



**ST. PETER & ST. PAUL
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**105 CLIFTON AVE
ANSONIA, CT 06401**

Rectory Phone 203-734-3895

Church Hall 203-732-2414

Fax 203-732-3191

Fr. Ed Cell 413-218-6404

Email: YoungE8073@aol.com

Web Site: www.stspucc.org.

Very Rev. Archpriest Edward Canon Young, Pastor

March 14, 2021

*Leaders of the Apostles and
teachers of the world, pray to the
Master of all to grant peace to the
world and great mercy to our souls.*



Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast: St. John Climacus, our Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia (547)

Epistle: Hebrews 6: 13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 Tone: Sheet

DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

WEEKDAYS: MONDAY–FRIDAY 10:00AM

SATURDAY: Not Now! 4:00PM (Vigil Sunday-Eng.)

SUNDAY: 8:30 AM (Ukr.) & 10:00 AM (Eng.)

Confessions are heard before each Divine Liturgy:

Saturday 3:00PM to 3:30 PM

Sunday 8:00AM to 8:30AM and
9:30AM until 10:00AM

Religious Education – Saturday 10:00AM – 11:00AM
Call Alice O'Doy @203-734-3055 for more information.

Preservation – Please use the form in church vestibule,
mail it to the church or bring it to Bob Jaskilka, Michael
Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Address or Name Change/New Phone Number –
Please update your records. See Bob Jaskilka, or
Michael Wysowski, Jr. to update this info. Returned
checks are subject to a **\$35.00 fee**.

Bulletin Notices – Notices for the bulletin must be
in writing by Wednesday @6PM to be included in
that week's bulletin.

Parish Council meets every 3rd Wednesday of
every month @7:15pm in the church hall.

Rectory Office Hours - Thursday 10AM – Noon
or by Appointment on other days

******Please Note ******

Mass Offerings , Sorokousty

Mother's Day, Father's Day

**Checks must be made out to the Fr. Young
not the Church ! Thank You...**

Baptism Arrangement for baptism is to be made
personally at the Parish Office. Please call rectory for an
appointment.

Marriage – Arrangements for marriage are to be
made at least **6 months prior** to the Wedding date.
Please call rectory for an appointment.

Sick Calls – To arrange for Sacraments for the elderly
and sick at home, please call Parish Office Fr. Young
at 203-734-3895, **Please advise the rectory of any
hospitalization.**

In your Estate planning – Remember Sts. Peter & Paul
Church in your will.

Stewardship - "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve
one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter
4:10). All Catholics, should give generous support—time,
money, prayers, and personal service according to their
circumstances—to parish and diocesan programs and to the
universal Church

Special Share in the Eucharist *– Bread & Wine

offered for a week, month, or year. Donations: one week -
\$20.00 Donors/intentions will be listed.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr or Fr. Edward Young

Eternal Light *– offered to light for a week \$10.00.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

Virgin Mary's Lamp and Sacred Heart Lamp* also available
for offering! Offered to light for a week is 10.00, each.

Bob Jaskilka, or Michael Wysowski, Jr. or Fr. Edward Young

All start on Monday to Sunday!

***Offering must be made when dates are reserved!**

A **Welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul Parish** to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are over twenty-one years of age and have not yet registered, have moved or will be moving, or have a new telephone number, **please fill out the form below**. Each household **must be registered** at St. Peter and St. Paul and every adult receives a set of stewardship envelopes. Registration also entails an annual dues to the parish. If a parishioner is not registered, it is difficult for church authorities to issue him or her a sponsor certificate, reference, or any other certification.

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ E-mail _____




City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please come down to the Basement to be properly registered after or before liturgy)

Lenten Hymns of Repentance: Glory be to the Father.... *TONE EIGHT:* Open unto me, O Giver of Life, the gates of repentance: for early in the morning my spirit seeks Your holy temple, bearing a temple of the body all defiled. But in Your compassion cleanse it by Your loving-kindness and mercy. Both now.... Guide me in the paths of salvation, O Mother of God: for I have polluted my soul with shameful sins and have wasted all my life in slothfulness. By your intercessions deliver me from all uncleanness. Have mercy upon me, O God, in Your great mercy: and according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out my transgressions

Bread and Wine Offering - None Offered

03/13	Saturday	9:00 AM	Fourth All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgy offered for All the Faithfully departed followed by the reading of the names of our beloved Deceased
03/14	Sunday	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	+Katerina Baran req. by M/M Volodymyr Kit Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян
03/15	Monday	6:00 PM	+Maria Kwoczko req. by Stefan & Ola Dytko & family
03/16	Tuesday	10:00 AM	+ PROFIL, EFFIE MICHAEL, PETER, WILLIAM, JOHN & MARY LECHUS
03/17	Wednesday	6:00 PM	Station of the Cross in English
03/18	Thursday	10:00 AM	+ THEODORE, MICHAELINA, ANN MARIE, WILLIAM, OLGA & JAMES ZACHARIEWICZ
03/19	Friday Parish Mission	5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Parish Mission Missionary - Fr. Philip Sandrick, OSBM English & Ukrainian 5:00 PM Confessions English & Ukrainian 6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts sung by the Seminarians of St. Basil & Mission Sermon
03/20	Saturday Parish Mission	9:30 AM 10:00 AM 3:00PM 4:00 PM	Akathitos Saturday in Honor of the Mother of God 9:30 AM Children Confessions 10:00 AM Children Liturgy with Sermon by Fr. Philip 3:00 PM Confessions Father Philip This day is also a special of Remembrance for those who have died from Covid -19 4:00 PM Divine Liturgy offered for those who have lost their lives to Covid -19
03/21	Sunday Parish Mission	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Pro Populo (For Parishioners) - За Всіх Парафіян +Thomas Monks req. by Susan Monks & family

ETERNAL LIGHT		<i>None Offered</i>	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP		<i>None Offered</i>	
SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP		<i>None Offered</i>	
BREAD & WINE OFFERING RESERVED DATES 4/12/21-4/18/21 5/3/21-5/9/21 11/1/21-11/7/21	ETERNAL LIGHT LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 3/22/21-3/28/21 3/29/21-4/4/21 4/12/21-4/18/21 4/26/21-5/02/21 5/3/21-5/9/21 5/10/21-5/16/21 5/31/21-6/6/21 6/14/21-6/20/21 8/2/21-8/8/21 8/9/21-8/15/21 9/6/21-9/12-21 9/20/21-9/26/21 11/22/21-11/28/21	BLESSED VIRGIN MARY LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 3/29/21-4/4/21 4/12/21-4/18/21 4/26/21-5/02/21 5/3/21-5/9/21 5/10/21-5/16/21 5/17/21-5/23/21 8/2/21-8/8/21 8/9/21-8/15/21 8/23/21-8/29/21 9/6/21-9/12-21 11/1/21-11/7/21 11/8/21-11/14/21	SACRED HEART OF JESUS LAMP OFFERING RESERVED DATES 3/22/21-3/28/21 3/29/21-4/4/21 4/12/21-4/18/21 4/19/21-4/25/21 6/7/21-6/13/21 11/15/21-11/21/21

2020 & Past Church Dues (Blue Book) (Kollekta)

During Lent & every Saturday & Sunday dues current & past will be collected in the church hall after the 4:00 PM Vigil and 8:30 AM & 10AM Sunday Liturgies.

Please bring your dues book to the church hall dues will not be collected in the rectory Back on January 25, 2005 the Parish Council voted to increase the yearly dues to \$75.00 per member. This is the first increase since 1998. The number of upcoming projects that are needed to keep the church building in good repairs, such as painting, doors, walls, fixing the roof, warranted this increase. **Do not place dues in your weekly envelope offering!**

Please remember - this is not our church but YOUR church!
Please fulfill your responsibility to your Church!!

PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting
MARCH 17th
2021



Monthly Meeting of St Peter & St Paul Board of Directors

Wednesday evening March 17th, 2021

@ 7:15 pm in the church hall

All Board members are requested to attend!!!!

Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced !

ION BANK DONATIONS: Parishioners and friends who have a savings account at Ion Bank are encouraged to vote during the month of February thru March 31st, 2021 for **Saint Peter and Saint Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church**, so that our church would be able to receive a donation from the Ion Bank Foundation Community Awards Program. Ion Bank is a Connecticut Bank with a main office in Naugatuck and branches in Ansonia and Oxford. If you have any questions call Ion Bank at 203-729-4442.



PUSSY WILLOWS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY: Parishioners who have pussy willows growing on their property are encouraged to pick them, place the branches in a container of water inside the house for a few days until the pussy willows have bloomed to the desired size, remove them from the water and trim them. Please bring the pussy willows to church on the Annunciation the Holy Day of Obligation for Ukrainian Catholic which is Thursday 25 March 2021, so that they will be available for blessing and distribution during Palm Sunday weekend. Thank You!



Prayer of Saint Ephrem the Syrian said during Great Lent Sunday evening to Friday evening, But not Saturday and Sunday.

+O Lord, and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of slothfulness, faintheartedness, lust for power, and vain talking; (Full bow to the ground)
+Instead, grant to me. Your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love; Full bow to the ground (Full bow to the ground)
+O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own transgressions, and not judge my brother, for You are blessed. Amen. (Full bow to the ground)

After this 12 small bows, praying:

God, merciful be me, sin.

God, cleanse my sins and have mercy on me.

I have sinned without a number, O Lord, forgive me.

+O Lord, and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of slothfulness, faintheartedness, lust for power, and vain talking; Instead, grant to me. Your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience and love; Full bow to the ground O Lord and King, grant that I may see my own transgressions, and not judge my brother, for You are blessed. Amen. (Full bow to the ground)

У часі Великого посту (чотиридесятниці) мовимо цю покайну молитву з поклонами:

+Господи і Владико життя мого, дух лінивства, недбальства, владолюбства й пустослів'я віджени від мене. *Доземний поклін.*

+Дух же доброчесності і смиренномудрія, терпіння й любові даруй мені, недостойному рабові твоєму (недостойній рабі твоїй). *Доземний поклін.*

+Так, Господи царю, дай мені бачити мої прогрішення і не осуджувати брата мого, бо ти благословенний еси на віки вічні. Амінь. *Доземний поклін. Після цього 12 малих поклонів, молячись:*

+Боже, милостивий будь мені, грішному (грішній).

+Боже, очисти мої гріхи і помилуй мене.

+Без числа нагрішив (нагрішила) я, Господи, прости мені.

Відтак: +Господи і Владико життя мого, духа лінивства, недбальства, владолюбства і пустослів'я віджени від мене. Дух же доброчесності і смиренномудрія, терпіння й любові даруй мені, недостойному рабові твоєму (недостойній рабі твоїй). Так, Господи царю, дай мені бачити мої прогрішення і не осуджувати брата мого, бо ти благословенний еси на віки віків. Амінь. *Доземний поклін.*

**40 DAY
CHALLENGE
GREAT LENT**



The Mission will be both in Ukrainian & English
Schedule of PARISH MISSION 2021 Lenten Mission March 19-21. 2021

Friday March 19 Parish Mission Missionary – Fr. Philip Sandrick, OSBM

5:00 PM Confessions English & Ukrainian

6:00 PM Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts sung by the Seminarians of St. Basil & Mission Sermon

Saturday March 20, Akathistos Saturday in Honor of the Mother of God

9:30 AM Children Confessions

10:00 AM Children Liturgy with Sermon by Fr. Philip

3:00 PM Confessions Father Philip

This day is also a special of Remembrance for those who have died from Covid -19

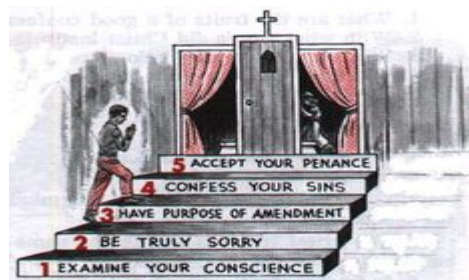
4:00 PM Divine Liturgy offered for those who have lost their lives to Covid -19

Sunday, March 21, 5th Sunday of Great Lent The Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

Father Philip will be hearing confessions before and after the Liturgies

8:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy & Mission Sermon

10:00 A.M Divine Liturgy & Mission Sermon



5 Parts of the Confession

1. Know your Sins
2. Be sorry for your sins.
3. Try not to sin again.
4. Tell your sins to the priest in confession.
5. Accept and do your Penance.



A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FROM COVID 19 SATURSDAY 20 MARCH 2021

Dear Parishioners: Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops has asked that Saturday 20 March 2021 be a special day of prayer for those who have died from Covid -19. Our parish already has plans for the morning for our children. Therefore, we will use the late afternoon to service a Divine Liturgy and a panakhyda service with the reading of names. If you could be so kind to give to Fr. Edward the names of family and friends who have died from Covid -19 by Sunday 14 March 2021 so that those names can be read at Panakhyda. Thank you very much for your assistance.

REQUIEM PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AKATHIST SATURDAY,
MARCH 20, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

A year has passed and we continue to struggle with the coronavirus pandemic. Each and every one of us knows Covid-19 victims, their families, the sick, health care workers, volunteers and all those on the front line during this perilous time.

During the Great Fast, we ask all of our Ukrainian Catholic parish communities in the United States of America to gather in liturgical prayer for the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic. We ask our priests to celebrate with the participation of our beloved faithful, the Requiem Divine Liturgy for the souls of the victims followed by the Panakhyda Service on Akathistos Saturday, March 20, 2021. Let us pray to the Lord our Savior that He may place the souls of the Coronavirus pandemic victims: *"in a place of light, a place of verdure, and a place of tranquility, from which pain, sorrow and mourning have fled"* (Panakhyda service). Let us remember in our prayers, the bereaved families and all those who are still suffering from the virus. Let us continue to remember, pray and be thankful to all those who devote themselves to those in need. We support them with our words, and above all, with our prayers. May the memory of the Covid-19 victims be eternal! Вічна Пам'ять! +Borys Gudziak, Archbishop of Philadelphia Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM Eparch of Stamford

+Benedict Aleksyichuk, Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

+Bohdan J. Danylo, Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma +Andriy Rabyi, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



The DIVINE LITURGY OF PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

“The Light of
Christ
illuminates all!”

Saint Peter & Saint Paul
Ukrainian Catholic Church
Ansonia, CT

6:00 pm
March 19th

“Let my prayer
rise up
like incense
before
You”



SAINT BASIL
UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC SEMINARY
Eparchy of Stamford



FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST / LENT SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

Epistle - Hebrews 6: 13-20 ~ Gospel - Mark 9:17-31 - Tone 8

We often have more doubt than belief, more despair than hope. Our worries and fears so easily increase, and then joy vanishes. Our health, the problems of our loved ones, stress about a busy schedule, or challenges at home, at work, or with our friends—these often leave us at the end of our rope.

If you feel that way today or ever have in your life, you can begin to sympathize with the father of the demon-possessed young man in today's gospel reading. Since childhood, his son had had life-threatening seizures and convulsions. With the broken heart of a parent who has little hope for his child's healing, the man cries out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Christ's disciples had lacked the spiritual strength to cast out the demon, but the Lord Himself healed him. We can only imagine how grateful the man and his son were for this blessing.

And imagine how embarrassed the disciples were. The Lord had referred to them as part of a "faithless generation" and asked how long He would have to put up with them. He told them that demons like this "can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting," spiritual exercises designed to strengthen our faith and to purify our souls. Not only were

the disciples unable to cast out the demon, they could not even understand the Savior's prediction of His own death and resurrection. At this point in the journey, they were not great models of faithfulness.

In fact, the best example of faithfulness in this story is the unnamed father. He wants help for his child, and he humbly tells the truth about himself. His faith was imperfect; he had doubts; his hopes for his son's healing had surely been crushed many times before. He said to Christ, "If you can do anything, have compassion on us." In other words, he wasn't entirely sure if the Lord could heal his son. All that he could do was to cry out with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." And in doing so, he showed that he had the spiritual strength and clarity that the disciples lacked, for he knew the weakness of his faith. Still, with every ounce of his being He called to the Lord for mercy. He received it and the young man was set free.

If we have taken Lent seriously at all this year, we will have become at least a bit like this honest father when our struggles with spiritual disciplines have shown us our weakness and corruption. When we pray, we are distracted and often find excuses to do something else instead. When we set out to fast from food or something else to which we have become too attached, we become angry and frustrated. If we succeed in fasting, we may be tempted to pride and judgment toward others. Our good intentions to heal broken relationships and give generously to the needy often do not lead us to act on them. When we wrestle with our self-centered desires just a bit, they become stronger and we feel weaker. We do, think, and say things that aren't holy at all, often without even thinking. We put so much else before loving God and our neighbors. The spiritual disciplines of Lent are good at breaking down our illusions of holiness, at giving us a clearer picture of our spiritual state.

If that's where you are today, rejoice and be glad, for Jesus Christ came to show mercy upon people like the father in our gospel lesson. That man knew his weakness, he did not try to hide it, and he honestly threw himself on the mercy of the Lord. He made no excuses; he did not justify himself; he did not wallow in self-pity. He did not hide his doubt and frustration before God. Instead, he simply acknowledged the truth about his wretched situation and called upon Christ with every ounce of his being for help with a problem that had broken his heart. We should all follow his example of opening the deep wounds of our hearts and lives to the Lord for healing this Lent. Jesus Christ heard this man's prayer; He brought new life to his son. And He will do the same for us, when we fall before Him in honest repentance, knowing that our only hope is in the great mercy that He has always shown to sinners like you and me with weak faith.

If we need a reminder of the importance of taking Confession this Lent, this gospel passage should help us. Christ did not reject a father who was brutally honest about his imperfect faith, but instead responded to his confession with overwhelming grace, healing, and love. He will do the same for each of us as we kneel before His icon with a humble plea for forgiveness and repentance, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." There is no better time to repent than during Great Lent as we prepare to follow our Savior to the agony of the cross and the joy of the empty tomb. (*Excerpt from Ancient Faith Ministries*)

PARISH GREAT FAST / LENTEN PRAYER CAMPAIGN VOCATION CRISIS

"THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW" (Matt. 9: 37)

If we look around, are we aware of the lack of vocations? Are we concerned that in the future we will not have priests to serve our parishes, to serve the people of God; we will not have religious men and women to teach our children, to come and preach the Word of God to us? We know that God's voice is heard in and through the Church, and the Church is heard in the words of the clergy, those who are serving in the consecrated life and through the faithful of the parish. But will that 'voice' be silenced?

If we are not aware or concerned, we need to take a good hard look within our Eparchies, our Deaneries / Protopresbyterates, our parishes and begin to acknowledge that there is a Vocations Crisis; that in a few short years it will affect each of us. With this awareness, we need to become more involved in the fostering of vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, the monastic and religious life.

As we are entering the Churches Liturgical season of preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection, we are instructed by the Church, during this penitential season of the Great Fast, to "Pray, Fast and do Charitable works – Almsgiving". As a Vibrant Parish Faith Community, let us enter the Great Fast with the resolve and goal to devote our personal prayer time, offering them for Vocations to our Church. We all need to make a concerted effort to promote vocations... a concerted effort to become aware of potential candidates and encourage them in their discernment. Pray that they may truly listen to God's call.

During the Fast, a program of awareness and prayer will be initiated at St. Nicholas. We will be initiating a Prayer and Fast Campaign.

We are asking that all parishioners fully commit themselves to deep, sincere prayer for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, the monastic and religious life.

It is the hope that beginning with the first day of the Great Fast, February 15, each of us will totally commit to this 40 Journey to Pascha with the resolve to sincerely pray that the hearts of many will be open to the call to a life of service to God and his faithful.

April 25, 2021 – World Day of Prayer for Vocations

As we wander and travel this Lenten Journey through the 40 days, may we concentrate on these instructions, especially on the instruction to **PRAY** and **FAST**. During these weeks of preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection, we as a community should strive that our prayers be raised in unity throughout the Fast, unity in mind, heart and soul, praying that the will of God will send workers into His vineyard.

We Pray and Fast for a reason and for this season of the Great Fast, may our reason be for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood, the Diaconate, the Monastic and Religious lives.

**** ** ** DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS ** ** ****

MONDAY'S INTENTION - Increased vocations to the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

TUESDAY'S INTENTION - Prayers for all Seminarians to sustain their Vocations

WEDNESDAY'S INTENTION - Increased vocations to the Redemptorists

THURSDAY'S INTENTION - **VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

FRIDAY'S INTENTION - Increased vocations to the Sisters of St. Basil the Great

SATURDAY'S INTENTION - Increased vocations to the Order of St. Basil the Great

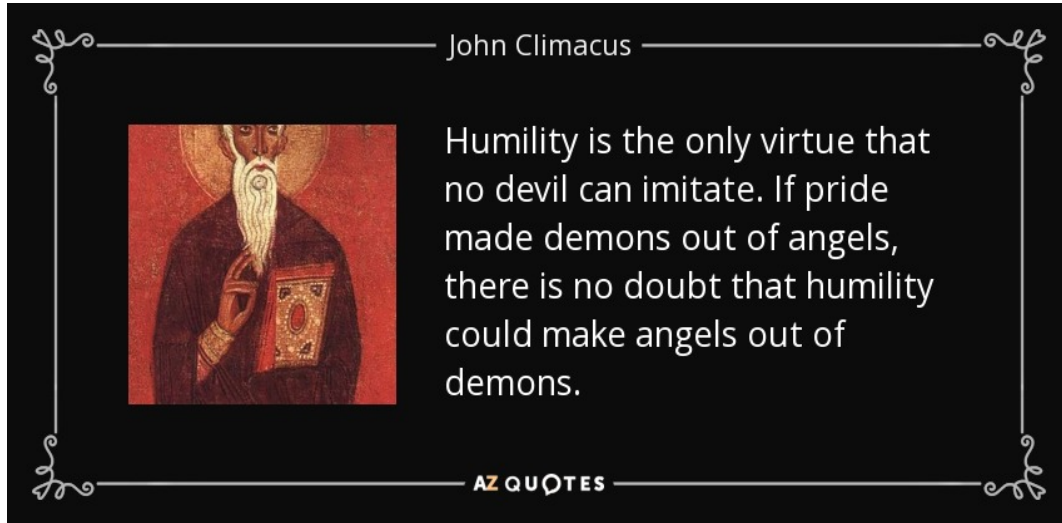
SUNDAY'S INTENTION - Increased vocations to the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God

Daily, please add your private and personal intentions for our Church, our Hierarchy, Clergy, Religious and all who lead and serve Christ and all His faithful

CATECHISM - CHRIST OUR PASCHA - TODAY'S EPISTLE / GOSPEL LESSON :

PRAYER: Page 119, Section 331-334; Page 206, Section 625; Page 215, Section 660; Page 218, Section

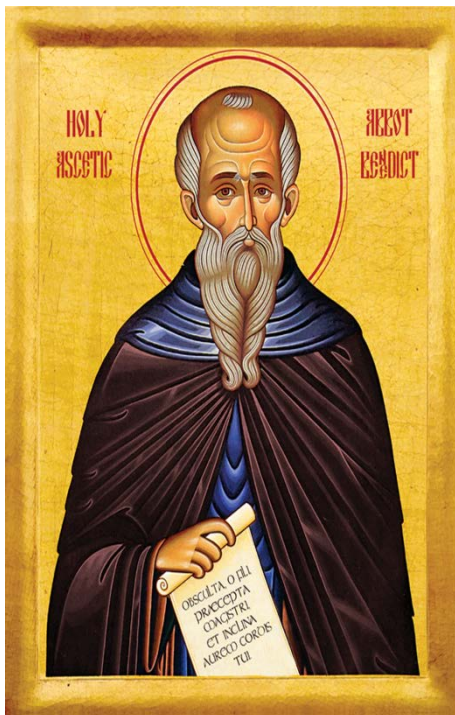
672 **FAITH:** Page 34, Section 74; Page 42, Section 99-100; Page 46, Section 113



Venerable Father Benedict of Nursia Commemorated on March 14

Troparion (Tone 1) : By your ascetic labors, God-bearing Benedict, You were proven to be true to your name. For you were the son of benediction, And became a rule and model for all who emulate your life and cry: "Glory to Him who gave you strength! Glory to Him who granted you a crown! Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!"

Kontakion - Tone 6: You were enriched with God's grace; Your works agreed with your name, O Benedict, helpful servant of Christ God. Through prayer and fasting you were revealed to be filled with the gifts of the Spirit of God! You are a healer of the sick, the banisher of demons and speedy defender of our souls!



Saint Benedict, founder of Western monasticism, was born in the Italian city of Nursia in the year 480. When he was fourteen years of age, the saint's parents sent him to Rome to study. Unsettled by the immorality around him, he decided to devote himself to a different sort of life.

At first Saint Benedict settled near the church of the holy Apostle Peter in the village of Effedum, but news of his ascetic life compelled him to go farther into the mountains. There he encountered the hermit Romanus, who tonsured him into monasticism and directed him to live in a remote cave at Subiaco. From time to time, the hermit would bring him food.

For three years the saint waged a harsh struggle with temptations and conquered them. People soon began to gather to him, thirsting to live under his guidance.

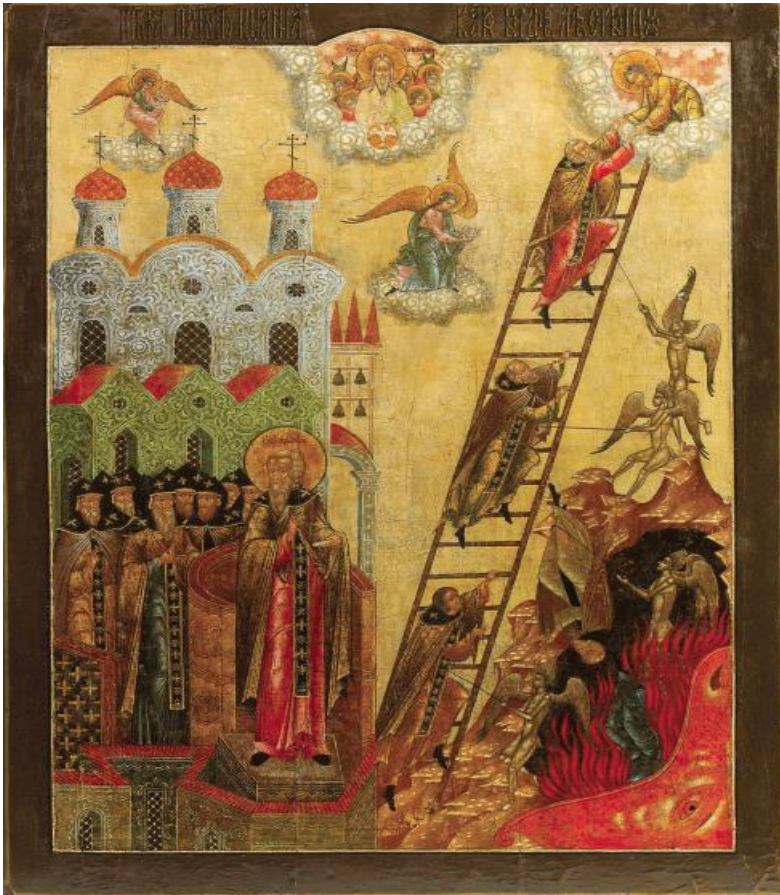
The number of disciples grew so much, that the saint divided them into twelve communities. Each community was comprised of twelve monks and was a separate skete. The saint gave each skete an ihumen from among his experienced disciples, and only the novice monks remained with Saint Benedict for instruction.

The strict monastic Rule Saint Benedict established for the monks was not accepted by everyone, and more than once he was criticized and abused by dissenters.

Finally he settled in Campagna and on Mount Cassino he founded the Monte Cassino monastery, which for a long time was a center of theological education for the Western Church. The monastery possessed a remarkable library. Saint Benedict wrote his Rule, based on the experience of life of the Eastern desert-dwellers and the precepts of Saint John Cassian the Roman (February 29).

The Rule of Saint Benedict dominated Western monasticism for centuries (by the year 1595 it had appeared in more than 100 editions). The Rule prescribed the renunciation of personal possessions, as well as unconditional obedience, and constant work. It was considered the duty of older monks to teach the younger and to copy ancient manuscripts. This helped to preserve many memorable writings from the first centuries of Christianity. Every new monk was required to live as a novice for a year, to learn the monastic Rule and to become acclimated to monastic life. Every deed required a blessing. The head of this cenobitic monastery is the igumen. He discerns, teaches, and explains. The ihumen solicits the advice of the older, experienced brethren, but he makes the final decisions. Keeping the monastic Rule was strictly binding for everyone and was regarded as an important step on the way to perfection. Saint Benedict was granted by the Lord the gift of foresight and wonderworking. He healed many by his prayers. The monk foretold the day of his death in 547. The main source for his Life is the second Dialogue of Saint Gregory. (The Great) Saint Benedict's sister, Saint Scholastica (February 10), also became famous for her strict ascetic life and was numbered among the saints.

Venerable John Climacus of Sinai, Author of "the Ladder"



Commemorated on March 30 **Troparion — Tone 8:** By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile / and by your longing for God you brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe. / O our holy Father John Climacus, pray to Christ our God to save our souls.

Kontakion — Tone 1; You offered us your teachings as fruits of everlasting freshness, / to sweeten the hearts of those who receive them with attention. / O blessed and wise John, they are the rungs of a ladder, / leading the souls of those who honor you from earth to Eternal glory in Heaven!

Saint John of the Ladder is honored by Holy Church as a great ascetic and author of the renowned spiritual book called THE LADDER, from which he is also called "of the Ladder" (Climacus). There is almost no information about Saint John's origins. One tradition suggests that he was born in Constantinople around the year 570, and was the son of Saints Xenophon and Maria (January 26).

John went to Sinai when he was sixteen, submitting to Abba Martyrius as his instructor and guide. After four years, Saint John was tonsured as a monk. Abba Strategios, who was present at Saint John's tonsure, predicted that he would become a great luminary in the Church of Christ.

For nineteen years Saint John progressed in monasticism in obedience to his spiritual Father. After the death of Abba Martyrius, Saint John embarked on a solitary life, settling in a wild place called Thola, where he spent forty years laboring in silence, fasting, prayer, and tears of penitence.

It is not by chance that in THE LADDER Saint John speaks about tears of repentance: "Just as fire burns and destroys the wood, so pure tears wash away every impurity, both external and internal."

His holy prayer was strong and efficacious, as may be seen from an example from the life of the God-pleasing saint.

Saint John had a disciple named Moses. Once, the saint ordered his disciple to bring dung to fertilize the vegetable garden. When he had fulfilled the obedience, Moses lay down to rest under the shade of a large rock, because of the scorching heat of summer. Saint John was in his cell in a light sleep. Suddenly, a man of remarkable appearance appeared to him and awakened the holy ascetic, reproaching him, "John, why do you sleep so heedlessly, when Moses is in danger?"

Saint John immediately woke up and began to pray for his disciple. When Moses returned in the evening, Saint John asked whether any sort of misfortune had befallen him.

The monk replied, "A large rock would have fallen on me as I slept beneath it at noon, but I left that place because I thought I heard you calling me." Saint John did not tell his disciple of his vision, but gave thanks to God.

Saint John ate the food which is permitted by the monastic rule, but only in moderation. He did not sleep very much, only enough to keep up his strength, so that he would not ruin his mind by unceasing vigil. "I do not fast excessively," he said of himself, "nor do I give myself over to intense all-night vigil, nor lay upon the ground, but I restrain myself..., and the Lord soon saved me."

The following example of Saint John's humility is noteworthy. Gifted with discernment, and attaining wisdom through spiritual experience, he lovingly received all who came to him and guided them to salvation. One day some envious monks reproached him for being too talkative, and so Saint John kept silence for a whole year. The monks realized their error, and they went to the ascetic and begged him not to deprive them of the spiritual profit of his conversation.

Concealing his ascetic deeds from others, Saint John sometimes withdrew into a cave, but reports of his holiness spread far beyond the vicinity. Visitors from all walks of life came to him, desiring to hear his words of edification and salvation. After forty years of solitary asceticism, he was chosen as Ihumen of Sinai when he was seventy-five. Saint John governed the holy monastery for four years. Toward the end of his life, the Lord granted him the gifts of clairvoyance and wonderworking.

At the request of Saint John, Ihumen of the Raithu monastery (Commemorated on Cheesefare Saturday), he wrote the incomparable LADDER, a book of instruction for monks who wished to attain spiritual perfection.

Knowing of the wisdom and spiritual gifts of Saint John of Sinai, the Ithumen of Raitiu requested him to write down whatever was necessary for the salvation of those in the monastic life. Such a book would be "a ladder fixed on the earth" (Gen. 28:12), leading people to the gates of Heaven. Saint John felt that such a task was beyond his ability, yet out of obedience he fulfilled the request. The saint called his work THE LADDER, for the book is "a fixed ladder leading from earthly things to the Holy of Holies...." The thirty steps of spiritual perfection correspond to the thirty years of the Lord's age. When we have completed these thirty steps, we will find ourselves with the righteous and will not stumble. THE LADDER begins with renunciation of the world, and ends with God, Who is love (1 John 4:8).

The twenty-second step of THE LADDER deals with various forms of vainglory. Saint John writes: "When I fast, I am vainglorious; and when I permit myself food in order to conceal my fasting from others I am again vainglorious about my prudence. When I dress in fine clothing, I am vanquished by vanity, and if I put on drab clothing, again I am overcome by vanity. If I speak, vainglory defeats me. If I wish to keep silence, I am again given over to it. Wherever this thorn comes up, it stands with its points upright.

A vain person seems to honor God, but strives to please men rather than God.

People of lofty spirit bear insult placidly and willingly, but only the holy and righteous may hear praise without harm.

When you hear that your neighbor or friend has slandered you behind your back, or even to your face, praise and love him.

It is not the one who reproaches himself who shows humility, for who will not put up with himself? It is the one who is slandered by another, yet continues to show love for him.

Whoever is proud of his natural gifts, intelligence, learning, skill in reading, clear enunciation, and other similar qualities, which are acquired without much labor, will never obtain supernatural gifts. Whoever is not faithful in small things (Luke 16:10), is also unfaithful in large things, and is vain glory. It often happens that God humbles the vainglorious, sending a sudden misfortune. If prayer does not destroy a proud thought, we bring to mind the departure of the soul from this life. And if this does not help, let us fear the shame which follows dishonor. "For whoever humbles himself shall be exalted, and whoever exalts himself shall be humbled" (Luke 14:11). When those who praise us, or rather seduce us, start to praise us, let us recall our many sins, then we shall find that we are not worthy of what they say or do to honor us."

In THE LADDER Saint John describes the ascent toward spiritual perfection, which is essential for anyone who wishes to save his soul. It is a written account of his thoughts, based on the collected wisdom of many wise ascetics, and on his own spiritual experience. The book is a great help on the path to truth and virtue.

The steps of THE LADDER proceed gradually from strength to strength on the path of perfection. The summit is not reached suddenly, but gradually, as the Savior says: "The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Mt.11:12). Saint John is also commemorated on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent.

Fifth Week of Great Lent

Monday

Isaiah 37:33-36:6; Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday

Isaiah 40:18-31; Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday

Isaiah 41:4-14; Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Isaiah 42:5-16; Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday

Isaiah 45:11-17; Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday Saturday of the Akathist Hymn

Hebrews 9:24-28; Hebrews 9:1-7; Mark 8:27-31; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt

Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45

Avarice is said to be the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10), and it is so because it causes hatred, theft, envy, separation, hostility, stormy blasts, remembrance of past wrongs, inhuman acts and even murder. A small fire can burn down an entire forest. But one virtue can help many to escape all the vices mentioned above. That virtue is detachment, which is a withdrawal from all evil desires, and which grows from an experience and taste of the knowledge of God and from a meditation on the account to be rendered at death.

—St. John Climacus

Eucharistic Virtue



<p align="center">CUTTING EDGE LANDSCAPING, LLC</p>		<p align="right"><i>Little Angels Home Care LLC</i></p> <p align="right">Providing: Elderly Care, Hourly, Companion, Live-in Caregivers, Weekends Reg.# HCA0000732</p> <p align="right">240 Myrtle Street • Shelton, CT 06484 203-278-1436 www.littleangels-homecare.com E: littleangelshomecare48@yahoo.com</p> <p align="center"> Ewa Grzymala</p> <p align="center">We take Long Term Life Ins. & State Cases</p>
<p align="center">For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>	<p align="center">WAKELEE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME John S. Zaleski Director Virginia K. Hylwa Administrator</p> <p align="center">203.734.1490 <i>Parishioners Serving Parishioners Over 80 Yrs</i></p> <p align="center"></p>	<p align="center">For your AD info, message Call 203-734-3895 or YoungE8073@aol.com</p>
<p align="center">Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>		<p align="center">Support those who advertise in our bulletin!</p>
	<p align="center"></p>	

**St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
Ansonia, CT 2021**

Easter Paska Bake Sale

Orders can be placed for Easter Paska.
Place your order by filling out the form below and return it to the box in the or ramp entrance.
Payment MUST be made with your order in a envelope.
Last day for orders is Sunday, March 21st, 2021 PLEASE

Only on Sunday, March 28, 2021 after the Divine Liturgies

NAME:

PHONE:

PLEASE CLEARLY SPECIFY IF "with RAISINS"

	PRICE	Plain	w/Raisins	Sub-Total
Large	\$12.00	_____	_____	_____
Medium	\$10.00	_____	_____	_____
		TOTAL DUE	_____	_____