

**SAINT**

**JOHN**

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**MARCH 22, 2026**



***ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

**1501 8TH AVENUE**

**BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010**

**(724) 847-1111**

***WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG***

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA , ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK  
AND**

**METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA**

**HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE  
OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND , AND MID-ATLANTIC**

**REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER**

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***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23 )  
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

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***We take this opportunity to welcome those guests worshipping with us.***

***Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Fr. Seraphim***

***The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread.***

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**DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026  
TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**

**COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF  
"THE LADDER"**

**Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Kallinika of Rome**

**\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great\*\***

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT**

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT**

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.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

O beloved Apostle of Christ God, Come quick and save a people with no recourse. He who let you rest your head on his breast, will not reject your pleas on our behalf. Beseech him then, O wise and holy theologian. Dispel from us the dark and omanous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

**KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY)  
IN TONE EIGHT**

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.

## THE EPISTLE

***Make your vows unto the Lord and perform them.  
God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel.***

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)**

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

## THE GOSPEL (cont.)

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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## THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On March 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; and Martyr Kallinika of Rome.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

### **Verses**

***John, dead in the flesh and also living,  
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.  
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,  
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.***

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimentary virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

## MARCH/APRIL SERVICES

**MAR. 21ST SATURDAY— GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**MAR. 22ND SUNDAY— JOHN OF THE LADDER  
MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**MAR. 23RD MONDAY— FULL STORY OF ST. ANDREW OF  
CRETE w/ STORY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT 6PM**

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**MAR. 25TH WEDNESDAY — ANNUNCIATION**

**FEASTAL MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY (St. John) 10AM**

**A meal to follow services. Please come and partake.**

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**MAR. 27TH FRIDAY— LITTLE COMPLINE WITH AKATHIST**

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**MAR. 28TH SATURDAY— GREAT VESPERS 5PM**

**MAR. 29TH SUNDAY — ST. MARY OF EGYPT**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY 10AM**

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**APR. 1ST WEDNESDAY**

**6PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a light meal.**

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**APR. 3RD FRIDAY**

**6PM Little Compline with Canon of Raising of St. Lazarus**

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**APR. 4TH SATURDAY — ST, LAZARUS SATURDAY**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY OF**

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10AM**

**APR. 5TH SUNDAY — PALM SUNDAY**

**MATINS 9AM / DIVINE LITURGY of St. John Chrysostom 10AM**

**PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:**

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Carrie, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, chael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Holden, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew and Rosemary.

**FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:**

**Prayers are offered in memory of .....**

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**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1) We are still collecting donations for the seminarians and their families. Only 2 Sundays left before end of the Month. Please place donation in bowl near altar.

2) The Antiochian Woman NAB's annual project: Widowed Clergy Wives Endowment Fund. Only 2 more Sundays for you to donation to this very important project. Please use Envelopes on table in Narthrex.

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**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

"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-are. Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair. A penitent is a disgraced convict. Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by practice of good deeds contrary to the sins. Repentance is purification of the conscience. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions. A penitent is the inflicter of his own punishments. Repentance is a mighty persecution of the stomach, a striking of the soul into vigorous awareness."

(St. John Climacus, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent.*)

## **“ASCEND THE LADDER OF THE VIRTUES”**

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, we annually commemorate a 7th century monastic saint: ST JOHN CLIMACUS. He is best remembered today for his spiritual writing entitled the “Ladder of Divine Ascent.” In this marvelous work, he compares the quest for spiritual perfection with climbing a 30-step ladder, with each rung corresponding to a year in the life of Christ that was hidden from the world. Even today, many Orthodox monasteries will begin the season of Great Lent with a public reading of Climacus’ book.

While the “Ladder of Divine Ascent” was written primarily for those living a monastic life, it offers wonderful spiritual advice from which we can all benefit. Listen to some of John’s profound comments in his spiritual work:

**“In a meek heart, the Lord will find rest.”**

**“Humility is a divine shelter to prevent us from seeing our Achievements.”**

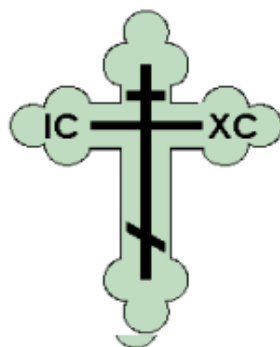
**“Those who wish to learn the will of God must first suppress their own will.”**

**“Run from places of sin as from the plague, for when fruit is not present, we have no frequent desire to eat it.**

**“Let your prayers be completely simple. Remember that both the Publican and the Prodigal Son were reconciled with God by praying only one phrase.”**

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES  
WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG**



**OFFICE HOURS  
By Appointment**