guidelines

On Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrated. Typika may be used the other days. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated for Sunday Liturgies during this time.

During Holy Week, the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is to be celebrat-

ed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no Divine Liturgy celebrated on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. On Holy Thursday evening, Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great should be celebrated. On Holy Saturday evening, Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is to be celebrated.

Lenten Services — Have You Attended Yet?

Four weeks of Great Lent are now over. Two more to go until Flowery (Palm) Sunday and Holy Week. Have you made the effort to come to church for our weekday Lenten services? This

week offers several golden opportunities for you to come to church. Make it your plan to attend more of these services before Easter. Take extra care about your spiritual well-being!

Pussy-Willow Watch

Flowery (Palm Sunday) is just two weeks away! Once again this year, we turn to our Parishioners for help in procuring our pussy-willows. If you have any bushes, please share them with us.

You can either bring them in or arrangements can be made to have them picked up. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Congratulations Father John

Friday, March 31, 2017, is the 60th Anniversary of Father John Wysochansky's ordination to the holy Priesthood. We pray that our Heavenly Father grant him a speedy recovery. May God grant

him many Happy and Blessed Years! Mnoyaha i Blahaya Leeta!

If anyone would like to send Father John Wysochansky a card, his address is: 118 2nd St. in Blakely.

Church Community Project for 2017

Now is the time for our parishioners to get involved in our Community Project for 2017. The Community supports our church for the Dinners, Bake Sales and the Rummage Sale. Now is the time "to pay it forward." We will be accepting non-perishable food and clothes for all season's and accessories (shoes, hats, gloves, socks) of all sizes for men's, ladies, kids, and babies. Clean and wearable!!! You can leave the clothes on hangers or bring the items in bags. If everyone in the parish gave 2-3 items of non-perishable food, it will be greatly appreciated by the Jessup food pantry. Money donations for food will be accepted and we will then purchase food.

The collection will take place on Saturday, March 25 from 3:15 p.m. - 5:30

p.m., before and after the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, March 26th, the collection will start at 10:15 a.m -1:15 p.m., before and after each Divine Liturgy. Items can be dropped off at the School Gym, 133 River Street, Olyphant.

The Food and Clothes Collection for the Church Community Project was very successful when we did this in March 2016. The food will be delivered to the Jessup Food Pantry at St. Michael's Church, 316 First Ave., Jessup, the old Convent building. 570-489-9963. The Jessup Bread Basket of NEPA for the Mid-Valley area and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Food can be accepted in Jessup, every Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. all year round at the Jessup Food Pantry. In 2016 one

truck load of food was delivered to Jessup from our Church.

Clothes will be delivered to the United Neighborhood Centers (UNC) of North-eastern Penna. 410 Olive Street, (off of N. Washington Ave., one block after Mesko Glass) Scranton, Pa. 570-343-8835. They accept clothes, household items every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. throughout the year at the UNC. In March 2016, we delivered 3 carloads and one truck of clothes.

VOLUNTEERS are needed during the collection on Saturday and Sunday and then for the deliveries. The clothes will be delivered on Monday, March 27th to Scranton,

and the food will be delivered on Wednesday, March 29th to Jessup. Volunteers and cars/truck will start loading the vehicles at noon from the BACK of the School gym on Monday and Wednesday. We need your help for the Church's Community Project.

Contact Lauren Telep at 570-383-0319 or Father Nestor at 570-489-2271 for any further information about donating or volunteering at the School Gym. If anyone in the parish needs help regarding clothes or food, in private please contact Father Nestor, only. Also, if you are associated with any other organization that may need the donated items, please contact Lauren.

LUC Meeting

North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics will meet on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 5:00pm at Grotto Pizza, 36 Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville, PA. Discussion will focus on hosting Convention 2017 which will be

held the weekend of October 6, 7 and 8 in Wilkes-Barre. For additional information contact Dorothy Jamula, President at 570 822-5354 or any LUC member of the parish.

Special Deanery Lenten Service

The annual penitential Lenten service called "The Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete" will take place on Thursday, March 30, 2017, 11

a.m., at our Saints Peter & Paul Parish, 20 Nottingham Street, Plymouth. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Ham Bingo

ST. NICHOLAS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAM BINGO, 140 Church St., Old Forge, Pa. will be on April 2, 2017 in the Church Hall. The kitchen will open

at 11:00am, with games starting at 1:00pm. Many Door prizes will be awarded. Donation is \$3.00. All proceeds benefit the Church.

St. Mary's International Dinner Club

ST. MARY'S DINNER CLUB, 310 Mifflin Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18505 presents "DINNER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS" on Thursday, April 6, 2017. Seatings will be at 5:30 or 6:30pm and the cost is only \$20.00 per person. You may make your reservation by Monday, April 3rd by calling 570-343-5151. The menu will start with an Asian Salad of tender spinach, cabbage and carrots, Mandarin

oranges w/rice vinaigrette dressing. The Appetizer will be Chinese Orange Glazed Meatballs and the Entrée will be Sweet & Sour Roast Pork Tenderloin w/ fresh, stir-fry vegetables served over oriental noodles. The Dessert will be Mr. Foo's Homemade Rice Pudding. Coffee, Tea, Soda and Water are included and a Cash Bar is available.

Baked Fish Dinner

Our Parish will once again be sponsoring a "BAKED HADDOCK" FISH DINNER on FRIDAY APRIL 7, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the REGAL ROOM (Ballroom/side entrance), 216 Lackawanna Avenue. Sit Down or

Take Out!! Tickets are: \$13.00 per ticket/dinner: Baked haddock, potato, vegetable, cole slaw, roll and dessert. Call 570-383-9487 for Reservations. *LIMITED amount of Dinners will be available a the Door \$15.00.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2017 is Team #3: Helen

Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for March 18 & 19, 2017: \$

Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for March 25 & 26, 2017

	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Michael Roberts -- Samuel Sczesniak	Bill Vervan
9:00 am	Joseph Skirpan -- John Nasevich	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	David Slachtish -- Nicholas Muchisky	Frank Lesnefsky

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Wisdom from St. John Climacus

“To admire the labors of the saints is good; to emulate them wins salvation; but to wish suddenly to imitate their life in every point is unreasonable and impossible.”

“A servant of the Lord is he who in body stands before men, but in mind knocks at Heaven with prayer.”

“To judge others is a shameless arrogation of the Divine prerogative; to condemn is the ruin of one’s soul.”

“In all your undertakings and in every way of life, whether you are living in obedience, or are not submitting your work to anyone, whether in outward or in spiritual matters, let it be your rule and practice to ask yourself: Am I really doing this in accordance with God’s will?”

“The Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word and deed, as far as is possible for human beings, believing rightly and blamelessly in the Holy Trinity.”

“Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase.”

“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?”

“Some people with a hot temper do not worry about it and ignore the remedies that would heal them. They forget, unfortunately, what is written: ‘Surely anger kills the fool, and jealousy slays the simple,’ (Job 5:2).”

“A charitable and sensible mind takes careful note of whatever virtues it sees in anyone. But a fool looks for faults and defects. And of such it is said: ‘They have searched out iniquity and expired in the search.’ Do not condemn, even if you see with your eyes, for they are often deceived.”

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