

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

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***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

MARCH 30, 2025

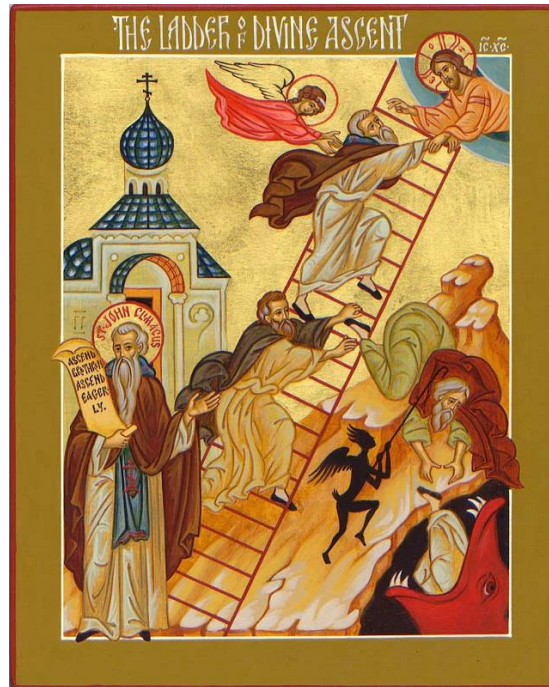
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT
ST. JOHN CLIMACUS**

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20

Bretheren: 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

Brethren: 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



**The ladder of Divine Ascent
St. John Climacus**

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: Mk 9:17-31

At that time, there came to Jesus a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying, "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: Mt 4:25-5:12

At that time a great multitude followed Jesus – 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.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. Mar 31	Repose of Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Apostle to the Americas; Gen 13:12-18, Prov 14:27-15:4
TUE. Apr 1	Venerable Mary of Egypt; Gen 15:1-15, Prov 15:7-19
WED. Apr 2	Venerable Titus the Wonderworker; Gen 17:1-9, Prov 15:20-16:9
	6:00 PM PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, Followed by Lenten soup social
THU. Apr 3	Venerable Niketas the Confessor; Gen 18:20-33, Prov 16:17-17:17
FRI. Apr 4	Venerable Zosimas of Palestine; Gen 22:1-8, Prov 17:17-18:5
	6:00 PM AKATHIST HYMN FOR REPENTANCE, Followed by Book Club
SAT. Apr 5	Martyrs Agathopodes the Deacon and Theodulus the Reader at Thessalonica; Heb 9:24-28, Mk. 8:27-31
	9:30 AM AKATHIST TO THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS
	4:00 PM VESPERS
SUN. Apr 6	<i>5th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 8, Mary of Egypt</i>
	9:10 AM HOURS
	9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Memorial service for +Ed Vangeloff (40 th Day) and Coffee hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Renee Haynal / Tina Rindfleisch / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen's sister) / Norb / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Don / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Tony Sudac / Sarah King / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Catechumen Joshua Paull / Catechumen Danielle Paull / Catechumen Wrenley Paull / Arimus Paull / Linkoln Paull / Catechumen Ryan Stamp / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čižmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



ATTENDANCE

03/22 Vespers, **9** attending; **03/23** Divine Liturgy, **25** attending (7 guests); **03/24** Vespers, **9** attending (3 guests); **03/25** Annunciation Divine Liturgy, **10** attending; **03/26** Presanctified Liturgy, **13** attending (1 guest); **03/28** Akathist to the Precious Cross **8** attending (2 guests); **03/29** Memorial Saturday Liturgy **8** attending



READERS LIST

Sunday Mar 30 – Joe
Sunday Apr 6 – Tim
Sunday Apr 13 – Jake



APRIL REPOSED

Michael Elchisco (1913) No date provided; Andrew Kopchok (1914) No date provided; Anna Onyock (1916) No date provided; Dolores Martin (1974) No date provided; Herb Hobson (2004) No date provided; Charles Rose (2015) No date provided; **1-** Larry Twarek (2019); **4-** Sophia Jump (2012); **4-** Harry Flewelling (2018); **5-** Nancy Sitzler (2022); **6-** John Kotch (2022); **7-** Louis M. Benya (1976); **7-** Mitered Archpriest Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor; **7-** Bob Mazur (2018); **9-** Julia Guzy (2021); **11-** LaVerne Schutt (2014); **12-** Helen Tomko (1989); **14-** Paul Glovinsky (1978); **15-** Stephen Brooks (2005); **16-** Mary Wright (2005); **17-** Lois Mazurik (1999); **22-** Olga Belenky (1971); **22-** John Beadle (1988); **22-** Fred Millie (1996); **24-** Demasthony Ballan (1968); **26-** Margaret Mazur (1987); **26-** Russell Kovach (1981); **28-** Ann Kovalick (2018); **29-** Olga Kollmeier (1972); **30-** Anthony Hubicki (1977)



APRIL CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Joe & Valerie Schutt, In loving memory of LaVerne Schutt and Violet Bargdill (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, In memory of my mom Margaret and brother-in-law Russ (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (**\$20**)



MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

30 – Bobbie Royhab; **30** – Fred Cassell; **31** – Greg Mazur



VIGILS FOR MARCH 23

Susan Guzy 1 Special Intentions

Jean Hileman 1 Memory Eternal to my dear friend, Robyn

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Tina R., Alex M., Nick S., Mike T., Andrew K., Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M., Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Kathie J., Jerry P., Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Sarah K., Brett D., and Rick H.

Safe travels for family and friends
Special Intentions

Sandy Martin 3 Health and healing for Tina, Health for Donny, special intentions

Roddie & David Mazurik 2 Special Intentions, Thanks for saving my sister, her family and home from the fire

Gabe Mazurik 1 Special Intentions

Natalie Twarek 10 Axios to Fr Peter for being awarded the Jeweled cross, Axios to Fr John on being awarded the Miter, In loving memory of my Godmother, Aunt Ella (3/23, 40 years), In loving birthday memory of Aunt Anna (3/23), For God's guidance for Tina's surgery and for her recovery, For health and recovery of Ann, Laura, Mike, Marcia, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery on Basil, Ron, Ruth and Mike, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Pam, Jim, Heidi, Wayne, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tina & Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Apr 5th** Paska bread orders pickup 11:30-1:00 pm (*Saturday*)
- Apr 13th** Palm Sunday (*Sunday*)
- Apr 18th** Holy (Good) Friday (*Friday*)
- Apr 19th** Holy Saturday Nocturns and Resurrection Matins (*Saturday*)
- Apr 20th** HOLY PASCHA (*Sunday*)
- Apr 24th** Bright Thursday - Monthly social 6:00 pm at local restaurant (*Thursday*)
- Apr 27th** Antipascha, Thomas Sunday, Blessing of the Graves (*Sunday*)
- May 4th** Holy Myrrhbearers (*Sunday*)
- May 11th** Paralytic – Mother's Day (*Sunday*)



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

- Mar 30– Danielle & Josh
Apr 6– Natalia
Apr 13 - Palm Sunday – Matushka Michelle & Bobbie Royhab
Apr 20 - Holy Pascha

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



CLEANING SCHEDULE

- Mar 31, Stephanie
Apr 7, Laura
Apr 14, Sandy
Apr 21, Greg



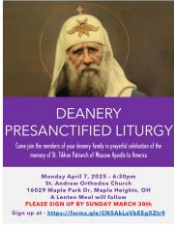
CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Lions Club/Diabetes” is the charity we donate to for the month of April.



THE ANSWER

A live professional production of the Passion of the Christ will take place at Immaculate Conception Parish, Port Clinton on March 28 & 29 at 7:30pm. All are welcome. No tickets. Free will donation. *See the Flyer on the bulletin board!*



DEANERY PRESANCTIFIED EVENT

You are invited to the Deanery Presanctified Divine Liturgy which will take place on Monday, April 7, 2025, from 6:30pm at St. Andrew Orthodox Church, 16029 Maple Park Dr., Maple Heights, OH hosted by Cleveland Deanery. A Lenten Meal will follow.

If you are planning to attend, please sign up at <https://forms.gle/CN5AkLaVbEEgXZtr9>
See the flyer on the bulletin board!

SUNDAY OFFERING



Sunday, March 23, 2025

Tithe	\$ 927.00
Donations	\$ 305.00
Candles	\$ 38.00
Vigils	\$ 80.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 250.00
Flowers Donation	\$ 100.00
Building restoration	\$ 150.00
Book store	\$ 40.00
Total:	\$1,890.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!



PASKA BREAD ORDERS

Pickup of orders for your Paska Bread will be next **Saturday, April 5th 11:30-1:00 pm.**



FLOWERS DONATIONS FOR PASCHA

We would like to offer you an opportunity to sponsor the lilies and other flowers, as well as palms for Palm Sunday which will beautify our church for the Paschal Season. We also kindly ask for your prayerful consideration to sponsor liturgical wine, incense, and charcoal that we use during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The forms for sponsoring are located in the vestibule of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity and care!



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

Commemorated on March 30

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,¹ his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabēnnisē 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.

The inscription on his icon is from Step 7:2. It reads: "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."²

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

² Psalm 101:5 (Septuagint) "Him that speaks privily against his neighbor, him have I driven from me; he that is proud in look and insatiable in heart - with him I have not eaten."



A Ladder to Heaven **by Archpriest Andrey Lemeshonok**

Living in this world, we seek paths that lead us to eternal life. The Lord says, *I am the Way* (John 14:6), *I am the Light of the world* (John 8:12), and *the light shines in the darkness* (John 1:5). Surely, each of us has experienced that sense of inspiration when we first came to faith. Everything becomes brighter, cleaner — because God dwells in you, shielding you from all filth

and falsehood. You perceive what truly matters without being distracted, for this encounter with God has shaken you to your core. That joy has revealed the meaning of life to you. Until then, you felt as though you were suffocating here on earth, where everything seems the same — always the same menu, the same laws, one ruler following another, each striving for power, each wanting to outdo the other. People are constantly busy choosing something or someone. Meanwhile, we cast our vote for Christ. We do not vote with manifestos or ballots; we vote with our very lives.

Yet how difficult it is to declare “I am with Christ” when everything around you is falling apart, when you suffer, when no one understands you, and you cannot comprehend what is happening in this world — when it seems that madness has taken over.

Most people gauge their spiritual state by how they feel at a given moment, which is quite naïve. We cannot rely on our own judgments, for sin also lives within us. When we receive Holy Communion, it is not meant to make the soul suddenly soar, to produce perfect calm or to make all problems vanish. On the contrary, Communion comes to burn away all that is perishable within us, to burn away the “old self” that tragically dictates our manner of living, deceiving us into losing sight of right and wrong.

Father Sophrony (Sakharov) said that in this world it is impossible to live in a truly Christian way; one can only die to this world as a Christian. Yet we still want to live *here and now*, and God grants us that possibility, letting us see the blue sky and feel the warming sun. Still, no matter how pleasant life is, it will one day end. We must therefore be tempered for what lies ahead. If you are suffering today, feeling as though your prayers remain unanswered — do not trust those feelings, do not trust the offense or

despondency that creeps in when you do not see a visible outcome. There *is* a result, but the Lord did not come to guarantee our present comfort; He came so that we might conquer death. He wants us to participate in our own resurrection.

This Sunday is dedicated to the great ascetic St John Climacus. The spiritual life is indeed a ladder to heaven. We climb, slip, and stumble, then rise and fall again. Even so, we must stand up once more. Saints who devoted their entire lives to discerning spiritual laws and battling sin have left us a treasury of writings for our edification. Yet we must be sensible. Someone coming straight from secular life and reading profound ascetical works might miss the most crucial point of Orthodox asceticism—namely, learning humility, recognizing our weakness, and inviting God into our life. There is no need to amaze others with our feats and spiritual gifts. Christ expresses it so simply in the Gospel: ‘Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls’ (cf. Matthew 11:29).



APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30 St. John Climacus (of the Ladder) 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Lenten coffee hour/fellowship Fast: wine & oil	Mar 31 Fast	1 6:30pm Catechumens Zoom Meeting Fast	2 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Soup meal and fellowship Fast	3 6:00pm Choir rehearsal Fast	4 6:00pm Akathist followed by Lenten Book Club/Reflections Fast	5 9:30am Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos 4:00pm Great Vespers Fast: wine & oil
6 St. Mary of Egypt 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Lenten coffee hour/fellowship Fast: wine & oil	7 Fast	8 6:30pm Catechumens Zoom Meeting Fast	9 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten Soup meal and fellowship Fast	10 6:00pm Choir rehearsal Fast	11 6:00pm Akathist to the Passion of Christ Fast	12 Lazarus Saturday 9:10am Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Great Vespers Fast: wine & oil
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by Lenten coffee hour/fellowship Fast: fish, wine, & oil	14 Great and Holy Monday 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy Fast	15 Great and Holy Tuesday Fast	16 Great and Holy Wednesday 6:00pm The Mystery of Holy Unction Fast	17 Great and Holy Thursday 9:30am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00pm Matins of Holy Friday with 12 Passion Gospels Fast	18 Great and Holy Friday 3:00pm Vespers of Great and Holy Friday 6:00pm Matins of Great and Holy Saturday with Procession with the Holy Shroud Fast	19 9:30am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 8:30pm Nocturns and Resurrection Matins Fast: wine & oil
20 PASCHA 9:50am Pascal Hours 10:00am Pascal Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of baskets Fast free	21 Bright Week 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fast free	22 Bright Week 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fast free	23 Bright Week Fast free	24 Bright Week Fast free	25 Bright Week Fast free	26 Bright Week 4:00pm Great Vespers Fast free
27 St. Thomas 9:10 Hours 9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour/fellowship followed by Blessing of our Cemetery	28 Fast	29 6:30pm Catechumens Zoom Meeting Fast	30 Fast	May 1 Fast	May 2 Fast	May 3 4:00pm Great Vespers