

# St. John of the Ladder

## 4th Sunday of Lent

The Fourth Sunday of Lent honors Saint John Klimakos, the revered author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a spiritual classic that charts the soul's ascent to God through struggle, prayer, and virtue. His work reminds us that the path to salvation demands great effort, for we wrestle "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness" (Ephesians 6:12). Yet Saint John encourages perseverance, for the Lord Himself promises: "He who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).



Born around 525 to devout and wealthy parents, Saint John received an excellent education but left the world at sixteen to pursue monastic life on Mount Sinai. Under the guidance of Elder Martyrios, and later through years of solitary prayer and asceticism at Thola, he devoted himself fully to God. His life was marked by fasting, humility, obedience, and continual remembrance of death. He subdued passions through spiritual discipline and combated despondency through prayer and writing.

His tears of repentance were so abundant they became a wellspring of grace. Before sleep, he would pray at length, keeping his mind fixed on God. His heart burned with divine love, and his words continue to inflame the hearts of the faithful.

At the request of the abbot of Raithu, he wrote *The Ladder*, offering a step-by-step guide to spiritual growth. He reposed in the Lord around 603, after a life well-pleasing to God.

As he writes in Step 5: "Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility."

Text & Icon from oca.org

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the  
Antiochian Archdiocese

*His Eminence Metropolitan SABA*



*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



*Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor*

215-954-9286



*Father James Thayer*

215-692-0890

## March 30, 2025

### ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

#### COMMEMORATIONS:

JOHN CLIMACUS THE RIGHTEOUS, AUTHOR  
OF THE DIVINE LADDER OF ASCENT,  
SOSTHENES, APOLLOS, CEPHAS, CAESAR, &  
EPAPHRODITOS, THE APOSTLES OF THE 70,  
ZACHARIAS THE NEW MARTYR

**Tone 7 - Eothinon 7**  
**Orthros Gospel:** St. John 20:1-10  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20  
**Liturgy Gospel:** St. Mark 9:17-31

**RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 7 -** Thou didst shatter death by thy Cross, thou didst open Paradise to the thief; thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment bearing women into joy, and didst bid thine Apostles proclaim a warning that thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy!

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS - Tone 8 -** The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

**KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT - Tone 8 -** To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

#### Welcome Metropolitan SABA

**TODAY:**

Orthros, 9:00 a.m.

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY, 10:00 a.m.

*The Ordination of Nathan Jekel to the Holy Diaconate*  
Group Photo

Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy

Choir Rehearsal, 12:45 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

## Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (April 6):
COFFEE HOUR:	Alem & Wadih	All the "Marys" of St. Philip
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin T.	Kristi Moore
ALTAR CANDLES:	- - -	Gamble-Natalie's Birthday
USHERS:	Nick M. & Tom A.	Dan M. & Radu C.
CLEANING TEAM:	Evan R., Zach W., Beraki H., Val. H.	Radu C., Mary T., Dainel F., Tony M.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Mike L., Dave & Darby S., Steven M.	Kendra M., Mark, Morgan

### Mark Your Calendar:

**Choir Concert  
NEXT SUNDAY!**  
April 6—1:30 to 2:30  
Passion & Resurrection of Christ  
Invite family and friends!

**Palm Sunday  
April 13**

**Holy Thursday Foot Washing  
Liturgy (New Time!)**  
April 17 at 9:30 a.m.

**Holy Pascha  
April 20, 2025**  
We live from Pascha to Pascha!

#### FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE BOXES

Please take one of the Food For Hungry People collection boxes (available in the Narthex) to your home and at Pascha bring them back filled to help our archdiocese food distribution program.

#### MARCH OUTREACH COLLECTION: Baby Care Items

#### Pray For:

Living	Departed
Our Patriarch John and Faithful of Syria and all the holy land	Lucretia Ryan Michael
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	Kassandra Rose Jasper Catherine Matthew
Displaced faithful of Southern California.	Matthew Mary Carol Morgan Meghan John Steven Bobby Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Caroline
Archpriest Joel Dn. Michael Denis-Patrick John Nun Sergeia Doris Michael John James Steven Paraskevi Elizabeth Michaela Nicholas Elias Mary Genevieve Maria Constantinos	<u>Catechumens</u> Lucretia Ryan Michael Kassandra Rose Jasper Catherine Matthew Mary Carol Morgan Meghan John Steven Bobby Liara Asher Sarah Andrew Caroline
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Michael, Xenia, & all Missionaries Nathan, John, Samuel & all seminarians Those searching for spouses Engaged Couples	Families trying to conceive Expectant mothers New mothers and their babies
Those searching for jobs and housing The people of our land, and for their repentance, healing & unit	

### This Week:

Mon, Mar 31:	Presanctified Liturgy, 7:00 a.m. Confessions, 8:30 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Great Compline, 6:30 p.m. Confessions, 7:30 p.m.
Tues, April 1:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Confessions, 11:00 a.m. Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1:00 p.m. Sermon on the Mount Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Wed, April 2:	Confessions, 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 p.m. Fasting Potluck, 8:00 p.m.
Thurs, April 3:	Confessions, 11:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 12:00 p.m. Confessions, 1:30 p.m. Confessions, 6:30 p.m. Great Canon of Repentance & Life of St. Mary of Egypt, 6:30 p.m.
Fri, April 4:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy, 9:30 a.m. Fasting Potluck, 11:00 a.m. Confessions, 6:00 p.m. Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30 p.m. Prep (Sidorochev), 7:30 p.m. Confessions, 8:00 p.m.
Sat, April 5:	Confessions, 9:00 a.m. Baptismal Liturgy (Sidorochev), 9:30 a.m. Baptismal Reception, 11:00 a.m. Catechumen Class, 4:30 p.m. Great VESPERS, 6:00 p.m. Confessions, 7:00 p.m.
Sun, April 6:	<b>St. Mary of Egypt (5th Sunday of Lent)</b> ORTHROS, 8:15 a.m. Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy, 9 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY, 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy <b>Choir Concert: Passion &amp; Resurrection of Christ, 1:30 p.m.</b>

**ATTENDANCE:** Vespers 3/22: 83                      Liturgy 3/23: 239  
Annunciation: 87    Presanctified Wed: 102    Presanctified Fri: 45  
**MISSION CHAPEL:** 3/2: 46    3/9: 48    3/16: 51    3/23: 46

**OFFERINGS 3/23:** Candles, \$276.56. Collections, \$990.30. Book Shelf Ministry, \$105. Food For Hungry, \$61.50 Honorarium, \$1,000. Mission Chapel, \$2,133. Hospitality, \$135. Needy Fund, \$122.02. Teen Fund, \$2,100. Sunday School, \$97.52 Stewardship, \$15,586.15. Total received: \$22,812.05

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**