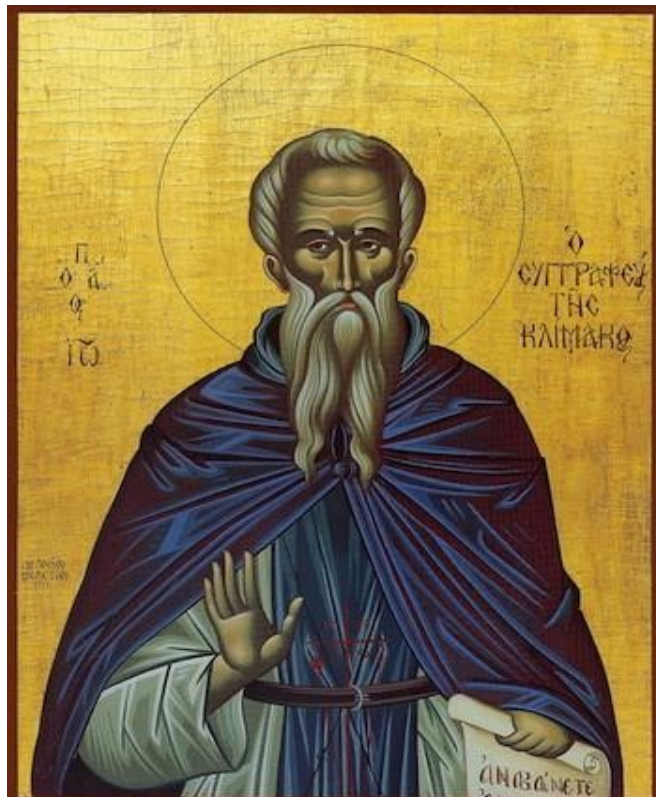


From the Divine Office for the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

By faith, you have ascended to God, on the wings of your spirit, O venerable father John. Leaving behind the restless confusion of this world, you took up your cross and followed Christ. By your asceticism, you overcame the surges of the body, submitting it to his guidance by the strength that flows from the Holy Spirit. (Vespers)

O our father, you have become the dwelling place of God; you shine with your virtues, with faith, hope and love, as the most pure gold; you expounded the divine precepts, and practiced asceticism as one who was liberated from the flesh. You acquired wisdom, courage, chastity, and humility, by which you were raised on high. Illumined by constant prayer, you attained the tabernacles of Heaven, O father John, our teacher. (Orthros)



ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT
MARCH 14, 2021**



LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Melkite Catholic Church
256 Hamilton St.
Worcester, MA 01604
Rectory: (508) 752-4174 Hall: (508) 755-2199
Email: olphmelkite@gmail.com
Rev. Bryan McNeil, Pastor
Email: Brymc56@comcast.net Cell: (978) 314-1962
Divine Liturgy: Sunday 10:00 AM

Antiphon (3rd)

1: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our Savior.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia

2: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving and let us joyfully sing psalms to Him.

Khallisna Ya-Bnallah, Ya Man qama min baynil-amwaat, nahnu muranneemeena Laka.

Haleloueya.

3: For God is a great Lord and a great King over all the earth.

O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to You, Alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

Priest: Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ.

People: O Son of God, Who are risen from the dead, save us who sing to you Alleluia!

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8, pg. 42)

You descended from on high O compassionate One; and consented to burial for three days that You might free us from suffering. O Lord, our life and our resurrection, glory to You!

Troparion of St. John Climacus (Tone 8)

Your abundant tears made the wilderness sprout and bloom, and your deep sighings made your labor fruitful a hundredfold. You became a star shining over the world with miracles. Holy Father John, pray to Christ God that He may save our souls.

Troparion of the Dormition (Tone 1, Pg. 15)

In giving birth, you have preserved your virginity and in falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, O Mother of God. You have passed to life, being the Mother of Life. Through your intercessions, save our souls from death.

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8)

We your servants ascribe to you, O Mother of God, thank offerings of victory, O Champion Leader, for we have been liberated from terror. But since you have that invincible power, do you free us from danger, so that we may cry out to you, "Hail, O Virgin and Bride ever pure!"

Prayer Knocks, Fasting Obtains, Mercy Receives
Homily by St. Peter Chrysologus, Archbishop of Ravenna (450A.D.)

There are three things, my brethren, by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting, and mercy. 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. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself.

When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know that you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery.

Let this be the pattern for all men when they practice mercy: show mercy to others in the same way, with the same generosity, with the same promptness, as you want others to do to you.

Therefore, let prayer, mercy, and fasting be one single plea to God on our behalf, one speech in our defense, a threefold united prayer in our favor.

Let us use fasting to make up for what we have lost by despising others. Let us offer our souls in sacrifice by means of fasting. There is nothing more pleasing that we can offer to God, as the Psalmist said in prophecy, "A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; God does not despise a bruised and humbled heart."

Offer your soul to God, make Him an offering of your fasting, so that your soul may be a pure offering, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, remaining your own and at the same time, made over to God. Whoever fails to give this to God will not be excused, for if you are to give Him yourself you are never without the means of giving.

To make these acceptable, mercy must be added. Fasting bears no fruit unless it is watered by mercy. Fasting dries up when mercy dries up. Mercy is to fasting as rain is to the earth. However much you may cultivate your heart, clear the soil of your nature, root out the vices, sow virtues; if you do not release the springs of mercy, your fasting will bear no fruit.

When you fast, if your mercy is thin your harvest will be thin; when you fast, what you pour out in mercy overflows into your barn. Therefore, do not lose by saving, but gather in by scattering. Give to the poor and you give to yourself. You will not be allowed to keep what you have refused to give to others.

DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

Today +Josephine Chebib Yanni. Requested by Antoinette Arraj and family

Last Week's Collection

Regular	\$ 885
Candles	\$ 23
Easter Flowers	\$ 175
Stole	\$ 25
Diocesan	\$ 25
Total	\$ 1,133



FINANCIALS

<u>2.2021</u>		<u>YTD (10.2020-2.2021)</u>	
Income	\$5,876	Income	\$32,116
Expenses	\$5,046	Expenses	\$26,701
Net	\$ 829	Net	\$ 5,414

We are still running a surplus for the year, thanks to your generous donations. We will continue to control expenses as much as possible. I will be paying the furnace repair bill this month and will use funds from our savings account to do so (approx. \$11,000).

God willing, we will continue to keep our head above water for the balance of the year! May God continue to bless you for your good stewardship of His community of Our Lady of Perpetual Help!

This Week's Lenten Services

Mon. 3/15 @ 6PM Great Compline

Wed. 3/17@ 6PM Presanctified Liturgy

Fri. 3/19@ 6PM Akathist Hymn (Complete)

Sun 3/21@10AM Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. Commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt

If we have to cancel a service, we will send an email to the email list and put a post on our Facebook page.

Fr. Bryan is available for confession after each Lenten service, on Saturdays from 10AM-Noon, and by appointment.



HOLY WEEK/PASCHA LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SUN 3/28, 10AM - PALM SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY BLESSING OF PALMS AND PROCESSION

MON 3/29, 6PM - BRIDEGROOM SERVICE

TUE 3/30, 6PM - ANOINTING SERVICE

WED 3/31, 6PM - VESPERS/LITURGY OF ST. BASIL
COMMEMORATING THE LAST SUPPER

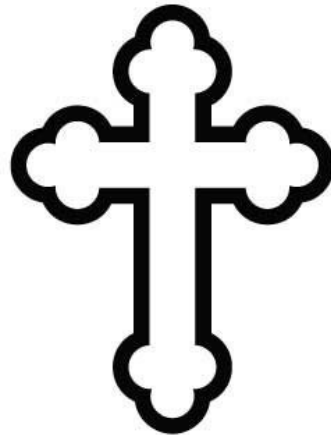
THU 4/1, 6PM - CRUCIFIXION SERVICE

FRI 4/2, NOON - VESPERS/DESCENT FROM THE CROSS

FRI 4/2, 6PM - EPITAPHIOS SERVICE

SAT 4/3, 9PM - HAJMEH, ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY FOR PASCHA

SUN 4/4, 10AM - DIVINE LITURGY FOR PASCHA



Prokimenon

Reader: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

People: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Verse: Give to the Lord, you sons of God, give to the Lord glory and praise.

People: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.

Reader: The Lord will give strength to His people;

People: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Epistle: Heb. 6:13-20

Alleluia Verses

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High!

Verse: To proclaim Your kindness at dawn and Your faithfulness throughout the night.

Gospel: Mk 9:17-31

Special Petitions for the Ecumenic Prayer (Inserted after the third petition)

- For all your people who have proven positive with the coronavirus, that they may be restored to full health and offer you their praise and thanksgiving, we pray to you, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus that they may be granted rest with the Saints and the mercy of God in the Heavenly Kingdom, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For doctors, nurses, and all in health care, risking their lives to minister to those afflicted with the coronavirus, that they remain safe, and in good health as they serve others, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For all your people in Lebanon who were hurt during the disastrous explosion, that they may be restored to full health, and for those who died that they may be granted rest among the Saints, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.
- For peace throughout the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Iraq, we pray to You, Lord, hear us and have mercy.

HIRMOS of Saint Basil (Tone 3)

In you, O Full of Grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the human race as well: O Sanctified Temple, Spiritual Paradise, and Glory of Virgins, from whom our God, who exists before all eternity, took flesh and became a little Child! He has taken your womb as His throne, making it more spacious than the heavens. Therefore, O Full of Grace, in you all creation rejoices: glory to you!