



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES

Saturday, Mar. 18

4th All Souls Saturday

Readings: Heb. 6:9-12; Mk. 7:31-37

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy/Panahyda

6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (Mckees Rocks, PA)

Sunday, Mar. 19

Fourth Sunday of Great Fast

Readings: Heb. 6:13-20; Mk. 9:17-31

9:10 A.M. Third Hour;

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for **+Ivan Salo**, given by Andy Salo

Supplications will be offered for **+Patty Della Ragione**, given by husband Luiggi & family

Thursday, Mar. 23

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Readings: Gen. 18:20-33; Prov. 16:17-17:17

(Lenten recollection) 6:30 P. M. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (North Side)

Saturday, Mar. 25

Annunciation of the Theotokos

Readings: Heb. 2:11-18; Lk. 1:24-38

6:00 P.M. Vigil Divine Liturgy (Mckees Rocks, PA)

Sunday, Mar. 26

Fifth Sunday of Great Fast/Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Readings: Heb. 9:11-14; Mk. 10:32-45

9:10 A.M. Third Hour;

9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Supplications will be offered for **+Cheryl Paschel – 40 days**

God's blessing upon Isabella DePaol on her 15th birthday, by Char Rumsky

As they walked along, the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest.

Use this code to read Jesus' words to them.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

"
18 21 26 13 2 12 13 22

4 26 13 7 8

7 12 25 22

21 18 9 8 7 19 22

14 6 8 7 25 22

7 19 22 5 22 9 2 15 26 8 7

26 13 23 7 19 22

8 22 9 5 26 13 7

12 21 26 15 15"





Why is St. John called “of the Ladder”...What is this Ladder?

Being a monk at the monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, our venerable father John wrote a book outlining the stages of the spiritual life. He based his entire work on the image of a ladder of thirty rungs, stretching from earth to heaven. Each rung described a step in the pursuit of virtue and the spiritual life. Since it was first written, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* has been an essential part of the formation of monastics, and a mainstay of ascetic spirituality. However, *The Ladder* is not just for monks and nuns because all Christians are called to make an ascent to

the heights of heaven. For this reason the Church places the commemoration of Saint John and his Ladder on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast, as the faithful continue their ascent with the Lord to Golgotha and through Golgotha to His Heavenly Kingdom.

The 30 Steps of the Ladder of Divine Ascent:

- Steps 1–4: renouncement of the world and obedience to a spiritual father
- Steps 5–7: penitence and affliction as paths to true joy
- Steps 8–17: the defeat of vices and acquisition of virtue
- Steps 18–26: avoidance of the traps of asceticism (laziness, pride, mental stagnation)
- Steps 27–29: acquisition of stillness or peace of the soul, of prayer, and of dispassion
- Step 30: the union of faith, hope, and love

ON CONFESSION – “DO NOT LOOK BACK”

Through the forgiveness of sins in confession, the past is no longer an intolerable burden but rather an encouragement for what lies ahead. Life acquires an attitude of expectation, not of despondency; and confession becomes the way out of the impasse caused by sin. In this respect, repentance is also an eschatological act, realizing in our very midst, here and now, the promises of the age to come. Looking backwards would seem to imply the fate of Lot’s wife (Genesis 19:26); “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). God Himself is revealed before us and walks in front of us. “One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead” (Phil. 3:13)



March 19 , 2023

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast: St. John Climacus. Octoechos Tone 8; The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (253-60)

Changeable Part: Page 19-23
In the Booklet of Changeable Parts
(Small white book)

Announcements:

Today: 4th Sunday of the Great Fast

We celebrate the Forth Sunday of the Great Fast on which we honor our venerable father John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. This Sunday’s theme is St. John’s witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God’s Heavenly Kingdom. It also is encouragement for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, only “he who endures to the end will be saved” (Mt 24:13).

Don’t Wait Until It Is Too Late

Start arranging your schedule today so that you can be present for the Divine Services for Holy Friday through Pascha-Resurrection of Christ. Absolutely no one should miss these Divine Services. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.

Parish Lenten Mission 2023

Mark your calendars for our Parish Lenten Mission 2023 which will take place Wednesday & Thursday, March 23 & March 30, 2023. A parish mission is a special event that allows us to take some time to look at our lives, values, and direction.

On Thursday evening, March 23, we will celebrate at 6:30 p.m. the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at St. George Parish. Following that service Fr. Andrew Clarke, retired priest and our good friend, will have a Lenten homily. Also, Father Andrew will be able to hear confession.

On Thursday evening, March 30, we will celebrate at 6:30 p.m. the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts at St. John's parish, Mckees rocks. Following that service Fr. Andrew Clarke, retired priest and our good friend, will have a Lenten homily. Also, Father Andrew will be able to hear confession. Let us come together for the renewal of our souls and bodies in preparation for the Great Feast of the Resurrection!

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list. If you don't have one, contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way, at this time, remember the following members of our parish family: **Barbara Fedora, Helen Fedenko, Orysia Barshowski, Kate Wyko, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla and Rose Shedno.**

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week's sale was **\$1,571.00**. Thanks to all our dedicated women and men that come faithfully to be part of this parish activity.

Collection- May God bless you...

The grand total for Sunday, March 12, 2023, was **\$1,539.00**

(Collection: \$1477.00, loose & candles: \$22.00, Ukraine Aid: \$40.00)

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

March Birthdays

Rebecca Mikovitz – 3

Linda Smith (Kerelitch) - 12

Jenna Parks – 8, Donald Hall – 18

Faith Kelly – 2, Helen (Luba) Pyptyk - 15



Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

This Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder. This venerable father was a monk of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai and as a monk of Sinai, he lived a very spiritual life. He captured his experience in a book with the title, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent". In this book, he describes the spiritual life and growth to God through 30 steps or rungs on a ladder. Through these 30 steps, one is transfigured into continual communion with God. The spiritual growth that is achieved by the action of these steps is only achieved through God's mercy, prayer and fasting.



In today's Gospel, we hear of Christ our God's mercy and healing and their relationship to prayer and fasting. In this Gospel, we hear of a man that brings his son to our Lord for healing from demons. This man has doubt that our Lord can accomplish this healing because His disciples could not heal him. Our Lord first rebukes him and the crowd that is with him. Our Lord then asks him to believe that this healing can occur. The man says that he believes but asks Christ to heal his unbelief. The man's son is then healed. Later, the disciples ask why they could not heal this man's son. Jesus replies that this type of demon can only be removed through prayer and fasting.

Saint Peter Chrysologus of Ravenna discussed prayer and fasting in the following way: "Prayer knocks at the door, fasting obtains, mercy receives. Prayer, mercy and fasting: these three are one, and they give life to each other. Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting." Fasting is a method of quenching the passions through abstinence. Fasting is not only the abstinence from food but the abstinence from loose living. It is a self-discipline that allows us to knock at the Lord's door through prayer and receive His mercy for us that restores us into continual communion with Him.

As we continue this journey of the Great Fast my prayer for us is that we may take our spiritual medicine of fasting, that we may be able to pray to restore and grow in our faith, so that we may receive the Lord's mercy and have continual communion with Him. Amen.