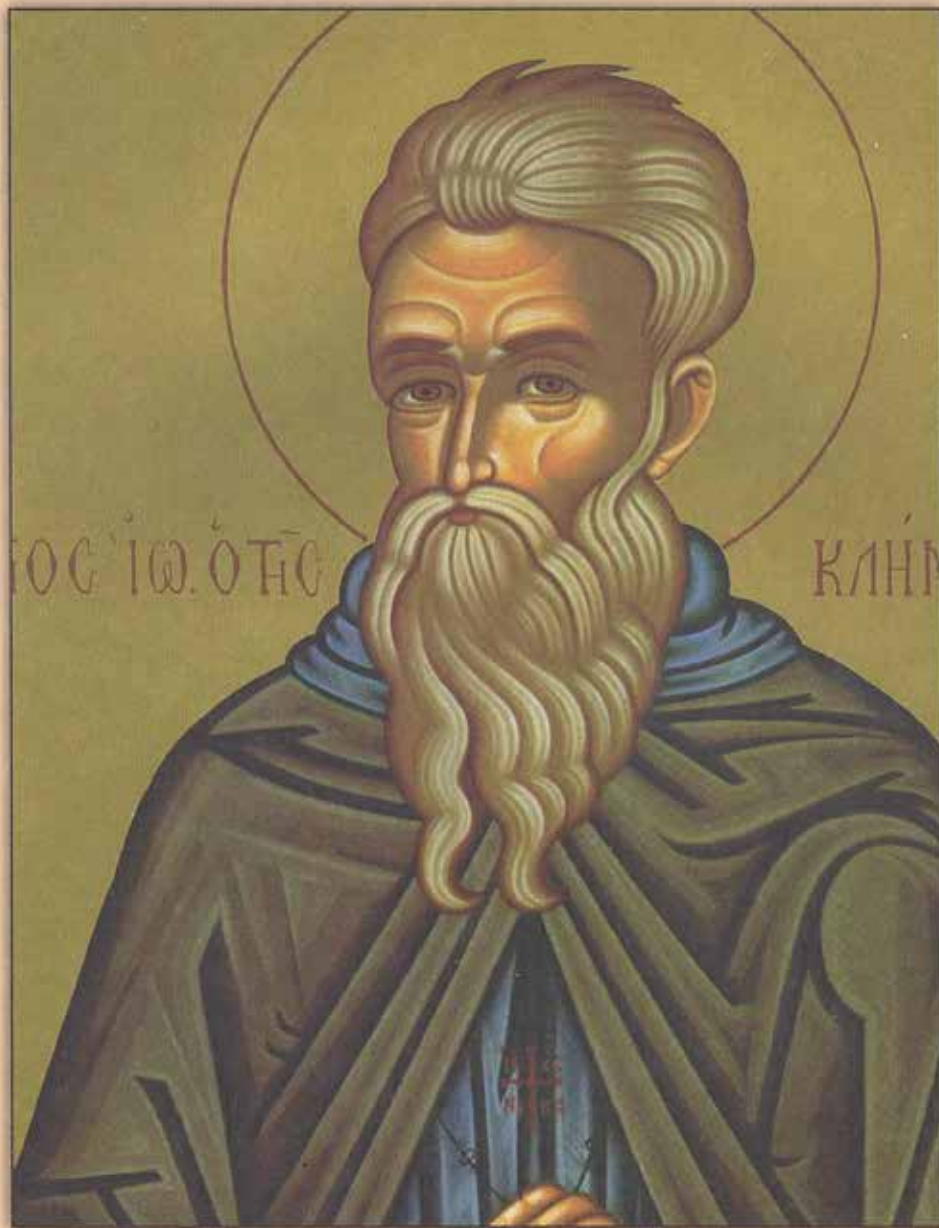


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



*Icon of St. John Climacus*

## March 31, 2019: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast

Epistle: Heb. 6: 13-20

Gospel: Mk. 9: 17-31

<b>Mon., April 1</b>	10:00	Funeral: + Diann Yuhnck
<b>Tues., April 2</b>	8:00	Health of Dolly Daniels (Roman & Eileen Kushner)
<b>Wed., April 3</b>	6:30	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
<b>Thurs., April 4</b>	8:00	+ Louis, Julia, George & Ruth Daniels (Dolly Daniels)
<b>Fri., April 5</b>	6:30	Lenten Service
<b>Sat., April 6</b>		<b>No Morning Divine Liturgy</b> 10:30 Confessions 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Pauline, Andrew & Andy Fedorchak (Rose Marie Drakes)
<b>Sun., April 7</b>	9:00	For Our Parishioners
	11:30	+ Brian & Alexandra Westington (Deborah Marushock & Family)
	3:00	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.

## **Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast**

Jesus cures a sick boy telling his father, “Everything is possible to one who has faith” (Mk. 9:23). Jesus observed that this type of cure could only come about through prayer. The disciples were men of faith but could not cure the boy. Jesus seems to become impatient with them when he says, “How long will I endure you” (Mk. 9:19). Even Jesus’ closest apostles needed to be reminded of the power of prayer, and the need to nurture it. The Great Fast invites you and me to nurture the power of faith with steadfast and honest prayer with Jesus. It involves our reflecting on our priorities in life as we stand before Jesus. Recall the parables

which speak of the Kingdom of God as a treasure found in a field, or as a pearl of great value. Those who find it sell all that they have in order to possess it. Are we zealous in nurturing the value of our precious faith? Do we do and give what we can to see that the faith is valued, taught and shared? The journey of Great Fast leads you and me to nurture our faith in steadfast prayer and with acts of charity with the hope that Jesus Christ will not ask “How long must I endure you”, but rather rejoice in the powerfully living of our faith. Join with others in the parish to nurture your faith as a family of God.

## **Its Cold Outside...**

After the 9:00 Divine Liturgy, come over to the Little Hall for some hot coffee or tea.

Also, looking for additional volunteers to have a coffee hour after the other Divine Liturgies. If interested,

please call Father Nestor to make arrangements.

There is now be a Coffee Hour after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy in the Little Hall. Hope to see you there.

## Our Condolences

In your Christian charity, please remember in your prayers the following Parishioners who recently fell asleep in the Lord:

- + **Richard Fabri, Sr.** was buried from St. Cyril's this past Thursday,

March 28<sup>th</sup>.

- + **Diann Yuhnick** will be buried from St. Cyril's this Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
May their memory be eternal! Vichnaya Pamyat!

## 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.

## Meatless Meal for LENT

St. Cyril's is sponsoring a "Meatless Meal for Lent, "Baked Haddock" Fish Dinner on Friday, April 12, 2019 at the Regal Room (Ballroom/side entrance) 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant. From 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Sit In or Take Out! Pre-sold are \$13.00 per ticket/dinner. (baked haddock, potato, coleslaw, roll and dessert). If you

"Sit-In" coffee and tea will be served. Call Sandra at 570-383-9487 for reservations. The deadline for pre-sold tickets is Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A limited amount of dinners will be available the door at \$15.00 per ticket/dinner. Tickets will be available to purchase after each Divine Liturgy

## Soup's On, Again

The Soup Ladies are making another batch

of CLAM CHOWDER. It's the same deli-

cious recipe as before for the same price: \$8 per quart. The chowder will be available for pick-up after the Liturgies on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th. Orders must be received by Wednesday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Place your order on the forms located at the back of the church or by calling Jule at 570-489-2931 or Mary Ann at 570-489-4648.

## **SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 14, 2019**

Our next Parish Meeting will be held in the Church, on Sunday, April 14, 2019, immediately following the distribution of the pussy willows and the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend, it is your opportunity to get involved in your parish. We need your input and suggestions regarding repairs, recommended companies, etc...for 2019.

The first parish meeting for 2019 was held on January 27, 2019 Sunday, immediately after the 11:30 Divine Liturgy. 25 Parishioner attended. The major items discussed were the Church (building), the Parish Hall, the Cemetery, Pentecost, Choir, and Fundraisers.

Items discussed were: #1 In the church, the leaking windows on the stairs on the right side, going up to the Choir Loft and the leak above the Mother of Perpetual Help painting on the ceiling. Concern was the status of the Church Domes, (done in 1985) if there is any damage on the exterior. The air condition unit is over 55 years old.

Results are pending when the weather permits investigation of the leaking problem. We are checking into someone with a drome to check the domes. Father Nestor did receive information about a ductless AC from Home Depot. Should the current AC should just be fixed, knowing that parts are very hard to come by. If anyone has knowledge to help out in any of these areas, contact Father Nestor.

#2 The roof is leaking in some areas in the garage section of the Parish Hall. Plans to have it checked out, and get (bids) for repair.

#3 The Cemetery Chapel needs some TLC regarding paint chipping and mold. This needs to be looked into.

#4 The possibility of “Outsourcing” the care (grass cutting) of the cemetery was discussed. If anyone knows of any company that will meet our needs regarding the cemetery, contact Father Nestor. No decision has been made yet.

#5 The cost of burials at our Cemetery. For PARISHIONERS that pay their Church

Dues and contribute a minimum of \$100.00 a year, the opening/closing charge for a grave will be \$1,000.00. It was proposed that for NON-PARISHIONERS who do not support our Church, the opening/closing charge should be \$1,200.00. These amounts do not include the purchase price of the grave site.

#6 Services this year at the Cemetery will be on Memorial Day Sunday, May 26, 2019. In the past few years, fewer and fewer people were attending the Services. Last year there were only approximately 125 people in attendance. A suggestion was made to try changing the Divine Liturgy/Blessing of the Graves to Memorial Day week-end, Sunday, May 26, 2019. Hopefully this improve attendance.

#7 During August 2019, when St. Cyril's Choir is on vacation, there will be only ONE Divine Liturgy on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

#8 Ideas for Fundraisers were discussed. The Rummage Sale is set for September 20, 21, 22 2019. The Fish Dinner is set for April 12, 2019. There may be another Dinner set for the Fall 2019 after the Rummage Sale.

We look forward to seeing you on April 14, 2019 in the Church. WE are open to suggestions and recommendations.

## **Community Service for St. Cyril's Parish**

On Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting non-perishable food and clothing for St. Cyril's Community Project 2019. It is a good way to "PAY IT FORWARD" for all the community support we get for our fundraisers: rummage sale, fish dinners, raffles, donations etc....

Donations of food and clothing will be accepted before and after every Divine Liturgy at St. Cyril's School gym (133 River Street) on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A basket will also be placed in the vestibule of the church for the non-perishable food. If ev-

eryone in our parish donated one grocery item, it would make our food collection available to more than one food pantry.

All clothes should be clean and wearable. Clothes can be left on hangers or put into bags or boxes. We accept clothes in all sizes: for men, women, teenagers, children, and babies. (clothes, women's and men's accessories, almost new /clean shoes, etc...) Any questions or suggestions as to whom we should donate to, contact Lauren Telep 570-383-0319.

For the delivery of our "Community Service" items, we need volunteers and

Trucks/SUV's. On Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. we plan to deliver the clothes. On Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. we will deliver the food. If you have a truck, and cannot lift items, we understand.

But we need you to drive your truck for the delivery of these items, especially on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> for the clothes deliveries. Please come and help us!

## Books Appetit

Valley Community Library will hold its annual "Books Appetit" fundraiser Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wine-tasting by Case Quattro Winery, with bottles available for sale. The \$25 tickets (cash or check only), includes food from local restaurants and markets, and free wine or beer. Dozens of raffle baskets. Guests are encouraged to

bring new socks or toiletries to donate to the Gino Merli Veterans Center. Books Appetit is a 2019 NEPA Match Day event, for which the Scranton Area Community Foundation will match fundraising up to \$1,000. Valley Community Library is at 739 River Street, Peckville. Phone 570-489-1765. [www.lclshome.org/valley](http://www.lclshome.org/valley).

## Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2019 is Team #3: Helen

Pagnotti, Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

## Sunday Collection for March 23 & 24, 2019: \$

*Some of you may wondering about the "Property Insurance" Envelop found on the first Sunday of each month. This past week we paid our Insurance Premium for 2019 in the amount of \$29,556.00. The*

*income which we had from this envelop last year was \$5,250.00. This means that we had to use \$24,306.00 from other funds in order to pay this annual premium.*

## Altar Boy and Lector Schedule for April 6 & 7, 2019

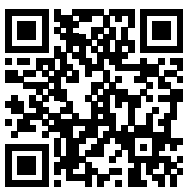
	Altar Boys	Lectors
4:00 pm	Nicholas Muchisky -- Nicholas Borowski	John Sakson
9:00 am	Cole Marcinko -- Brennin Marcinko	Pat Marcinko
11:30 am	Tyler Muchisky -- Jordan Radle	Frank Lesnefsky

## Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: [stcyrils.weconnect.com](http://stcyrils.weconnect.com)



E-Mail: [sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net](mailto:sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net)

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

### *Journeying to Pascha*

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus

is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.