



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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4th Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus (of the Ladder) / Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum and Disciple of St. John the Theologian April 11, 2021

Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

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

Kontakion – Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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.

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

V. Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Prokeimenon – Tone 7

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

4th 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).

Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum and Disciple of St. John the Theologian

The Hieromartyr Antipas, a disciple of the holy Apostle John the Theologian (September 26), was bishop of the Church of Pergamum during the reign of the emperor Nero (54-68).

During these times, everyone who would not offer sacrifice to the idols lived under threat of either exile or execution by order of the emperor. On the island of Patmos (in the Aegean Sea) the holy Apostle John the Theologian was imprisoned, he to whom the Lord revealed the future judgment of the world and of Holy Church.

“And to the angel of the Church of Pergamum write: the words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. I know where you live, where the throne of Satan is, and you cleave unto My Name, and have not renounced My faith, even in those days when Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells” (Rev 2:12-13).

By his personal example, firm faith and constant preaching about Christ, Saint Antipas began to turn the people of Pergamum from offering sacrifice to idols. The pagan priests reproached the bishop for leading the people away from their ancestral gods, and they demanded that he stop preaching about Christ and offer sacrifice to the idols instead.

Saint Antipas calmly answered that he was not about to serve the demons that fled from him, a mere mortal. He said he worshiped the Lord Almighty, and he would continue to worship the Creator of all, with His Only-Begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit. The pagan priests retorted that their gods existed from of old, whereas Christ was not from of old but was crucified under Pontius Pilate as a criminal. The saint replied that the pagan gods were the work of human hands and that everything said about them was filled with iniquities and vices. He steadfastly confessed his faith in the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Virgin.

The enraged pagan priests dragged the Hieromartyr Antipas to the temple of Artemis and threw him into a red-hot copper bull, where usually they put the sacrifices to the idols. In the red-hot furnace the martyr prayed loudly to God, imploring Him to receive his soul and to strengthen the faith of the Christians. He went to the Lord peacefully, as if he were going to sleep (+ ca. 68).

At night Christians took the body of the Hieromartyr Antipas, which was untouched by the fire. They buried him at Pergamum. The tomb of the hieromartyr became a font of miracles and of healings from various sicknesses.

We pray to the Hieromartyr Antipas for relief from toothache, and diseases of the teeth.

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 April 11 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Wednesday April 14 – 5:30 PM Confession, 6:30 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession

Thursday April 15 – 6:30 PM Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Friday April 16 – 8:30 AM Confession, 9:30 AM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by Confession

Saturday April 17 – (No Divine Liturgy today) 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday April 18 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Weekly Giving

April 4 – 47 adults, 15 youth, \$3,815

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Saturday April 10 – Masks not required

Sunday April 11 – Masks required

Saturday April 17 – *No Divine Liturgy, Vespers only*

Sunday April 18 – Masks not required

Saturday April 24 – Masks not required

Sunday April 25 – Masks required

Monday April 26 through Monday May 3 – Masks required

NOTE: Father Volodymyr will no longer serve Diving Liturgy on Saturday mornings after May 1, unless it is a Holy day.

Sunday May 9 – Masks required
Sunday May 16 – Masks not required

Please note that the back 3 or 4 rows of the center two pews have been opened up in order to seat more people instead of only one person sitting at each end of the pew. The side pews and the front of the center pews are still taped off for social distancing for those who feel uncomfortable standing with more people. The opened pews will be able to accommodate families with multiple members to eliminate the crowding in the back of the church. The wearing of masks rotation will still apply.

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, April 13, at 7:00 PM in Daria Hall.

The last page of the bulletin is a flyer from the Diocese regarding St. Andrews Summer Camp for Orthodox children. The camp is located on Lake Oneida in New York state.

The church picnic grounds will be cleaned up on Saturday April 17 at 9:30 AM. The church will be cleaned for Pascha on Saturday April 24 after Divine Liturgy. If you can help with these projects, please contact Father Volodymyr.

Matthew Barrett was Chrismated into the Orthodox faith this morning before Divine Liturgy. Please welcome Matthew and his fiancé Nana into our parish!

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the parish children on Palm Sunday, April 25, after services. The eggs will be hidden between the church and the rectory. Please bring a container for your child to put their collected eggs in. Raindate will be Pascha Sunday, May 2, after Divine Liturgy.

Please remember to partake of the holy sacraments of Confession and Communion in preparation for Pascha. As a reminder, prior to partaking of Communion you must have received Confession. Additionally, you must fast (ages 8 and above) from noon on Wednesday (Pre-Sanctified Liturgy) or from midnight on Friday (Pre-Sanctified Liturgy), Saturday (Divine Liturgy), or Sunday (Divine Liturgy). If you need to schedule Confession on a Sunday prior to Divine Liturgy, please contact Father Volodymyr ahead of time.

Our parish has grown so much over the last few years – thank you Father Volodymyr! - so at our last FOCA Club meeting we thought it would be a good idea to share information about the mural in Daria Hall. Several years ago, the FOCA Club undertook a Daria Hall improvement and beautification fundraiser, which is the painting of the large mural on the wall facing the church. Our very talented parishioner and club member, Anne Cheslock, created the beautiful mural and is working on completing the painting. The mural was divided into 200 “blocks” (if you look closely at the bottom left area of the mural you may see block outlines) and the blocks were sold for \$200 each. The buyer could dedicate the block “In Memory Of” or “Donated By”; you can see all of the dedications by looking at the plaques on either side of the mural. The plaque at the bottom of the mural includes the names of all priests associated with St. Vladimir Church, either by assignment or for many years of serving and assisting in our church. There are still blocks for sale! If you are interested, please see Anne Cheslock or a member of the FOCA Club. Improvements made have included replacing the kitchen screen door, a new 8-burner Vulcan stove with convection ovens, replacement of the hood fan motor, new kitchen ceiling lights and electrical improvements, a large freezer in the coatroom, two S/S utility tables, repairing the dishwasher, and a warming oven. Future plans include energy-efficient entry doors to Daria Hall, new pots and pans, additional baking trays and/or whatever other need may arise. We thank everyone who supported this project in the past and look forward to everyone’s continued interest!

New Parish Directories are available at the candle desk. **Correction** – the zip code for Father Paul Shafran is 08618.

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone’s health and well-being!



Announcing 2021 Season!

**It's time to beat the quarantine blues this summer at Camp!
We are *very excited* to be reunited with our beloved campers
for our 64th Camp Season of 5 glorious weeks in the
beautiful outdoors on Lake Oneida, New York!**

**FAMILY WEEK
July 5-10**

**HORSE WEEK 1
July 11-17**

**MISH MASH WEEK
July 18-24**

**HORSE WEEK 2
July 25-31**

**TEEN WEEK
August 1-7**



Click [here](#) to REGISTER your child for a summer of fun!

WAIT! WE WANT YOU TOO!

**Are you ready to get out and interact with people?
Want to make a difference in the lives of youth, while growing your faith
and enjoying nature? Then helping out at Saint Andrew's Camp is for you!**

**We have a need for counselors, cooks & kitchen assistants, nurses, and
weekend work crews. Join us for a weekend, a week or more!**

**Take your summer to the next level and join the fun and important
ministry at Saint Andrew's Camp!**

**For more information about the camp program or helping out, contact
the Camp Office at (315) 675-9771 or saintandrewscamp@aol.com**

www.saintandrewscamp.org

www.facebook.com/standrewsorthodoxcamp