

# St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

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## APRIL 11, 2021

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

#### COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF "THE LADDER"

HIEROMARTYR ANTYPAS, BISHOP OF PERGAMUM;

RIGHTEOUS MOTHERS TRYPHAINA AND MATRONA OF CYZICUS

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## Welcome to St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

We greet you in the Name of the Lord, and are thankful for your visit to pray with us. Your participation in the work of all who enter here with faith, reverence and the fear of God makes the Divine Liturgy alive. For the "lit-orgia" is truly the "work of the people."

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church's mission is to assist people of all races, cultures and backgrounds on their journey to God's Kingdom by standing firm in the Gospel handed down to us by Christ and His Apostles. We will accomplish this mission by a) living a full liturgical and sacramental life, b) proclaiming the Orthodox Christian faith to all people, c) providing effective charitable and social programs, and d) establishing strong spiritual leadership and educational resources. St. Nicholas is a living reflection of Christ and shines as a light to all people.

Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who prepared themselves through regular confession and fasting from the night before. Others may approach the chalice for a blessing and partake of the antidoron (blessed bread).

To encourage a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask that you enter the sanctuary quietly during the Diving Liturgy.

Please, do NOT enter or exit the sanctuary at the following times:

- When the priest censes the church
- During the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- During the reading of the Epistle and Gospel.  
(*You may enter the nave immediately after the reading of each is completed*).
- During the delivery of the Sermon
- During the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts
- During the Prayers of Consecration.  
*You may enter the nave after the Hymn to the Theotokos "It Is Truly Meet."*

## THE SYNAXARION

On April 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Righteous Mothers Tryphaina and Matrona of Cyzicus.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

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 IN TONE EIGHT

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.

### **THE EPISTLE: St. Paul 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 GOSPEL: 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."

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:**

**Departed:** Jamilleh Jacob, Sonja Twors, Nancy Blair, Phillis Kirshy, Andrew Mamary, Habeeb Khoury, Kokab Kakesh, Victoria Jasmine White, Bassam Ishaq, Mat. Sonja Tutko, Theodora Ohlinger.

**Shut-Ins/Sick:** Metropolitan PAUL, Archbishop YOHANNAH, Annette Haddad, Schauki Kassis, Rose Beede, Alice Flaherty, Sally Bell, Bob Bostley, George Joseph Rolfes, Aurelia Buda, Richard Pippy, Diane Zorich, Lisa McCoy, Viola Haddad, Susana Kassis, Mary Semaan, Geri Kanaan.

**For the Health & Needs of:** Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, Helen Salem, Ruth & Evern Hazel, Georgette Abraham, Mariam Haddad, Bryan Haddad, Nasir Kassis, Mitch Kanaan, Alice Faccenda, David & Eva Szabo, Marion Bostley, Theodore Todorow, Alex Gimon, Leo Poirier, Collin Lamkin, Sophie Massouh, Stephen Bove', Leila Bashara, Natalie Floreancig, Mary Magdalene Foltz, Marie Miller, Gail & Charlie Barnett, Suha Mansour, Bob Poirier, Bruce Bingham, Dorothy Mihelic, Loretta Karpelenia, Lydia Davidson, Joanne Kassis, Mary Jean Lubin, Dean.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:**

**Service Members:** Zachariah Weaver (USAF), Christopher Salem (USAF): Nephew of Helen Salem, Peter McIntire (Army): Grand Nephew of Viola Haddad, Curtis Brickwood (Navy): Fr Michael's Cousin, David Butler (Navy): Son of Joanna Kassis Butler, Trenton Wesley (Army): grandson of Leila Bashara

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

Saturday: 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday: 9:30 AM Orthros      10:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Upcoming Events**

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Monday, April 12      630pm – Great Complines

Wednesday, April 14      520pm - 9<sup>th</sup> Hour (*Abundant Caution with Masks Req.*)

600pm – Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 16      630pm – Akathist to the Theotokos

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**Ladies Society PAK-A-SACK Ministry:**

Ladies Society collection today.

A signup sheet is posted in the hall for those who can volunteer for cleanup on Lazarus Saturday after the Liturgy.

**Pascha Picnic** – Sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please write down what dish you are bringing, so we do not have too many of the same items.

The **St Nicholas Luminary Project** order forms are in the Narthex of the church. The cost is only \$5.00 per Luminary. Orders can be given to Marie Miller or Doreen Radich.

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**God grant you many years....**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Apr 11 Marion Bostley

Apr 11 Donna Mason

Apr 16 Mary Jeanne Lubin