



**Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**  
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# SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Anastasia [Metropolitan Yuriy's mom], Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father George & Pani Lillian Hnatko, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynech, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with

leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Stella McKeag, Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia

Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Marianne Mulroy, Joe Samchuck—vocations, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom. ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!**

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

**REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!**

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

**AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.**

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, APRIL 07—OBEDNITZA-SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS—SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT; THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; MARTYR VICTORIA**

Hebrews 6:13-20; Hebrews 2:11-18

Mark 9:17-31; Luke 1:24-38

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Frank & Ollie Pendlyshok, John Cherepko, Rose Lopushanski, Mary Haluszczak, Vladimir Hanczar, Michael Brittan, Deacon***

***Dennis Lapushansky, & Lynn Giglione—Fr. Bob***

***Parastas in Blessed Memory of Katherine Debick—40 days—Fr. Bob***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14—OBEDNITZA-SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; VENERABLE MARY OF EGYPT; VENERABLE MARY THE EGYPTIAN; MARTYRS GERONCIUS & BASILIDES; RIGHTEOUS ACHAZ, VENERABLE MACARIUS-ABBOT OF PELECETE; VENERABLE GERONTIUS-YOUTH-CANONARCH OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Hebrews 9:11-14; Galatians 3:23-29

Mark 10:32-45; Luke 7:36-50

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21—OBEDNITZA-SAINT BASIL THE GREAT-DOWNSTAIRS IN THE CHURCH HALL 10:30 AM**

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; PALM SUNDAY; ENTRANCE OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM; HOLY APOSTLES OF THE 70: HERODION, AGABUS, ASYNCRITUS, RUFUS, PHLEGON, HERMES, & THOSE WITH THEM; MARTYR PAUSILIPPUS OF HERACLEA IN THRACE; SAINT CELESTINE-POPE OF ROME; VENERABLE RUFUS THE OBEDIENT OF PERCHEVSKY LAVRA**

Philippians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

**HOLY UNCTION**

**6:30 PM**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 25**

**12 PASSION GOSPELS**

**6:30 PM**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**

**PLASCHENYTSIA**

**7:00 PM**

**\*\*\*STRICT FAST DAY\*\*\***

## **BULLETIN INSERT FOR 07 APRIL 2019**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT; SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS—SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT; THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS; MARTYR VICTORIA**

### **TROPARION—TONE 8**

O Light of Orthodoxy! Teacher of the Church! Its confirmation!

O Ideal of Monks and invincible Champion of Theologians!

O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and Preacher of Grace!

Always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### **KONTAKION—TONE 4**

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors!  
So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:  
Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;  
But forgive us, O Master of All,  
So that we may receive the incorruptible crowns.

### **PROKEIMENON—TONE 5**

**READER:** Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!**

**READER:** Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

**PEOPLE: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever!**

**READER:** Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us.

**PEOPLE: From this generation forever!**

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The righteous will be remembered forever; he is not afraid of evil things!

**“You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of one who gives and kindles joy in the heart of one who receives. All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other, not even those whom you catch committing an evil deed. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a morass of filth that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Keep away from the spilling of speech. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgement. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult, outrage, and will shield your glowing hearts against the evil that creeps around.” —St. Seraphim of Sarov**

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**News Release**

Contact: PRESS OFFICE Stavros Papagermanos [pressoffice@goarch.org](mailto:pressoffice@goarch.org)  
Date: March 22, 2019

**Archbishop's Encyclical for the Feast of the Annunciation  
AND THE DAY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE (2019)**

Protocol 23/19 **March 25/April 07, 2019**

**Feast of the Annunciation & Day of Greek Independence**

*To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America*

**Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today is "the revelation of the mystery planned from eternity." (Apolytikion of the Feast) It is the Feast of the Annunciation, and we celebrate God's revelation of His grace to the Virgin Mary. It is a new day as the Archangel Gabriel announced the Incarnation of Christ, saying to the Theotokos, *you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* (Luke 1:31) Today we commemorate a sacred event, when the love and will of God was made known to humankind.

This day and this holy Feast is a day of joy. We sing the exclamation of the Virgin Mary, *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!* (Luke 1:46-47). We offer thanksgiving and praise to God for His marvelous works and His glorious revelation. Through the message of the Gospel, we affirm that joy greeted the Incarnation of our Lord; joy filled the hearts of the multitudes who received Him in faith and those who found hope; and joy compelled many to go forth to the ends of the world and proclaim the blessed and eternal life that comes through Christ and the Gospel.

With joy in our hearts we sing that this day is the "crown of our salvation." This is the day when the path of reconciliation and union with God was made known. Through the Incarnation He showed His abundant love so that our communion with Him could be restored. It is the day that led to the Cross and the Resurrection, showing that the power of death was defeated and that eternal life is bestowed on those who come to Christ in faith.

Today is a day of liberty. The grace of God has been revealed. Christ is incarnate so that as He said, He has come to *preach the good news to the poor, to heal those of a broken heart and to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.* (Luke 4:18) With the announcement of the angel to the Virgin Mary, the promises of God are fulfilled and our hope is renewed. Through the truth of His revelation we are set free from our burdens to be redeemed into the glorious life and light of His love.

It is this day and the joy and hope of the Feast of the Annunciation that inspired our forbearers to begin their struggle for liberty. After centuries of oppression, the people of Greece could no longer bear the yoke of captivity and the burdens of occupation. In 1821 they found strength in unity, hope in faith, and determination in their goal to be free. They knew that the reestablishment of the Greek nation was the only course toward securing freedom for generations to come. Today we remember their bravery and sacrifice in solemnity and gratitude, affirming that we are the blessed heirs of the independence gained through their struggles.

The celebration of the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and of the Incarnation of our Lord, is a celebration of the revelation of God's love and God's gift. It is a feast of joy. It is a feast of joy and liberty, as we commemorate our Greek fathers and mothers who offered their lives in order to establish freedom for themselves and for us, their children.

With paternal love in Christ,

† **DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America**

### **Repentance**

**Matthew 3:8- Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:**

Language and bodily actions will reveal the contents of a person's heart. Whether a person follows the Lord Jesus Christ soon becomes obvious. Love of Christ is ultimately revealed by a person's daily relationships. Love for Christ is the constant guide for the person devoted to Christ. The Gospel lives in the heart, mind, and soul of Christ's true followers.

**Matthew 3:11- I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

Christ changes the heart, mind and soul of the person drawing near to Him. Drawing near to Christ burns away the desire for engaging in personal

sin. Jesus Christ replaces the desire for sin and enables the believer to be faithful. Christ gives His followers needed daily strength, guidance, and protection. Serious followers of Jesus Christ cling to Him for the soul's nourishment.

**Matthew 4:1- From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

The Gospel provides immediate and constant contact with Jesus Christ. Attentive readers and hearers of the Gospel begin to benefit immediately. The Gospel penetrates the furthest depths of the fully attentive believer. Believers seeking Jesus Christ's nourishment find it in the Holy Gospel. Jesus Christ nourishes believers throughout the world and in every century.

**Matthew 9:13- But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

A person deciding to repent will place trust, hope and faith in Jesus Christ. Desire for the life in Christ and the rejection of sin leads a person to repent. Personal misery in life awakens a person to Christ's forgiveness and love. Christ's mercy and forgiveness washes away the remnants of personal sin. Christ's healing love restores health and wholeness to the person repenting.

**Matthew 11:20- Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:**

Jesus Christ offers the opportunity for repentance to all throughout the year. Sin's attractions will infect countless lives and prevents their repentance. Every moment of life informed individuals decide whether to follow Christ. Christ's faithful followers will fervently seek first the Kingdom of God. Persons yielding to the temptations to personally sin put their souls in peril.

*Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. March 14/27. 2019. Wednesday of the Third Week of Great Lent. St. Benedict of Nursia, Abbot. Father Rodney Torbic*

### **The Third Sunday of Great Lent Veneration of the Holy Cross**

Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

*And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be*



*ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.(KJV)*

Care of the soul deserves primary attention during all the days of our life. The Holy Gospel reveals the value of the soul. The Lord Jesus Christ makes clear the value of the soul is greater than gaining the whole world.

Momentary carelessness can endanger the soul. A slip of the tongue, a hasty decision or a foolish action can place the soul in jeopardy. The Lord God is a good and loving God and is aware of believers' personal sins.

Forgiveness is possible if the believer repents and turns to the Lord Jesus Christ with desire in the heart. Beginning anew in Christ is possible if a person has a willing mind.

The present Gospel emphasizes the importance of denying the self for the benefit of the life in Christ. Believers are to take up personal crosses as Christ took up His Cross,

Christians have the personal responsibility to live in ways pleasing to Christ.

The responsibility to follow Christ is accepted freely and willingly at Holy Baptism.

Every moment of every day following Baptism, the believer is expected to continue to live in conformity with the ways of Jesus Christ. The whole person enters and exits the Baptismal font.

The whole person is dedicated to Christ at Baptism. The mind, heart and soul belong to Christ. Believers will sin and have failures in following Christ. The Church encourages believers to always repent..

During Great Lent, the importance of repentance and beginning anew in Christ is greatly emphasized. The Church teaches that sin takes place in human lives and repentance is beneficial.

The Church services during Great Lent are rich in content about the goodness and mercy of God. The Church services reveal the far-reaching possibilities of repentance.

Personal growth in Christ becomes possible and is intended during Great Lent. The power and value of taking up personal crosses in life is realized when the Gospel is taken seriously.

Christ strengthens believers in dealing with personal crosses. Christ established the example and the value of taking up the Cross. Christ resurrected following death on the Cross,

Resurrection joy followed Christ's death on the Cross. Believers dying to sin in this life find new life in Christ. Saying "no" to sin firmly and permanently is possible with Christ's help.

Great Lent encourages believers to reject sinful thoughts and actions. Great Lent is a time to control personal behavior and avoid sinful environments and temptations.

Dying to sin and living in Christ brings joy. Great Lent offers daily joy as believers recommit to Christ and reject sin. As athletes endure difficult training in anticipation of competition, believers endure personal crosses to live in Christ.

Christ's love was revealed when He ascended the Cross. Christ's love endures and is all encompassing to this very moment. Hearts and minds open to Christ experience His love.

Hearts and minds open to Christ rejoice and are grateful. Every moment is the opportunity to thank Christ for ascending the Cross. Every moment is the time to remember and behold Christ's all enduring and encompassing love.

Great Lent feels arduous when undertaken with great zeal. Battling and repenting of sin has a deep effect. Serious believers welcome Great Lent for the known benefits.

Serious believers embrace Great Lent for the love of Christ. Completeness in life occurs during Great Lent and the journey to Pascha. The Good and Loving God is very apparent during Great Lent and the journey to Pascha.

Believers increase their experiences with God with each successive Great Lent and Holy Week. Understanding deepens of the personal crosses in daily life and the meaning of Christ's Cross

Growth in Christ is expected from the time of Holy Baptism until departure from this life. Growth in Christ is possible while the body lives and the mind functions well.

Rejecting sin and embracing Christ is a life-long journey. The pain of taking up personal crosses is minimized by the joy of being in Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ proved the lasting value of taking up the Cross for the joy lying ahead. (Heb.12:2)

The Third Sunday of Great Lent-Veneration of the Holy Cross. March 18/31, 2019. St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic



