

WELCOME TO

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 11th, 2021

Strict Fast/Great Lent

Tone 3/ Eothinon 11; Fourth Sunday of Lent, Commemoration of St. John Climacus – Next Sunday: Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

A warm welcome to all who celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with us. **Visitors who are not Orthodox, please note that although non-Orthodox may not receive Communion, which is reserved for the Orthodox faithful, we invite everyone to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to receive the Priest's blessing and blessed bread.** Fr John or most members of the parish will be glad to answer **any** questions. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the back of the church. If you wish to join the church mailing list, then please include your email address.

Today's Hymns and Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of St. John Climacus Tone 8: 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.

Kontakion for Sundays in Great Lent Tone 8: 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.

Trisagion (Thrice-Holy) Hymn:

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (x3)
Glory to the Father and to Son and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages amen. Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (Priest: With strength!)
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us.

The Epistle

The Lord will give strength to His people. Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor.

The Reading is from St. Paul's Epistle 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 Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel is 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 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."



Sunday of St. John Climacus

Today we commemorate St. John Climacus and his work “The Ladder of Divine Ascent,” both of which have had a great impact on the Holy Orthodox Church through their influence on the monastic community and on the Church at large.

St. John was given the name “Climacus” because of his writings. “Climacus” means “ladder” and thus his name is a nod to the work by that name. From a very young age, John desired to serve God with all of his heart. He became a monk at the Mt. Sinai Monastery when he was only 16 years old, and he served there faithfully for years before going into the desert to live a hermit’s life.

The fight against the devil and his passions was difficult, but John faithfully prayed and focused on Christ, and over time he became holier because of his refusal to give in to those passions. His holiness drew people to John, and even monks would come to him to ask for advice. God gave him the gift to be able to help people who were severely tempted and/or upset to be at peace.

Many years passed, and John continued to faithfully pray and read from the lives of the saints. He continued to live a holy life. At age 74, he was made the abbot at the Mt. Sinai Monastery. The monks there asked him to write down all of the rules that he’d followed for his whole life, so that they could follow his example. He wrote about thirty steps that can lead monks (and any Orthodox Christian) closer to God. He called the steps “The Ladder of Divine Ascent.” Although this book was written about 1,400 years ago, it is still considered the ultimate guide to the Christian ascetic life.



Parish Treasury Report

The updated Treasury Report for March will be available next Sunday, April 18th.

SAINT NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church is a parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast within the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

(Domse.org ✠ Antiochian.org)

Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.