

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

April 14th – SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:9-19; Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:25-5:12; Mark 9:17-31

Troparion – Tone 1 Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, / you were shown to be a wonderworker, our God-bearing Father John. / You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: / healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. / Glory to Him who gave you strength. / Glory to Him who granted you a crown. / Glory to Him Who, through you, grants healing to all.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Lanie, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Karen, Edward, Nadine, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie and Tyler.

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantage@gmail.com

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

The Weekly Bulletin **HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 14th, 2024

4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS (of the Ladder) - 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, his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabēnissē 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.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 13th of April

**Memorial Saturday – Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm**

Sunday 14th of April

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am
Deanery Vespers at Sts. Peter and Paul Church Bayonne NJ at 5 pm**

Wednesday 17th of April

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Sts. Constantine and Helen
West Nyack at 6 pm**

Thursday 18th of April

**Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete with readings of life of
Saint Mary of Egypt at 6:30 pm**

Friday 19th of April

Presanctified Liturgy at 6:30 pm

Saturday 20th of April

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 21st of April

**Divine Liturgy at 10 am
Deanery Vespers at Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne NJ at 5 pm**

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

After every Liturgy, you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the parish hall. You'll find a friendly welcome, good conversation, and ask any questions you may have.

Thank you!

Our sincere thanks to Mark Benda for again decorating the Cross of the Lord.

Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers 2024

The third Deanery Lenten Mission Vespers will take place at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, 98 West 28th Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002, on Sunday 14th of April 2024 at 5pm. Everyone is welcomed.

Brotherhood of "Three Hierarchs" Presanctified Liturgy

We thank Very Reverend Father Iakovos Fitzpatrick for hosting Presanctified Liturgy at his parish, Geek Orthodox Church of the Assumption, Windham NY, on Wednesday 10th of April. The next brotherhood Presanctified Liturgy will take place in the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 1 Marycrest Road, West Nyack, NY, on Wednesday 17th of April 2024 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcomed.

Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete and life of Saint Mary of Egypt

Please join us for the reading of Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete with the life of Saint Mary of Egypt on Thursday, 18th of April at 6:30 pm. These fruits of the Holy Tradition offer a beautiful insight in our own sinfulness but also invigorate our souls with the hope of salvation.

Pascal Flowers

Donations for flowers to adorn the grave are requested and very much appreciated. This is an opportunity to remember a departed loved one or to remember and honor a family member, relative or friend. Please mark your check or note with cash, "Pascal Flowers."

Potluck Meal

Throughout Great Lent we will aim to have agape potluck dinner after every presanctified liturgy. Please bring your favorite Lenten dish to share. Thank you.

Pray for those who are illumined

As we are slowly approaching the most Holy Pascha of our Lord, please keep in your prayers those who will soon become Orthodox Christians. Joan, Edgar, Travis, Olivia, and Finley. The date of their baptism/chrisamation will soon be known and shared with the community.

Welcome and Pray for our newest Catechumens

Please remember in your prayers Daniel Perez and Joseph, Lyssa Naron and their child Alma Naron as they are preparing for the Sacrament of the Holy Chrismation.