

Are the guardian angels standing by us, or are they still at a great distance? For until they draw near to us, our efforts are vain and futile. Our prayer has neither the power or access nor the wings of purity to take it and bring it to the Lord.

St. John Climacus



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH
6822 BROADVIEW ROAD
PARMA, OHIO 44134

THE TRINITARIAN

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HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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CHURCH WEBSITE: <http://www.holy-trin.org>
V. REV. ALEXANDER GARKLAVS, PASTOR

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 A.M.
Church School Every Sunday at 10:45 A.M.
(During the Months of September thru May)

Vespers - Every Saturday - 5:00 P.M.
Choir Rehearsals Every Thursday at 7:30 P.M.
Michael N. Pilat, Choir Director

RECTORY: 963 John Glenn Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131 Phone 216-524-8989

BULLETIN 23 - VOLUME LVI

TONE 4

APRIL 7, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. John Climacus

Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia; Enlightener of North America;

Martyr Calliopos at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia;

Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 200 soldiers with them at Sinopè;

Ven. Serapion of Egypt; St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mitylene;

Ven. Daniel, Abbot of Pereyaslavl'-Zalesski

“Your servant, John, rejected the cares of this world as a burden, O Christ, preferring to renew his spirit by mastering his body through discipline and self-control. For this, You gave him a share in the glory of heaven. By his prayers, and those of the Theotokos, O Savior, enlighten us and save us.”

Exapostilarion, Tone III

“Today the assembly of New Martyrs stands together with us in the Church, and together we raise a festive song celebrating the uncovering of the relics of our Hierarch Father Tikhon, who defeated the enemy and preserved the Faith while protecting the flock entrusted to him. For he ever prays for us all that we may never be deprived of the love of God.”

Kondakion, Tone III

TODAY'S EPISTLE: HEBREWS 6:13-20
EPHESIANS 5:8-19

TODAY'S GOSPEL: MARK 9:17-31
MATTHEW 4:25-5:12

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK:

Wednesday, April 10	6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday, April 11	9:00 a.m. Matins - Great Canon
Friday, April 12	6:00 p.m. Akathist to the Theotokos
Saturday, April 13	9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday, April 8	Isaiah 37:33-38:6	Genesis 13:12-18	Proverbs 14:27-15:4
(St. Tikhon)	Hebrews 7:26-8:2	John 10:9-16	
Tuesday, April 9	Isaiah 40:18-31	Genesis 15:1-15	Proverbs 15:7-19
Wednesday, April 10	Isaiah 41:4-14	Genesis 17:1-9	Proverbs 15:20-16:9
Thursday, April 11	Isaiah 42:5-16	Genesis 18:20-33	Proverbs 16:17-17:17
Friday, April 12	Isaiah 45:11-17	Genesis 22:1-18	Proverbs 17:17-18:5
Saturday, April 13	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 8:27-31	
(Theotokos)	Hebrews 9:1-7	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28	

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

COMING EVENTS

APRIL:

- 8, Monday 12:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Book Circle
- 10, Wednesday Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy
- 13, Saturday 3:00 p.m. First Confession Class
- 14, Sunday 11:15 a.m. Parish Council meeting
- 17, Wednesday Soup Supper following Presanctified Liturgy
- 19, Friday 6:00 p.m. Preparation of Palms
- 26, Friday Delivering Pascha baskets to shut-ins

LENTEN CONFESSIONS:

Father Alexander will offer time for private confessions this coming week on Wednesday, 4/10, 4:00-6:00 p.m.; Friday, 4/12, 5:00-6:00 p.m., and after the Akathist; Saturday, 4/13, 8:00-9:00 a.m., 4:00-5:00 p.m., and after Vespers. If you need special arrangements, please call Father Alexander.

SPECIAL COLLECTION:

Today and for the next couple of weeks we will have a special collection assist the St. Mary of Egypt Mission. This local Cleveland ministry has become a welcome food distribution site for needy people. A special collection basket is at the rear of the church; if donating with a check, please make it out to "Holy Trinity Church."

ST. ELIZABETH BOOK CIRCLE:

The Book Circle will meet Monday, April 8, at 12:30 p.m. We are reading the chapter on Spiritual Struggle in Wounded By Love, pages 134-157.

SAVE THE DATE:

We need people to save good used items for a Rummage Sale on May 17 & 18. More details will follow in coming weeks. Contact Alex Cundik with questions (440-877-1980; ajcundik@cox.net).

PASCHA BASKET OUTREACH:

The Outreach Group will prepare Pascha baskets for shut-ins during Holy Week. We would appreciate assistance with food items, preparing baskets and delivering the baskets on Holy Friday. Please see Laura Gluntz after church; or call Laura at 216-396-6255 to offer your help.

SOUP SUPPERS:

We welcome all to our Wednesday evening Soup Suppers after Presanctified Liturgies.

LA COUPOLE:

Visit La Coupole to see new items for sale, including Pascha basket covers and First Confession cards created by Dn. Anthony and Dianna Kall and Fr. Yves. Pascha greeting cards, egg wraps and pysanky are also available.

FLOWERS:

The flowers for today are offered by Dave and Judy Howe, in memory of Andrew and Anna Boryk.

COFFEE HOUR:

We are in need of Coffee Hour hosts on Sunday, April 21, Palm Sunday. Thank you to our hosts today— Table One.

THE GIFTS WE OFFER TO THE LORD WE LOVE

REGULAR COLLECTION, MARCH 31	\$ 4022.00
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT	460.00
BUILDING FUND	225.00
MORTGAGE FUND	185.00
CANDLES	184.00
PASCHA FLOWERS	130.00
3/24 COFFEE HOUR	81.00
3/27 SOUP SUPPER	110.00

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Bulletin 23 – Volume LVI

April 7, 2019

THE SAINTS AMONG US - ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Today, on this the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, the Orthodox Church gives distinctive recognition to St. John Climacus, as he is known by his Greek title. He is also known by the English translation, St. John of the Ladder. The fact that the Church commemorates him on a Lenten Sunday is very significant, as it is meant to acknowledge St. John as a truly exceptional saint. In addition to the Fourth Sunday of Lent, he is also commemorated on March 30. In our parish he is found in a special location in what is an unusual portrayal. It is usually overlooked because for the most part we look eastward, towards the altar. But as you leave the body of the church and face toward the west, you'll see him on the south side of the wall at the choir level. St. John is standing at the foot of the spiritual ladder on which monks are depicted, some ascending to heaven, some pulled down by devils into hell. The ladder iconographically emblazons the title of St. John's celebrated book, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent."

Although his work is world famous, we know very little about St. John. Approximate dates for his life, based on scholars' conjectures, are that he lived in the second half of the seventh century. Where he was born, his family, his original name, are all unknown. What we do know is that he lived most of his life in or near the Monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mount Sinai. That location itself is famous. Christian tradition holds that at the base of this mountain, Moses beheld the Burning Bush. It is also the mount that he ascended during the Exodus where he received the Ten Commandments.

"The Ladder of Divine Ascent" is unquestionably one of the greatest masterpieces of Christian spirituality. Some have noted that its popularity is just under the Bible and the Church's liturgical books. In many monasteries it is read every year throughout Great Lent. Monastic life can either be in community with others or living alone as a solitary. St. John evidently experienced both. He was also for a time the abbot of the monastery, and it is possible that his work was written as instructions to younger monks. "The Ladder" is a systematic description in thirty steps of achieving spiritual maturity *in this life*, that is, before our entry into the everlasting Kingdom. It was written for and about monastic life, but its numerous reflections and insights are applicable to all serious Christians. Starting with the fundamentals of distancing ourselves from earthly cares (detachment, obedience, etc.), he analyzes the destructive effects of vices (anger, gluttony, lust, vanity, etc.). Mastery over the vices makes possible acquisition of virtues (humility, peace, dispassion, etc.). Finally, on the thirtieth step, we are able to experience love, however partially and imperfectly. "Love, by its nature," St. John says, "is a resemblance to God, insofar as this is humanly possible. Its distinctive character is to be a fountain of faith, an abyss of patience, a sea of humility." Reaching the top of the ladder does not end the process of ascending, but makes possible entry into divine peace, love and joy which are beyond description.

Fr. Alexander Garklaus