

## Saintly Notes

### Commemoration of John Climacus (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent)

**O**ur venerable and God-bearing Father John Climacus (ca. 579–649), also known as John of the Ladder, John Scholasticus, and John Sinaites, was a seventh century monk at St. Catherine's monastery at the base of Mount Sinai. In Greek, his epithet is Κλιμακος (Klimakos). The Orthodox Church celebrates his feast day on March 30.

He came to the monastery and became a novice when he was about 16 years old, and when he died in 649 he was the monastery's abbot. He wrote a number of instructive books, the most famous of which is *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. (It is because of this book that John is known as "Climacus," which means "of the ladder".) It describes how to raise one's soul to God, as if on a ladder. This book is one of the most widely read among Eastern Orthodox Christians, especially during the season of Great Lent which immediately precedes Pascha (Easter), and on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent he is especially commemorated.

*(orthodoxwiki.org)*



# Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

(Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder")

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC

(www.allsaintsnc.org)

919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest

The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest

The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

March 14, 2010

## The Saints Whom We Remember

Venerable Benedict of Nursia; Eusebius, bishop of Lampsakos

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday:** 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers; 8:00p Lenten Soup Supper  
**Friday:** 6:30p Akathist  
**Saturday:** 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## Third Antiphon

for the Resurrection

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.

## Little Entrance

† *Entrance Hymn:* "Come, let us  
worship . . . Alleluia."

† *Troparion for the Resurrection  
(Tone 7):* See above.

† *Troparion for 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 hundred-  
fold. 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.

† *Troparion for All Saints (Tone 4):*  
As with fine porphyry and royal  
purple Thy Church has been  
adorned with Thy *martyr's* blood  
shed throughout all the world. She  
cries to Thee, O Christ God, send  
down Thy bounties on Thy people,  
grant peace to Thy habitation and  
great mercy to our souls.

† *Kontakion for the Annunciation  
and Great Lent (Tone 8):* To thee,  
our captain, Queen of war, the  
battle trophies won, thy people  
rescued by thine aid from peril,

dedicate as our offering of  
thanksgiving, O Theotokos. As  
thou hast might which none by war  
can overcome from all forms of  
danger hast thou delivered me, that  
I may cry unto thee: O Virgin  
unwedded bride.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,  
have mercy on us . . .

## Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

## Agalynarion

St. Basil Liturgy

In thee rejoiceth, O full of grace . . .

## Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

## Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

William Christopoulos, Christopher  
Wingenbach, Ilya Moundous, Gabriel  
Pope, Nicholas Kliewer.

### Special Attention

- **Services in Great Lent.** During Great Lent there will normally be a weekly Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays and the weekly Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos on Fridays. Other special services will be announced as well as a full liturgical

schedule for Holy Week. Please plan now to attend as many of these Lenten services as you are able.

- **Ground Breaking DVD's.** Copies are available on the Narthex table and can be purchased for \$20. All proceeds will be put in the building fund. If you cannot find a copy of the DVD, please talk to Fr. Nicholas.
- **Building Project Update.** Our new temple has taken shape this past week. We can now see the temple area and the educational wing. Work should progress rapidly from this point on. Please continue to pray for good weather and for the safety of the workmen.
- **Service Changes.** Please note that while Fr. Nicholas is recovering from wrist surgery the liturgical services may be changed or cancelled. The message on the Church phone and email alerts will be updated accordingly. This week, Wednesday Vespers will replace the Presanctified Liturgy. Soup supper will follow Vespers.

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### **Prokeimenon:**

The Lord will give strength to His people.

*The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

### †**Epistle: Heb. 6:13–20 (RSV)**

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 you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one 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 forever after the order of Melchizedek.

### †**Gospel: Mark 9:16–30 (RSV)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, 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 Jesus 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 Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus 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 you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, 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 Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus 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 Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

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## A Word from Our Fathers

“Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility. Repentance is constant distrust of bodily comfort. Repentance is self-condemning reflection, and carefree self-care. Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair. A penitent is an un-disgraced convict. Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by the practice of good deeds contrary to the sins. Repentance is purification of conscience. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions. A penitent is the inflictor of his own punishments. Repentance is a mighty persecution of the stomach, and a striking of the soul into vigorous awareness.”

(St. John Climacus)

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