

March 22th, 2026

4th Sunday of Great Lent — Tone 8
St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Scripture Readings

Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle 314)

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel 40)

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 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!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Many Years!

anniversaries

9th - Harold & Dee Eurich

birthdays

- 3rd - Madalyn Schulte
- 3rd - Cris Brooks
- 4th - Zach Stevens
- 5th - Nicole Fischer
- 6th - Larry Don Meier
- 8th - Jedidiah Leithead
- 8th - Brileigh Gardner
- 9th - Chris Dumler
- 10th - Brilee Herron
- 11th - Polly Mikita
- 12th - Butch Sakala
- 13th - Robin Mikita
- 17th - LeAnn Perry
- 17th - Ashlynn Stevens
- 18th - Darla Leithead
- 18th - Riggan Fuchs
- 25th - Lacie Leithead
- 31st - Alex Baril

Calendar

March 22nd Sunday
 — Mission Vespers, 6:00p
 (Archangel Michael, Pueblo)

March 25th Wednesday
 — Vespertal Liturgy /
 Annunciation Feast, 6:30p

March 27th Friday
 — Akathist | Study, 6:30p

March 28th Saturday
 — Gusscott Family Baptism, 10a
 — Vespers, 6:30p

March 29th Sunday
 — Divine Liturgy, 9:30a
 — Mission Vespers, 6:00p
 (St. John the Baptist, ColoSpgs)

April 4th Saturday
 — Catechumen Baptism /
 Baptismal Liturgy, 9:30a

St. John Climacus (Of the Ladder)



The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent is dedicated to Saint John Climacus (John of the Ladder), author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. As Igoumen of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai, he bears witness to the intense effort required to enter God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The Christian spiritual struggle is arduous, waged "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the spiritual hosts of wickedness" (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages perseverance, reminding the faithful that "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Born around 579 (some traditions place it circa 525–570), likely to devout parents, Saint John received an excellent education. At age sixteen, he renounced the world and entered monastic life at Mount Sinai under Elder Martyrios. After Martyrios's repose when John was about nineteen or twenty, he pursued hesychasm, visiting Egyptian monastic communities like Skete and Tabennisi. He then spent forty years in solitary asceticism in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, a two-hour walk (about five miles) from Saint Catherine's Monastery.

Aflame with longing for God, he followed the monastic Rule strictly but ate only small amounts—never to satiety—to combat gluttony, pride, and bodily demands. Through remembrance of death, he revived his soul from spiritual paralysis; through obedience, he conquered anger. His tears flowed abundantly, a rare gift. He slept minimally to keep his mind vigilant, prayed fervently before rest, and wrote spiritual works to ward off despondency. His life embodied unceasing prayer and profound love for God.

At the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, he composed *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, a thirty-step guide to overcoming passions and acquiring virtues, drawing from monastic experience to lead souls toward union with God. After a God-pleasing life, Saint John reposed peacefully around age seventy-five (ca. 649 or earlier estimates ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

His icon often bears an inscription from Step 7: "Compunction is a perennial trial of the conscience, which brings about the cooling of the fire of the heart through mental confession. And confession is a forgetfulness of nature, since someone because of this forgot to eat his bread."

Troparion | Tone 8 (Resurrection)

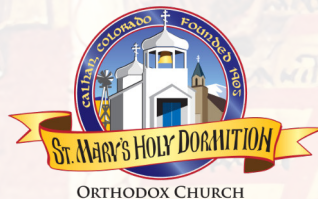
Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Troparion | Tone 1 (St. John Climacus)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Kontakion | Tone 4 (St. John Climacus)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.



Prayer List

Living: Met. Tikhon, Abp. Benjamin, Bp. Vasily, Fr. Andreas, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Zechariah, Fr. Dennis, Fr. Silouan, Mother Cassiana, Dcn. Herman Combs & Family, Dcn. Tikhon Krueger & Family

Carol, Charlie, Anita, Chad, Jan, Harold, Libbie and the Infant Lawrence, Toni Dell, Tyler, David, Victor, Kyla, Tony, Diane, Betty, Muriel, Child Gerhard & Meryl, Tammy, Litsa, Lillian, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Alicia, Patricia, Danny, Jerry, Roberta, Wendy, Judy, Jill, Beverly, Infant Dominic, Joseph, Jackie Joan, Trisha, Lee, Carol, Ethan, infant AdaLynn, Navvlet, Austin, Brian, Josh, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak, Miriham, Cheri, infant Gus, April, Madalyn, Makenzie, MaKiya, Hannah, Haylee, Keith, Samantha, Christina, Jake, Jetlyn, Lauren, Bob, Georgianna, Clint, Murl, Carolyn, Millie, child Charlotte, Cathy.

Departed: Jack, Melvin

Those with child: Mka. Lindsey

Those who are confined: Basil, Hannah, Theodore

Commemorations

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra, Martyr Drosis daughter of Emperor Trajan, Venerable Isaac the Confessor, Founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople, Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodromou Mount Athos, Martyrs Kalliniki and Basilissa

Sports!

Following the agape meal in the hall today, you are all warmly invited to the Calhan school gymnasium to participate in the weekly gathering of parish faithful, for sporting activities. Begins at 1p and will repeat every Sunday until further notice. Come out for the fellowship!

Presanctified Liturgy

We will have Presanctified Liturgy, Every Wednesday during Lent, at 6:30p — followed by a Lenten potluck in the hall, please bring a dish to share!

Great Lent Classes

Sunday's after Liturgy through Lent, Fr. George will offer classes based on the book 'Great Lent' by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

Mission Vespers

Every Sunday evening during Lent we will travel to an Orthodox parish in the local area, for Mission Vespers. The fourth Mission Vespers will be held this evening (6:00p March 15th) at Archangel Michael, Pueblo. All Mission Vespers services will be served at 6:00p (Note: this is different than our usual evening service time). Next week's Mission Vespers will be hosted at St. John the Baptist, Colorado Springs.