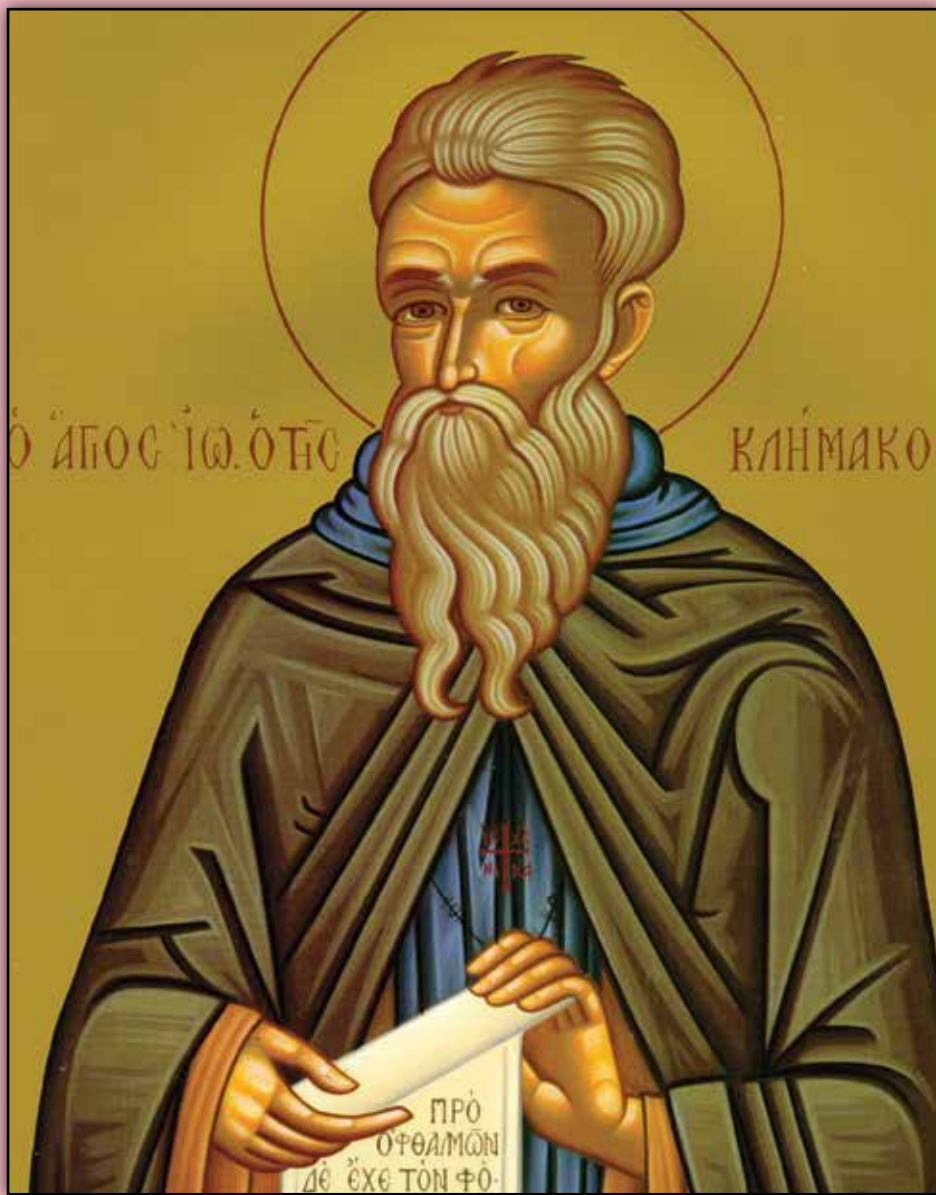


FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Saint John Climacus

March 27, 2022: Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast		
Epistle: Heb. 6: 13-20		Gospel: Mk. 9: 17-31
Mon., March 28	9:00	+ Nancy & George Tehensky (Family)
Tues., March 29	9:00	+ Roger Barren, Sr. (Wife, Beverly)
Wed., March 30	6:00	Stations
Thurs., March 31	9:00	+ John Sedlak, Jr. (Marisa Fabri)
Fri., April 1	9:00	Presanctified Liturgy
Sat., April 2	No Morning Divine Liturgy. 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm + Diann Yuhnick (Husband, John)	
Sun., April 3	10:30	For Our Parishioners; 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 GREAT LENT

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.

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 following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence 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.

Everyone should receive 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 engage 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 (Sorokousty).

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. This year, families are especially urged to pray together in the mornings and evenings.

DONATE TO HUMANITARIAN AID FUND FOR UKRAINE

The Metropolia of the Ukrainian Catholic Church that covers the territory of the United States invites you to make donations to the Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine. This can be done as follows:

Write a check to the “Ukrainian Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia” and send it to the office at 810 North Franklin Street, Philadelphia PA 19123. Please write on the check “Humanitarian Aid Fund for Ukraine.”

You can also write a check to St. Cyril’s Church, leave your donation in the Collection Box, or drop it off at the Parish Rectory. All funds collected

at the Parish will be transferred to the Philadelphia Metropolia.

You can donate on the Philadelphia Archdiocese’s website www.ukrarcheparchy.us, and click on Donate through PAYPAL and select “WAR VICTIMS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE.”

There are no small or large donations. But your donation can change someone’s life for the better. The Lord God will repay the happy donor a hundredfold. Pray for the people of the war victims! May the Lord bless you and our brothers and sisters in Ukraine!

EASTER CONFESSIONS

Father Paul Wolensky will be hearing Easter Confessions in our Church on

Friday, April 8th beginning at 5:15 pm. Also, just a reminder that Confessions

are heard almost every Saturday at 2 pm.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and Best Wishes to **Aidan Mojtahedi**, along with his parents Alan and Savanna, on his initiation into the Flock of Jesus Christ!

We welcome you into our Parish Family and pray that God may grant you many Happy and Blessed Years! Mnohaya Leeta!

PAYING HOSPITAL BILL

A man was brought to the Hospital, and taken quickly in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and, as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy who was waiting by his bed. "Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," said the nun, gently patting his hand. "We do need to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?" "No, sorry, I don't have any insurance," the

man whispered. "Can you pay in cash?" persisted the nun. "I'm afraid I cannot, Sister." "Well, do you have any close relatives?" the nun insisted. "Just my sister in New Mexico," he volunteered. "But she's a humble spinster nun." The Sister responded, "Oh no, I must correct you, Mr. Smith. Nuns are not spinsters; they are married to Jesus." "Wonderful," said Smith. "In that case, please send the bill to my brother-in-law."

PRAYER SERVICE FOR UKRAINE

Everyone is invited to a Prayer Service for Ukraine at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Simpson,

PA, next Sunday, April 3rd at 5 pm. Are are welcome.

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

LENTEN FOOD SALE

This year's menu has some additional delicious options: pizza from Roseanna's and pierogy from Little Spuds. Soups prepared by the chef of Bistro on the Hudson restaurant. BellaRose Food Truck will be offering several menu items. The flyer is attached to the bulletin. Due to the prohibitive

cost of postage, we will not be mailing the flyers, but are asking everyone to help distribute them. Please take some flyers to give to neighbors, take some to your workplace, your beautician's shop, dentist's/doctor's office, etc. With everyone's help, we can make this a very successful fundraiser.

OLYPHANT SPRING CLEANUP

The Spring Cleanup for Downtown Olyphant (Lackawanna Ave) will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2022. All Volunteers: family and friends, residents, downtown merchants and employees, high school students community service groups, boy scouts, volunteer firemen, etc. are all welcome to lend a helping hand in the Spring Clean up, starting at Noon on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

Everyone will gather at THE KIMMY on 203 Lackawanna Ave. Olyphant, PA. at noon. Snacks, Trash bags, trash cans, brooms, and shovels will be supplied and "blocks" will be

assigned to be cleaned. But bringing supplies would be beneficial: gloves, brooms, and trash bags For additional information please call 570-237-1321 for the Olyphant Merchants Spring Cleanup 2022.

(If your car is usually parked on Lackawanna Ave, we ask you to re-locate the car to one of the side streets for a few hours, as we proceed to spring clean Lackawanna Ave...thank you)

The Water Tank starts at the Queen City Train Station at 1:00 p.m and proceeds to clean the sidewalks and curb areas, throughout town to the bridge in

Olyphant. Come and volunteer for the Spring Cleanup 2022 in Olyphant.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church is pleased to present a marriage preparation workshop, "Entering the Holy Mystery of Marriage", to take place on Saturday, April 30th, 2022 with a follow up session on Saturday, May 14th, 2022. The program focuses on various aspects of marriage, both spiritual and practical, and provides each person an opportunity for greater understanding of one's partner and a means to strengthen one's relationship.

In addition to various presentations and exercises, each couple will be given the opportunity to take the Catholic version of a premarital questionnaire called F.A.C.E.T. (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool). The F.A.C.E.T. inventory provides participants with a computer-generated profile of unique couple issues, challenges, strengths

and realities to be discussed prior to marriage. The F.A.C.E.T. results for each couple involved will be presented to them by a Pastoral Counselor trained in the use of this tool in a subsequent 40 minute private session on April 21, 2018.

Each attending couple must commit to participating in all the sessions on April 30, 2022 as well as the 40 minute private meeting on May 14, 2022.

The workshop will be held at: Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 1204 Valley Road, Melrose Park, PA 19027.

The total cost per couple will be \$170 which includes materials, lunch and refreshments. April 23, 2022 - Registration and payment due Date!!! No registration will be accepted after April 23, 2022.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2022 is Team #3: Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for March 19 & 20, 2022: \$

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

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Ladder of Divine Ascent

Saint John Climacus (which means, of the ladder) was a sixth-century saint who entered the Monastery of Saint Catherine at Mount Sinai at age sixteen and dedicated his life to God. Over the course of his years at the monastery he developed a reputation for wisdom, selfdiscipline and an intense desire to grow in holiness.

He lived for seventy years at the monastery and eventually became hegumen (abbot). Although Saint John loved his monastery, he preferred solitude and spent many years in the wilderness living the life of a hermit. Even so, he was sought out by many pilgrims who traveled to Mount Sinai in search of this hermit saint and his wisdom.

Saint John is perhaps best known for his

authorship of a book entitled The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Even today, this thirty-chapter book is considered to be one of the most significant spiritual writings of Christian literature. Each of the thirty chapters represents one rung on a symbolic spiritual ladder of perfection leading from earth up to heaven. Thus, each chapter presents the reader with another spiritual exercise through which the highest point of earthly perfection may be reached before being consummated in heaven.

When he died, it was said of him that "his body ascended the heights of Mount Sinai, but his soul ascended the heights of heaven." By his example and through his prayers, may our sights remain high and heavenward as we continue on our Lenten journey.