



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Priest Michael Shepherd (frmichael@stmichaelof.org)

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*). St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655). Martyrs Anthony, John, and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania—1347). Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4th c.). Martyr Azades the Eunuch and 1,000 Martyrs of Persia (ca. 341).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for April

Birthdays: Rodion Shepherd (04/06); Maximus Shepherd (04/08); +John Snopek (04/13); Philip Pecuch Jr. (04/17);

Nameday: Marie Pasternak (04/01);

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it. We will need more prospora during Great Lent for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays.* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.”

April 14th Marie Pasternak

April 21st

April 28th

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations!"

April 14th

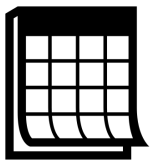
April 21st

April 28th

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies

PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Service Schedule

(Please refer to Calendar)

MON, Apr 15th: @ 5:00PM Great Compline

WED, Apr 17th: @ 5:00PM Presanctified Liturgy

THURS, Apr 18th 5:00PM Great Compline full Great Canon of Repentance by Saint Andrew of Crete and the life of St Mary of Egypt

FRI, Apr 19th: @ 5:00PM Little Compline

SAT, Apr 20th: Great Vespers & Matins w/confessions 4:50PM

SUN, Apr 21st: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 5. St Mary of Egypt.



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistle: (314) Hebrews 6:13-20

(229) Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: (40) Mark 9:17-31

(10) Matthew 4:25-5:12

EPISTLES

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Reader: In the 7th Tone: Let the faithful exult in glory, let them sing for joy on their couches.

Choir: Let the faithful exult in glory, let them sing for joy on their couches.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(314) Hebrews 6:13-20] Brethren: When God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, * saying, "Surely I will bless thee and multiply thee." * And thus he, 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 for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

[(229) Ephesians 5:9-19] Brethren: Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), * and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. * Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. * For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; * but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. * Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." * Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, * making the most of the time, because the days are evil. * Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the

will of the Lord is. * And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, * addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 4th Tone: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of truth, meekness, and righteousness.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou lovest righteousness and dost hate iniquity.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the same tone: They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPELS

[(40) Mark 9:17-31] At that time, one of the crowd came to Jesus, and bowing before Him he said, "Teacher, I brought my son to Thee, 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 Thy 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 He 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 Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." * And Jesus said to him, "If Thou canst! All things are possible to him who believes." * Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears 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, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I command thee, 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 shall be delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill Him; and when He is killed, after three days He shall rise."

[(10) Matthew 4:25-5:12] At that time, great crowds followed Jesus from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. * Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down His disciples came to Him. * And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: * "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. * Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. * Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. * Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. * Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. * Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. * Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. * Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. * Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. * Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Scriptures Do Not Lie. St Athanasius: Through Moses God gave commandments about sacrifices, and the whole book of Leviticus is taken up with acceptable ways for them to be carried out. The Lord, through the prophets, found fault with those who contemptuously misstated these things, calling them disobedient to the commandment. He told them, "I have not asked you to do these things!... Neither did I speak to your fathers about sacrifices, nor give them commands about whole burnt offerings."

Some have put forth the opinion that either the Scriptures do not agree or that God, who gave the commandment, is a liar. But in this there can be no disagreement—far from it. The Father, who is truth, cannot lie, "for it is impossible for God to lie," as Paul affirms. Actually, these things are plain to those who accept the writings of the law with faith and look at them in the right way. Here is my explanation, and may God grant by your prayers that I am not too far from the

truth. It does not appear to me that God gave the commandments and the law concerning sacrifices right away when he led them out of Egypt. Nor did he who gave the law really pay any attention to the whole burnt offerings, as such. He was looking ahead to those things that were prefigured and pointed out by them. "For the law has but a shadow of the good things to come." And "Those regulations were set forth until the time of reformation." That is why the whole law did not deal with sacrifices, although it did include commands concerning them. By means of these commands it began to teach people, calling them away from idols and drawing them to God, giving them proper teaching for the times in which they lived. So you see, God did not give the people those commands about sacrifices and offerings when he brought them out of Egypt, nor even when they first came to Mount Sinai. God is not like people, that he should want those things for himself. No, he gave the commandment so that they might know him and his Word (the Son)—and forget about those so-called gods that do not really exist but appear to do so because of the show people put on. **Festal Letters 19.4.**

Mark 9:24 Grace to Assist Faith. St John Cassian: Seeing that his faith was being driven by the waves of unbelief on the rocks which would cause a fearful shipwreck, he asks of the Lord an aid to his faith, saying "Lord, help me in my unbelief." So thoroughly did the apostles and those who live in the gospel realize that everything which is good is brought to completion by the aid of the Lord, and not imagine that they could preserve their faith unharmed by their own strength or free will, that they prayed that it might be helped and granted to them by the Lord. **Conference of Abbot Paphnutius 16.**

A Guide to the Triodion & Lent

10. Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of Saint John Climacus

On the Fourth Sunday of the Fast, we celebrate the memory of our Holy Father John the author of the Ladder.

In the Church services for the fourth Sunday the Holy Church offers us a great example of the life of fasting in the person of the Venerable John of the Ladder, who, "having overcome the flesh through fasting" and "by the sweat of his ascetic efforts quenched the fiery arrows of the enemy" and "renewed the strength of souls" and, "ascending to the height of virtues", "received in his soul the divine wealth of the Spirit, undefiled prayer, chastity, modesty, continuous vigil", "was deified through heavenly glory", "was revealed as a physician to those sick through sin" and was the author of the Ladder of Paradise.

According to the expression of the Holy Church, how the profoundly granted ascetic life of the Venerable John "gives us a pleasure sweeter than honey", and so his Ladder "brings to us the ever flowering fruits of his teaching, pleasing the heart with vigilant heeding: for souls are rising up the ladder from earth to heaven and abiding in glory".

The memory of Saint John the Ladder is celebrated on the 30th of March; but it is also celebrated today, perhaps because in monasteries it is customary to read The Ladder from the beginning of the **Holy Fast.**

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

April Income: \$7,424.21

April Expense: \$5,165.37

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,740.85

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$14,963.58

As of Apr 19 2024 12 Month CD: \$153325.08

18 Month CD: \$102216.72



Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or after vespers. You can make an appt for confession.

Catechumen/Inquirers/Continuing ED Class: Icon Class 3-4:30

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help! Please come and help maintain the Church and its grounds. We need to start doing ground maintenance for

Pascha.

Monthly Panikhida: No Panikhida.

Mother's Day & Blessing of the Graves: May 12 - All Men to cook for Agape Meal

Parish Council Meeting: 19 May - All are invited.

Change in Schedule to Holy Week:

Monday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael in Jermyn

Tuesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at All Saints in Olyphant

Wednesday morning: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Michael In Old Forge

Wednesday evening: Holy Unction at St. Nicholas in Olyphant

Thursday: 8am Hours and Vespers Liturgy with Consecration of Holy Chrism at St Tikhon's Monastery

Friday: 3:00PM Great Vespers & Procession of Plashchanitza & 5:00PM Matins of Great & Holy Friday

CONFESSION: It is important that every Orthodox Christian continues to receive the Mystery of Confession on a monthly basis and especially during the Lenten season. In the coming weeks, Fr. Michael will be available for Confession on Wednesdays, after the Liturgy of the Presanctified, after Great Vespers (Sat), or by appointment. If you wish to come before these services, please let him know ahead of time. Please, note that Friday, April 26th (the day before Lazarus Saturday) is the last day when Fr. Michael will hear Confessions before Pascha. When we enter Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, our focus must be exclusively on walking with our Lord through His passion.

Pascha Flowers: Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday should be placed in the donation box. Please write "Flowers for Lent" in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers "In Memory of" or "For the Health of" a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations in the donation box or mail them to the Church, OR drop it in the rectory mailbox attention "Treasurer." As always, your loved ones will be remembered in our services in prayer. Envelopes can be picked at the candle stand.

Take Out Chicken Barbeque: Hosted by Arcaro and Genells Saturday, June 22nd from 12PM-3PM. The price will be \$13 a ticket. Everyone will be given two tickets to sell (you can purchase more if you like). Sandy and Tammy will hand them out on April 14th.

Sign up Sheets: Please sign up for Tomb watch, the 12 Gospel readings, boil and dye a dozen of eggs, and Pascha Kulich

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Michael Brown (3/15)*

Departed: *Michael Marko (4/16); John Marko (4/18); Mary Marko (4/19); Sonia Schuster (4/24)*

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *David Lezinsky, John Pritchuk, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Bernie & Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchuk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Paul & MaryAnn Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Maura Elko*

Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara*

Catechumen - *Jason Vo, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown, JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*