

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of—

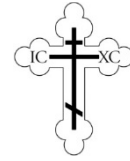
Metropolitan Onufriy + Ukrainian Orthodox Church	Vivian Thomas
Metropolitan Isaiah Archbishop Nathaniel	James Matthew
Archbishop Benjamin Bishop Neofitos of Eldoret	Keith Michael
Mitred-Archpriest Alexander Igumen Leonty	Mari Anna
Archpriest Luke + Holy Wisdom Mission	Rose Abi
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose Deacon Aidan	Gregory John
Subdeacon James Reader Aleksei	William Craig
Jonathan • Anne • Phoebe Joanna • Monika • Elizabeth	Keith
Amal • Patrick • Anna Iraida • Longinus • Nina	
Catechumens Rebecca, James, Megan, Minnie, Isla, James, Isaac, Anna, Adalie, Everett, Ivey Emily, David, Gregory, Christian, Michael	

The repose and salvation of—

Patriarch Neofit (3/13)
Mitred-Archpriest Anthony (3/19)
Margarita (3/21)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Sunday, April 14, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent: St. John Climacus



Cave of St. John Climacus in Sinai - orthochristian.com

Sundays at 9:05 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy
This Wed., April 17, 6:00 PM – Matins + Great Canon + Life of St. Mary
Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM – Catechetical Class
This Saturday, April 20, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers
Archpriest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*
priest@sttikhonparker.org • (720) 295-7715
Protodeacon John Manutes
19035 East Plaza Drive, Parker, Colorado 80134
www.sttikhonparker.org

Homily on the Sunday of Saint John of the Ladder

Today is the day of Saint John of the Ladder, and I [offer] you a few phrases of his which are relevant to the particular time of the year in which we live:

“Repentance, that is our return to God is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. And one who repents, is one who deserves condemnation - and yet, goes away from the tribunal without shame, because repentance is our peace with God. And this is achieved through a worthy life, alien to the sins we committed in the past. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain.”

And if we ask ourselves how we can achieve it, how we can come to this, how we can respond to God Who receives us as the father received the prodigal son, a God Who has waited for us, longingly, Who, rejected, never turned away from us - how can we respond to Him? Here is a short word about prayer :

“Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fill it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence. And if a word, in thy prayer, reaches you deeply, if you perceive it profoundly - dwell in it, dwell in it, because at such moments our Angel guardian prays with us because we are true to ourselves and to God”.

Let us remember what Saint John of the Ladder says, even if you forget the short comments (which I introduced) to make his text more readily understandable. Let us remember his words because he was a man who knew what it means to turn to God, to stay with God, to be God's joy and to rejoice in Him. He is offered us in this time, when we are ascending towards the days of the Passion, he is offered us as an example of what grace Divine can do to transform an ordinary, simple human being into a light to the world.

Let us learn from him, let us follow his example, let us rejoice in what God can do by His power in a human being, and let us confidently, with faith, with an exulting and yet serene joy follow the advice, listen to God begging us to find a way of life and telling us that with Him, in Him we will be alive, because He is the Truth but also the Way and also Life eternal. Amen.

by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh, 9 April, 1989

Epistles: Hebrews 6:13-20 (Sunday); Ephesians 5:8-19 (St. John)

Gospels: Mark 9:17-31 (Sunday); Matthew 4:25-5:12 (St. John)

** Lenten fast all week; wine & oil allowed Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat. **

Also this week: Apostles of the Seventy Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus (April 15); Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chionia, in Illyria (April 16); Hieromartyr Simeon, Bp in Persia, and those with him (April 17); Ven John, disciple of Ven Gregory of Decapolis (April 18); Ven John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine (April 19); Ven. Theodore Trichinas (“the Hair-shirt Wearer”), Hermit, near Constantinople (April 20).

Troparion – Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel /
The joyous message of Thy Resurrection; /
They cast away the ancestral curse /
And elatedly told the apostles: /
Death is overthrown! /
Christ God is risen, ///
Granting the world great mercy.

Troparion - Tone 1 (St. John)

O John our father, *saint* of God, /
Thou wast revealed as a citizen of the desert, /
An angel in body and a *worker* of miracles. /
Through fasting, vigil and prayer thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, /
And thou healest the sick and the souls of those that *turn* to thee with faith. /
Glory to Him Who gave thee strength; /
Glory to Him Who crowned thee; ///
Glory to Him Who through thee grants healing to all.

Kontakion - Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God /
Rose from the tomb and delivered the earthborn from their chains. /
He has shattered the gates of hades, /
And as Master, ///
He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion - Tone 4 (St. John)

Truly the Lord has set thee as a fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, /
Giving light to the ends of the earth, ///
O father John our teacher.

Lenten Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Today, 5:00 PM – St. Luke, Erie

Next Sun, April 21, 5:00 PM – St. Elias, Arvada