

ST. Paul^{the} Apostle Orthodox Church

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Bulletin for the Week of April 14-21

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4.
St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655). Martyrs Anthony, John, and Eustathius of Vilnius (Lithuania—1347). Martyr Ardalion the Actor (4th c.). Martyr Azades the Eunuch and 1,000 Martyrs of Persia (ca. 341).

Greeter: Gundrum

WEDNESDAY, April 17

Presanctified Liturgy, 8:30 am
Great Canon of St. Andrew, 6:00 pm

FRIDAY, April 19

Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
Soup supper following service

SATURDAY, April 20

Panikhida for the Departed, 3:00 pm
Choir Practice, 3:30 pm
Inquirers' Class, 3:30 pm
Great Vespers, 5:00 pm

SUNDAY, April 21

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Liturgy, 9:00 am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 5.
St. Mary of Egypt. Hieromartyr Januarius, Bishop of Benevento, and his companions: Festus, Proculus, and Sosius—Deacons, Desiderius—Reader, and Eutychius and Acutius—laymen, at Pozzuoli (ca. 305). Hieromartyr Theodore of Perge in Pamphylia, his mother, Philippa, and Martyrs Dioscorus, Socrates, and Dionysius (2nd c.).

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (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

**TODAY'S
EPISTLE
Hebrews
6:13-20 &
Ephesians
5:9-19**

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.

**TODAY'S
GOSPEL
Mark
9:17-31 &
Matthew
4:25-5:12**

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."

St. John Climacus

Do not be surprised if you fall every day and do not surrender. Stand your ground bravely and you may be sure that your guardian angel will respect your endurance. A fresh, warm wound is easier to heal than those that are old, neglected, and festering, and that need extensive treatment, surgery, bandaging and cauterization. Long neglect can render many of them incurable. However, all things are possible with God.

On the Jesus Prayer from St Sophrony's book 'On Prayer'

When we pray in a quiet solitary place quite often useless thoughts persistently gather about the mind, distracting attention from the heart. Prayer seems futile because the mind is not taking part in the invocation of the Name of Jesus-only the lips mechanically repeat the words. And when the prayer comes to an end, extraneous thoughts then generally go away, leaving one in peace. However, there is some sense in this tedious business: in invoking the Divine Name we set in motion all that is concealed in us. Prayer is like shafts of light cast on the dark depths of our inner life, showing us what passions or attachments are lodged in us. When this happens, we must urgently pronounce the Holy Name, so that a feeling of repentance increases in the soul:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

The Name of Jesus Christ for the believer is like a high fortress-wall. It is not easy for the enemy to cheat his way through the heavy iron gates if our attention is not distracted by outside concerns. The Jesus Prayer gives the soul the strength to resist harmful influences from outside. It does even more. It affords us the possibility to influence the milieu in which we live-to emerge, as it were, from the inner depths of our mind and heart and mix with our brethren in love and peace. Increasing peace and love, commanded by God, induce ardent prayer for the whole world. The spirit of Christ draws us into expanses of love embracing all creation so that the soul prays urgently:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

We come to God as the worst of sinners. We frankly convict ourselves of every misdeed. We think of nothing, we seek nothing save forgiveness and mercy. This is our invariable inner state. We beseech God Himself to help us to not grieve the Holy Spirit by our abominable sins; not to let us cause any harm to our brother, to anyone. We condemn ourselves to the torment of hell as unworthy of God. We look for no special gifts from above but just try with all our might to perceive the true import of Christ's commandments and live according to them. We appeal to Him:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Invocation of the Lord's Name gradually unites us with Him. This can happen to a certain degree when the one who is praying does not yet understand 'WHO this is,' and so far only vaguely senses the sanctifying power that proceeds from the Name. Every step forward, however, without fail entails an ever-deepening recognition of our sinfulness which reduces us to despair. Then with ever-increasing energy, we invoke the wondrous Name:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Schedule 2024

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 5:00 pm
**Fourth Sunday of Lent/
Sunday of St. John Climacus**
St. Simeon Serbian Orthodox Church
3950 S. Jones Boulevard

For the sick and suffering

Archbishop Benjamin	Maria (Kuolt)
Victoria (Potter)	Sarah (Pertz)
Marteen (Moore)	Child Monika
Kris (Stambaugh)	Etta (Sundberg)
Anita (Maresca)	Al (Geralt)
Cody (Wells)	Child Nathaniel
Stephen (Osburn)	
Vram (Sarafian)	

It is with sadness and great joy in the resurrection that I inform you that Jim Brophy fell asleep in the Lord last night, in his home just a few blocks from the church. Jim had been in an out of the hospital during the last three months, as many of you know. He courageously faced his suffering with humility and prayer and continual praying for our parish and God's mercy. He was a stalwart acolyte, phos-phora baker, parish council member, money counter, coffee chat captain, and Sunday school teacher, and we thank God for his time with us. I ask that you all keep Jim in your prayers as well as his wife Trudy and their children. Looking to the Resurrection in hope. - Fr. Paul

Please pray for our Catechumens

Josh; Cody; Mackenzie & Daniel and sons Jesse, Nico, Erik; Brad; Patrick; Adam & Maggie and daughters Freya and Priscilla; Nathan & Erika; Justin & Sarah and children Brayden and Alice; Emily; Laurie; Kamuela; Julie; Jules; Cody; Jason; Mary; Silver; Mason & Carol; Keith; Perry; Patrick; Lauren; Gregory, Alex; Tyler, Jessica and son Charlie