



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus (of the Ladder) March 18, 2018

#### **Troparion – Tone 8**

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**

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 you a crown!// Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; thy poverty enriched thee. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God// that our souls may be saved!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

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.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

O holy hierarch, Father Nikolai, / divine thunder and spiritual trumpet, / planter of faith and the pruner of heresies, / great favorite of the Trinity, / standing now with the Angels before the throne of God /// ceaselessly pray for our souls!

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

*v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.*

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 7**

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches!

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

### **Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20**

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.

### **Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19**

(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.

### **Gospel: Mark 9:17-31**

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."

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:25-5:12**

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.

### **Service Schedule for the week of March 18**

**Today** – 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Wednesday March 21** – 5:30 PM Confession, 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession

**Friday March 23** – 8:30 AM Confession, 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession

**Saturday March 24** - 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday March 25 – FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** 9:00 AM Church School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

### **Weekly Giving**

March 11 – 43 adults, 11 youth, \$2,182

### **Parish Announcements**

There will be a Senior R Club meeting today during coffee hour.

The picnic grounds clean-up has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 AM.

On Saturday March 24 after Divine Liturgy, the church will be cleaned in preparation for Easter. Please come and help beautify the church.

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held for the children after Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 1.

A special collection will be taken today and next Sunday in support of the St. Elisabeth Convent and their ongoing ministrations to various charitable organizations who help the sick and suffering adults and children in Minsk. A flyer is attached to explain their mission. The Sisterhood is part of the Diocese of Minsk, Belarusian Orthodox Church. The donations collected will be presented to Sister Zinaida Lobosova after her presentation to the parish during coffee hour on Sunday April 1. The donation basket is in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity in helping those in need.

Francine Brady will be Chrismated into the Orthodox faith on Saturday March 31 after Divine Liturgy. There is a sign-up sheet across from the candle desk – please sign up if you will be attending.