



HOLY GHOST ORTHODOX CHURCH

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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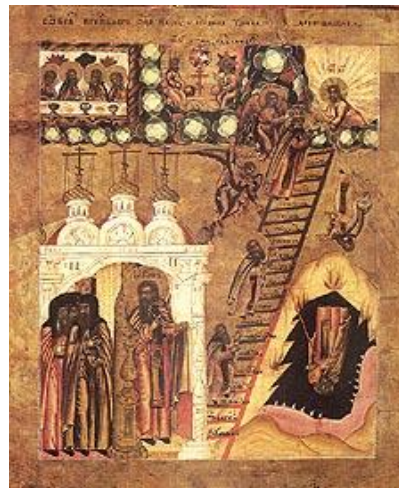
MARCH 22, 2026 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 8

JOHN CLIMACUS (Of The Ladder)

<u>Scripture Readings</u>	<u>Services</u>
<p>MONDAY, MARCH 16 Genesis 8:21-9:7 Proverbs 11:19-12:6</p> <p>TUESDAY, MARCH 17 Genesis 9:8-17 Proverbs 12:8-22</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 Genesis 9:18-10:1 Proverbs 12:23-13:9</p> <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 19 Genesis 10:32-11:9 Proverbs 13:18-14:6</p> <p>FRIDAY, MARCH 20 Genesis 12:1-7 Proverbs 14:15-26</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 21 Hebrews 6:9-12 Mark 7:31-37</p> <hr/> <p><i>All services will also be streamed online via Facebook Live as follows:</i> https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Ghost-Russian-Orthodox-Greek-Catholic-Church-681248091936330/</p> <p>Reminder: The schedule of services can be found on the front page of our website, https://holyghostbpt.com/ The schedule is recorded on the Google Calendar of the church's acct. You can add it to your own Google Calendar by clicking the + sign on the bottom right corner of the calendar window.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 Presanctified Liturgy.....5:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 21 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 22, ST. JOHN CLIMACUS Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting.....11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Lenten Vespers.....4:00 p.m. Saint Alexis Orthodox Church, Clinton Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION Vespersal Divine Liturgy.....5:30 p.m.</p> <p>SATURDAY, MARCH 28 Great Vespers.....4:00 p.m.</p> <p>SUNDAY, MARCH 29, ST MARY OF EGYPT Divine Liturgy.....9:00 a.m. “Ask the Priest” session during coffee fellowship</p> <p>Holy Unction.....4:00 p.m. Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia</p>

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,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.

The inscription on his icon is from Step 7:2. It reads: "Compunction is a perennial trial of the conscience, which brings about the cooling of the fire of the heart through mental confession. And confession is a forgetfulness of nature, since someone because of this forgot to eat his bread."²

¹ This was his monastic age. He was, in fact, thirty-five years old.

² Psalm 101:5 (Septuagint) "Him that speaks privily against his neighbor, him have I driven from me; he that is proud in look and insatiable in heart - with him I have not eaten."

Hebrews 6:13-20*(Epistle)*

13

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

14

saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

15

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

16

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

17

Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,

18

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.

19

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

20

where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 5:9-19*(Epistle, Saint)*

9

(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10

finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

12

For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

13

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

14

Therefore, He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

15

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16

redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

19

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Mark 9:17-31***(Gospel)***

17

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit.

18

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."

19

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."

20

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.

21

So, He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood.

22

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."

23

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

24

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

25

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!"

26

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."

27

But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

29

So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

30

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it.

31

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."

Matthew 4:25-5:12***(Gospel, Saint)***

25

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

1

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

2

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 4:25-5:12

(Gospel, Saint Cont'd.)

6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

7

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Message from Fr Mark: Great Lent is a time for us to reconcile with Christ and his Church, through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and the sacrament of confession. I will be available for confession 45 minutes before Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays; 30 minutes before Vespers on Saturdays, and after Vespers on Saturdays as long as is needed. Confession is for *you*, not for me. It is a gift from God: to approach Him with boldness and without shame, and receive His abundant grace, forgiveness, and healing. Don't wait until the end of Great Lent to make your confession!

CANDLE DESK DUTY

March 22 – Tim Savisky

March 29 – LoveAnn Curran

CANDLES/DONATIONS

- Lampatki over Royal Doors for the health & happiness of Melissa Savisky Duarte on her birthday from her family.
- Altar Table in loving memory of my grandmother, Anna J. Ermolovich, on the anniversary of her passing. *Memory Eternal!* from your granddaughter, Marcia Maslo-Pierce.

COFFEE-HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW ... This week's cleanup crew is Group P through Z. If this is your week to help, please see crew chief Daria Ploski-Slavin.

LENTEN SOUP FUNDRAISER ... Pea soup, which has been ordered, is available for pick up today! Please see Sue Maugeri.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL MEET TODAY ... It was postponed last Sunday.

ANNUAL DEEP-CLEANING DAY ... Please meet at Holy Ghost for cleanup day on Saturday, March 29, beginning at 8:30AM. This is our annual deep clean prior to Pascha. Please come lend a hand that day whenever you can! Sign-up sheet is at the candle desk.

EASTER PLANTS ... We will once again sell flowers in memory of a loved one or the health of a loved one for \$20 (order form is attached and will be available at the candle desk).

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, March 11



Subdeacon Paul Tvardzik assisted

WELCOME BABY MARY SIMONE ROOSIEN! ... Matushka Claire delivered a healthy baby girl late Wednesday night (March 11)! Mary Simone weighed in at 10lb., 4oz.! Mama and baby are doing well. Thanks be to God!



STEWARDS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DIOCESE ... Each March, parishioners have an opportunity to help our diocese in a significant way by donating to the Stewards of the New England Diocese (formerly ONE Stewards). Please consider this important fund in your almsgiving this Great Lent. If you have any questions, please see Rich Kendall. Thank you!

FOCUS + FAMILY NIGHT AT BEARDSLEY SCHOOL ... FOCUS Bridgeport is hosting a Family Night for the children and families of Beardsley School as we continue building relationships with the community. The evening will include a shared meal, games for the children, and Easter baskets they can take home. You can help make this celebration possible by purchasing items from our Amazon Easter Basket Wish List, which includes the specific items needed to assemble the baskets. Together we can help share the light and joy of Pascha with our neighbors and remind families that they are seen, loved, and remembered during this holy season. Thank you for your generosity and support!

[Amazon Easter Basket Wish List](#)

EASTER COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AT ST JOHN'S MILL HILL ... St John's on Mill Hill is holding a free lunch for the neighborhood (much like our luncheon at Holy Ghost at Christmas!) on Saturday, April 4, 12:30-2:00PM. St John's will provide the food, but volunteers are requested! To volunteer, contact Fr Mark, or email Fr David Cochran directly pauldcochran@gmail.com.

BAPTISM OF WAYNE BLOOMFIELD, APRIL 4 ... Our catechumen, Wayne Bloomfield, will be baptized on Lazarus Saturday morning, April 4, at Divine Liturgy at 9:00AM. Please make sure to come and support Wayne and celebrate this beautiful service as we enter into Holy Week!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FR JOHN PAWELCHAK, who fell asleep in the Lord Jan. 17, 2026



Pictured here with Fr John blessing the waters of the Housatonic River are: John (“Spike”) Bakunas, former caretaker of Shelton HG Park; Chris Savisky; and Richard Jankura.

MARCH 15 DIVINE LITURGY -- HIS GRACE, BISHOP BENEDICT, PRESIDING



The Veneration of the Cross



PARISH METRICS (MARCH 15 THRU MARCH 28)

BIRTHDAYS

Edward Moyher, March 15th; Paul Alesevich, March 16th; Katie Rose Quill, March 20th (20 years old); Father Mark Roosien, March 20th; Rebecca L. Guggenheim Pecor, March 21st; John Alesevich, March 21st
Fr John Jillions, March 22nd; Elijah Holt, March 22nd; Melissa Savisky Duarte, March 23rd; Daniel Durden, March 25th; Kenneth Guggenheim, March 27th

God Grant them Many Years!

Многая лета!

ANNIVERSARIES

None listed

DEPARTED FROM THE PARISH METRICS

MARCH 22 – Stephen Mizek, 1970 (85); John Kasprak, 1977 (55); John Klimak, 1993 (90); Nadie (Nadine) Green, 1999 (87); Margaret Erickson Lepesko, 2015 (81)

MARCH 23 – Katherine Matzelack Denhup, 1973); John Sienko, Sr., 1973 (80); Walter Philipenko, 1979 (62)

MARCH 24 – George Pravednik, 1948 (63); Peter F. Graham, 1969 (50); Donald Chilek, 1974 (21)

MARCH 25 – Simeon Pishtey, 1901 (2 months); Anastasia Ermolovich, 1917 (1 month); Maria Polhovsky, 1923 (2); Alexander Gritevsky, 1923 (7 months); John Lepesko, 1970 (77); Nellie Plavec, 1994 (74); Anna J. Ermolovich, 2006 (86)

MARCH 26 – Helen Cutler, 1943; Cheryl Ann Stevens, 1960 (4 months); Charles Scherback, 1975 (32); Stephen M. Popadic, 1997 (62)

MARCH 27 – Michael Kogish, 1901 (31); Theodore Super, 1922 (19 days); Anna Martinek, 1936 (44); Joseph Pishtey, 1938 (56); Stephen Pavlovsky, 1941 (73); John Bujak, 1948 (66); Anne Havelick Mautte, 1972 (57); Kirill (Karl) Cherniakovich, 1972 (89); Anna Petrochko Jankura, 1979 (89); Anna Fanchar Morozoff Cheh, 1984 (84)

MARCH 28 – Alexander Yurgelevich, 1960; Anna Hamilla Obernesser, 1965 (66); Valentina (Shostak) Romanovsky, 2012 (81); Irene Malsky Kochiss, 2015 (97); Florence K. Willette, 2018 (96)

Memory Eternal!

Вечная память!

