

April 7, 2019

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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**The Gospel according to Matthew
28:16-20 (1st Matins Gospel)**

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — **Tone 4.** St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). Repose of St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia and Enlightener of North America (1925—March 25 O.S.). St. George the Confessor, Bishop of Mytilene (9th c.). Ven. Daniel, Abbot of Pereslavl-Zalesky (1540). Martyr Calliopos at Pompeiopolis in Cilicia (304). Martyrs Rufinus the Deacon, Aquilina, and 20 soldiers with them at Sinope (ca. 310). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.).

TROPARIA

(Tone 4) When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!”

(Tone 1) O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, / you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer, / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him Who gave you strength! / Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! // Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

(Tone 4) In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence, so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty, O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

KONTAKION (Tone 8) O victorious leader of triumphant hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might set us free from ev’ry calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! / In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, Thou art very great!

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE HEBREWS (6:13-20) Brethren: For 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 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.

Alleluia, Tone 4

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth.

v: For Thou lovest righteousness, and doth hate iniquity.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (9:17-31) And one of the crowd answered Jesus, “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 your 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 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 you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out 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, “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 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 will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” **GO TO PG. 120 IN THE PEW BOOK.**

Instead of “It is truly meet ...”: All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus) Fourth Sunday of Lent - He is honored by Holy Church as a great ascetic and author of the renowned spiritual book called THE LADDER, from which he is also called “of the Ladder” (Climacus). John went to Sinai when he was sixteen, submitting to Abba Martyrius as his instructor and guide. After four years, Saint John was tonsured as a monk. Abba Strategios, who was present at Saint John’s tonsure, predicted that he would become a great luminary in the Church of Christ.

For nineteen years Saint John progressed in monasticism in obedience to his spiritual Father. After the death of Abba Martyrius, Saint John embarked on a solitary life, settling in a wild place called Thola, where he spent forty years laboring in silence, fasting, prayer, and tears of penitence.

It is not by chance that in THE LADDER Saint John speaks about tears of repentance: “Just as fire burns and destroys the wood, so pure tears wash away every impurity, both external and internal.” His holy prayer was strong and efficacious, as may be seen from an example from the life of the God-pleasing saint.

Saint John ate the food which is permitted by the monastic rule, but only in moderation. He did not sleep very much, only enough to keep up his strength, so that he would not ruin his mind by unceasing vigil. “I do not fast excessively,” he said of himself, “nor do I give myself over to intense all-night vigil, nor lay upon the ground, but I restrain myself..., and the Lord soon saved me.”

At the request of Saint John, igumen of the Raithu monastery (Commemorated on Cheesefare Saturday), he wrote the incomparable LADDER, a book of instruction for monks who wished to attain spiritual perfection.

Knowing of the wisdom and spiritual gifts of Saint John of Sinai, the igumen of Raithu requested him to write down whatever was necessary for the salvation of those in the monastic life. Such a book would be “a ladder fixed on the earth” (Gen. 28:12), leading people to the gates of Heaven.

Saint John felt that such a task was beyond his ability, yet out of obedience he fulfilled the request. The saint called his work THE LADDER, for the book is “a fixed ladder leading from earthly things to the Holy of Holies...” The thirty steps of spiritual perfection correspond to the thirty years of the Lord’s age. When we have completed these thirty steps, we will find ourselves with the righteous and will not stumble. THE LADDER begins with renunciation of the world, and ends with God, Who is love (1 John 4:8).

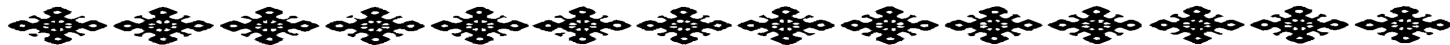
Although the book was written for monks, any Christian living in the world will find it an unerring guide for ascending to God, and a support in the spiritual life.

The twenty-second step of THE LADDER deals with various forms of vainglory. Saint John writes: “When I fast, I am vainglorious; and when I permit myself food in order to conceal my fasting from others I am again vainglorious about my prudence.” “When you hear that your neighbor or friend has slandered you behind your back, or even to your face, praise and love him.

It is not the one who reproaches himself who shows humility, for who will not put up with himself? It is the one who is slandered by another, yet continues to show love for him.”

From www.oca.org

April 7, 2019

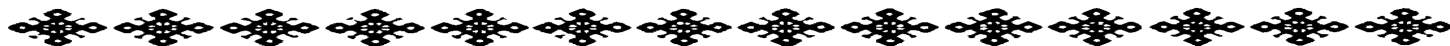


CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Anna Branoff, John Goodman, JoAnn Havens, Calvin Conrad, Milica Beslach	Adams Family
Fr. Tom, Fr. Roman, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Matushka, Rose Marie, Angelo, Christine, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene, Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, David, Anna, Walt, Calvin, Vladimir, Dorothy, John, Rose, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends	Joe Tome
Special Intention	Joe Tome
Mary, Anna, Patsy & Alex	Alex & Magda Popoff

CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Blessed Repose for our sweet grandson, Andrew	Baba & Dedo
Carl Chris Aleksoff – Blessed Repose (March 27 th)	Christine & Angelo
Peter Popoff	Alex & Magda Popoff
Helen Ethington and Andrew Popoff	Adams Family



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors.



COFFEE & BAGELS are provided by the Pyatenko family in memory of Zina Pyatenko (1 year).

ANNOUNCEMENT The special parish meeting scheduled for April 7 has been CANCELLED. God bless all of you who have increased your donations. This has helped the parish's financial situation. Donations have been increasing since the Annual Meeting in January and the letter was sent to the parish families. Please keep up the good work of God by each of us doing our part.

MEMORY ETERNAL – CHRIST IS RISEN! Carl Chris Aleksoff, brother to Christine Panoff, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, March 27th. His memorial service took place on Friday, April 5th at Nie Funeral Home in Ann Arbor. Pray that Carl enjoy the light of Christ's face in His heavenly kingdom. Bog da prosti! Christ is risen!

PAN-ORTHODOX VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL Our parish is hosting this year's Pan-Orthodox Church School in June. There will be an initial planning meeting today, after church school. We will need everyone's help and support for this to be successful – please volunteer! Thank you!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF MICHIGAN (OCW) is delighted to welcome the Very Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky who will be speaking on the subject of "A Christian Ending to Our Lives" on Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. The presentation will take place at St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI, 48075. The event is free of charge and open to all. Canned goods will be collected. Refreshments will be served.

ANNUAL EGG HUNT is scheduled for Thomas Sunday, May 5th. We are in need of someone to coordinate the event, as well as monetary donations for items. Please call the office by April 15th if you are willing to help.

SWEET BREADS FOR PASCHA to order, please use the sign-up sheet in the hall. Loaves are \$12 each.

COIN BOXES have been placed on the tables in the church hall to help support the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) supporting missions around the world. Please be generous.



PRAY FOR YOUR PRAYER PARTNER throughout Lent especially. At Pascha you may want to let them know you were praying for them with a card or note.

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting **deodorant** for the month of April. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

Weekly Schedule:

Today **4th SUNDAY OF LENT – ST. JOHN OF “THE LADDER”**

Parastas – Zina Pyatenko (1 year)
Pan-Orthodox Vacation Church School Meeting

Monday, Apr 8

6:30 pm Great Compline at St. George

Wednesday, Apr 10

10 am Lenten Hours
11:15 to 12:15 Adult Education
6 pm Presanctified at St. Nicholas followed by a Lenten potluck (bring a lenten dish to pass)

Friday, Apr 11

6:30 pm Presanctified at St. Mary Magdalene
7:30 pm Flint OCF meeting at St. Mary Magdalene with Fr. Matthew

Saturday, Apr 13

10 am **Akathistos Saturday**
 Liturgy with Akathist to the Birthgiver of God
5 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, Apr 14

9:30 am **5th SUNDAY OF LENT - ST. MARY OF EGYPT**
 Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy followed by Church School

Monday, Apr 15

7 pm "A Christian Ending to Our Lives" talk by Fr. Andrew Yavornitzky
 St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church
 21931 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI, 48075

Offerings for the week March 31, 2019

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 2,302.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 3,236.00
	-\$ 934.00

88 people were in attendance on Sunday, March 31st.

Meekness and patience have greater power than anger and stubbornness. You can't put out a fire with fire, but with water. In the same way, anger isn't conquered by anger, but by meekness and a great deal of patience. It's better to put a stop to your irritation with a smile than to attack like a wild animal.

- St Arsenius Boca