



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

CROSSINGVILLE

**Lord's Day - 04-03-2022**

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Glory be forever!

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder).** Ven. Nikéatas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion (824). Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene (307-308). St. Illyricus of Mt. Myrsinon in the Peloponnesus. Martyrs Elpidiphorus, Dius, Bithonius, and Galycus. “Unfading Flower” Icon of the Mother of God .

## HOLY HYMNS

**Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)**

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

**Tone 1 Troparion (St. John Climacus)**

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 grants healing to all!

**Tone 8 Kontakion (Resurrection)**

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.  
Eve exults in Your Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Your  
rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

**Tone 4 Kontakion (St. John Climacus)**

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

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)**

Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God! (Ps. 75:10a)  
V. In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75:1)

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon (St. John Climacus)**

Let the saints exult in glory; / let them sing for joy on their couches!  
(Ps. 149:5)

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
V. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise  
to God our Savior! (Ps. 94:1)  
V. Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make  
a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! (Ps. 94:2)

**Tone 4**

V. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall  
flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 91:12)

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

**Hebrews 6:13-20 (Epistle)**

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.

**Ephesians 5:9-19 (Epistle, Saint)**

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**Mark 9:17-31 (Gospel)**

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.”

**Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saint)**

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## HOLY WORDS

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age, his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skété and Tabénnisê in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing The Ladder at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

1 This was his monastic age. He was, in fact, thirty-five years old.

### The steps are:

1. On renunciation of the world
2. On detachment
3. On exile or pilgrimage; concerning dreams that beginners have
4. On blessed and ever-memorable obedience (in addition to episodes involving many individuals)
5. On painstaking and true repentance which constitutes the life of the holy convicts; and about the Prison
6. On remembrance of death
7. On joy-making mourning
8. On freedom from anger and on meekness
9. On remembrance of wrongs
10. On slander or calumny
11. On talkativeness and silence
12. On lying
13. On despondency
14. On that clamorous mistress, the stomach
15. On incorruptible purity and chastity, to which the corruptible attain by toil and sweat
16. On love of money, or avarice
17. On non-possessiveness (that hastens one Heavenwards)
18. On insensibility, that is, deadening of the soul and the death of the mind before the death of the body
19. On sleep, prayer, and psalmody with the brotherhood
20. On bodily vigil and how to use it to attain spiritual vigil, and how to practise it
21. On unmanly and puerile cowardice
22. On the many forms of vainglory
23. On mad pride and (in the same Step) on unclean blasphemous thoughts; concerning unmentionable blasphemous thoughts
24. On meekness, simplicity, and guilelessness which come not from nature but from conscious effort, and about guile
25. On the destroyer of the passions, most sublime humility, which is rooted in spiritual perception
26. On discernment of thoughts, passions and virtues; on expert discernment; brief summary of all aforementioned
27. On holy stillness of body and soul; different aspects of stillness and how to distinguish them
28. On holy and blessed prayer, the mother of virtues, and on the attitude of mind and body in prayer
29. Concerning Heaven on earth, or Godlike dispassion and perfection, and the resurrection of the soul before the general resurrection
30. Concerning the linking together of the supreme trinity among the virtues; a brief exhortation summarizing all that has said at length in this book

## Parish Services and Activities

(For Calendar changes see website)

[www.orthodoxcrossingville.org](http://www.orthodoxcrossingville.org)

## SEE LENTEN CALENDAR

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**TODAY - DIVINE LITURGY OF ST BASIL** - Coffee Hour, Parish Education - All Atriums as usual...

This week:

Apr. 6<sup>th</sup> - PreSanctified Liturgy- 6pm -bring Lenten dish to pass  
Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> - Canon of St. Andrew -6pm (w/Life of St. Mary of Egypt)  
Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> - PreSanctified Liturgy - 6pm -bring Lenten dish to pass

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Pashcal Celebration is just a few weeks away....

→ Orders for Pascha breads are being taken:

large 18\$ and smaller loaf style 14\$

→ Orders for chocolate crosses from Romolos for paschal baskets. Dark or milk 3.50\$ each. Talk to Jane Cap about placing your order.

\*\*\*Church Cleaning Sign-up is in the Vestibule please take time to serve and keep our parish clean.

\*\*PARISH CLEAN UP DAY – Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Akathist at 9am – clean up from 10am-1pm

\*If you have not seen our first issue of our new quarterly newsletter Living Stones please check it out. Thank you to all who contributed!

#Items are still needed for the parish education rooms- see Kyra or Olivia if you would like to donate.

-Next week April 10<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Meeting

"Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase."  
+ St. John Climacus, Step 28.5, Ladder of Divine Ascent

## Pray with out ceasing...

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those in need – Judy and the newly born Ophilea, Fr. Andrew, Fr. Isaac, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Iguman Patrick, Hieromonk Herman, Fr. Dusan, Fr. Christopher, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Mat. Trudi, John, Boris, Tamara, Olga, Susan, Ron, Karen, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., Lexi, John, Nickolas, Timothy, Preston, Olivia, Jesse, Grace Delani, Jeremiah, Sandy, William, Steve A., Anna, Sally, Noah, Annisatita, Paul, Irenia, The Homebound Mary G, Theodore  
Catechumen/Inquirers- Matthew, Katherine, Abigail, Karis, Josiah, Bethany, Brenda, David and Family...  
Special requests... Paul, Gilbert, Joanne, Phyllis, Anthony, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Kim, Margaret, Loren, Janet, Lynn, Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Nicholas, Maya, Mia, Charles, Gregory, Donna, Laura, Laken, Bob, Gary, Bill, Stevie, Kristen, Paul, (Add your own requests here)...  
Departed : newly departed James and Valentina, Proto-deacon Michael, Priest Anastacy, Marie, Vincent, Richard