

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2022
SUNDAY, April 3rd – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saint John Climacus (of the LADDER)

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19
Gospel Readings: Mark 9:17-31; Matthew 4:25-5:12

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.

Saint John Climacus

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 Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine Olsen, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance & Elaine Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika 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 and Carmen. Amen!!!

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

Follow us on



And remember to use:



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/>
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The WEEKLY BULLETIN
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 3rd of 2022

[SAINT JOHN CLIMACU \(Of the Ladder\)](#) - 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,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.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5 pm 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

Friday 1st of April

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 7 pm

Saturday 2nd of April

Memorial Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 3rd of April

Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at 10 am

Thursday 7th of April

Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete with the readings of life of Saint Mary of Egypt at 7 pm

Friday 8th of April

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 7 pm

Saturday 9th of April

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Annual Clean-up after the Divine Liturgy

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 10th of April

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Announcements

Welcome!

Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us, and especially during Great Lent, to experience the beauty of Vespers each Saturday at 5:00 pm and/or Divine Liturgy each Sunday at 10:00 am. During Great Lent, a liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts is offered each Friday at 7:00 pm. Fellowship and light Lenten meal follows Divine Liturgy and the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts.

Saint John of the Ladder

The fourth Sunday of Great Lent is dedicated to John Climacus, also known as Saint John of the Ladder. He was a person who knew what it means to turn to God, to be God's joy and to exult in Him.

Holy Sunday of the Cross

We give thanks and offer our expressions of gratitude to Mark Benda who beautifully decorated the life-giving cross at the center of the Church for the Holy Sunday of the Cross. Our thanks for Mark's contribution to the church and in remembrance of his departed bride +Carol Lynn, our sister in Christ.

Thank you

Many thanks to Edward and Taisa Engelsman for their generous donation in Olga's memory to Holy Spirit Orthodox Church. May Olga's memory be eternal!

Pray for our Catechumens

Please remember in your prayers Asia Booker Sanchez, Kristen and Hazel Steiner in your prayers as they are entering their first Great Lent and preparing for the sacrament of the Holy Chrismation.

Keep Offerings Current

Offerings can be made at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The collection basket is located on the table by the exit. You are also welcome to send your donation via mail to Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, 102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461 or using "Donate" button on the website of our church www.holyspiritorthodox.org.

Donation of Red Eggs for Pascha

Please volunteer to offer red eggs to Holy Spirit Orthodox Church to be distributed at Pascha. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex. For more information on how to dye eggs or how many eggs are needed, speak with Mark Benda or Nadine Olsen.

Holy Spirit Clean-up Day

Please plan to attend annual Holy Spirit Clean-up Day which will take place on April 9th, 2022 after the Divine Liturgy. If April 9th turns out to be rainy day the annual Clean-up Day will be postponed for April 16th.