

**Holy Assumption Orthodox Church**  
*Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith*

110 EAST MAIN STREET,  
Marblehead, OH 43440

Rev. Fr. Peter Tomas, Rector

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***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,  
Diocese of the Midwest***

APRIL 14, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT  
*ST. JOHN CLIMACUS*

**EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20**

Brethren: When God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 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. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.



**Jesus casts out deaf and dumb spirit**

**EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:9-19**

Brethren: 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 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.

### **GOSPEL: Mark 9:17-31**

At that time, there came to Jesus a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying, “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.”

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:25-5:12**

At that time a great multitude followed Jesus – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tony Monastra, 2119 Willow Cove Marblehead, OH 43440; Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road, Vermilion, OH 44089; Basil Glovinsky, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; Subdeacon Roger Pinta, P.O. Box 39, Middle Bass, OH 43446; Diane Tryon, 109 Joslyn Street, Arcadia, OH 44804; Ed & Irene Vangeloff, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

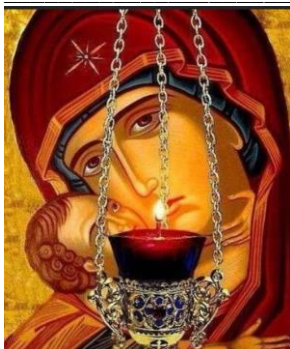


## APRIL CANDLE SPONSORS

**Altar Candles:** Fr. Peter & Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, Matushka's mother and Michal Tomáš, Father's father (**\$50**); **Chandelier:** Joe & Valerie Schutt, In loving memory of LaVerne Schutt, Gordon Schutt and Violet Bargdill (**\$50**); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (**\$25**); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, In memory of my mom Margaret and brother-in-law Russ (**\$20**); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** For Safety and Health of Nicholas, Tikhon, Gleice, & Chloe (**\$20**)

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

<b>MON. Apr 15</b>	Apostle Aristarchus of the Seventy; Gen 13:12-18, Prov 14:27-15:4
<b>TUE. Apr 16</b>	Virgin Martyrs Agape, Irene and Chionia, in Illyria; Gen 15:1-15, Prov 15:7-19
<b>WED. Apr 17</b>	Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia; Gen 17:1-9, Prov 15:20-16:9
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, Followed by Lenten soup social</b>
<b>THU. Apr 18</b>	Venerable John, disciple of Venerable Gregory of Decapolis; Gen 18:20-33, Prov 16:17-17:17
<b>FRI. Apr 19</b>	Venerable John of the Ancient Caves in Palestine; Gen 22:1-18, Prov 14:17-18:5
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>AKATHIST TO THE PASSION OF CHRIST, Followed by Book Club</b>
<b>SAT. Apr 20</b>	<b>Akathist Saturday</b> , Venerable Theodore Trichinas "the Hair-Shirt Wearer"; Heb 9:24-28, Mk. 8:27-31
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>AKATHIST to the Most Holy Theotokos</b>
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>VESPERS</b>
<b>SUN. Apr 21</b>	<b>5th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 5</b> <b>St. Mary of Egypt</b>
<b>9:10 AM</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>DIVINE LITURGY</b> Followed by Coffee hour



## APRIL REPOSED

Michael Elchisco (1913) No date provided; Andrew Kopchock (1914) No date provided; Anna Onyock (1916) No date provided; Dolores Martin (1974) No date provided; Herb Hobson (2004) No date provided; Charles Rose (2015) No date provided; **1-** Larry Twarek (2019); **4-** Sophia Jump (2012); **4-** Harry Flewelling (2018); **5-** Nancy Sitzler (2022); **6-** John Kotch (2022); **7-** Louis M. Benya (1976); **7-** Mitered Archbishop Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor; **7-** Bob Mazur (2018); **9-** Julia Guzy (2021); **11-** LaVerne Schutt (2014); **12-** Helen Tomko (1989); **14-** Paul Glovinsky (1978); **15-** Stephen Brooks (2005); **16-** Mary Wright (2005); **17-** Lois Mazurik (1999); **22-** Olga Belenky (1971); **22-** John Beadle (1988); **22-** Fred Millie (1996); **24-** Demasthony Ballan (1968); **26-** Margaret Mazur (1987); **26-** Russell Kovach (1981); **28-** Ann Kovalick (2018); **29-** Olga Kollmeier (1972); **30-** Anthony Hubicki (1977)



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## VIGILS FOR APRIL 7

**Tamara & Mary Blackford 1** In loving memory of Rob Blackford, Jr.

**Susan Guzy 1** In loving memory of mom (4/9/21) Vichnaya Pamyat

**Laura Kovach 3** For health and/or healing of Margi H., Fred S., Marty B., Jim K., Ron R., Diane T., Ruth S., James W., Patti O., Tony M., Hannah S., Barbara D., Pauline O., Betty K., Ben F., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Sharon D., John D., and Karen D.  
Birthday blessings and many years to Jean and Jennifer.  
Memory eternal to Gena Spencer and Pat Winke.

**Sandy Martin 1** Special intentions

**David & Roddie Mazurik 3** Birthday blessings to Mom, Jodie, Tammy & John, Health for friends & family, Peace

**Natalie Twarek 8** Axios to newly elevated Archpriest Peter, For the health and recovery of Father Emilian, For the health and recovery of Ruth, Pam, Diane, Ron, Rita(Gigi), Jim, Ed, For the health of Randy, Patrick and Marty, Health and recovery of Mike Heffernan and Barbara Heffernan, Health and healing for Father's dad Michal and Matushka's mom Barbara, For the health and recovery of Tony, Bev, Ed, Irene, Father David, Pauline, Judy, Tina, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, special intentions

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## PRAYER LIST

**Parishioners & Family:** Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Tony Monastra / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Jeanne Smith / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris Hannon / Subdeacon Roger Pinta / Ed Vangeloff / Irene Vangeloff / Diane Tryon / Sonja Rose / Ron Royhab / James Bargdill / John Beadle / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Elaine Hileman / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Stephanie Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, her unborn baby & Chloe / Carol / Debbie & Marco / Nora. **Other Requests:** Michael Heffernan / Susanne / Barbara Heffernan / Rita Mumea / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Sidharth Bijilani – friend of Subdeacon Roger and Debbie Pinta / Anthony / Archpriest David Lis / Bishop Matthias / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Ben Franklin / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris. **Military:** Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



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## READERS LIST

Sunday Apr 14 – Jake  
Sunday Apr 21 – Tim  
Sunday Apr 28 – Ron  
Sunday May 5 – Subdeacon Roger



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## ATTENDANCE

04/06 Vespers, 8 attending; 04/07 Divine Liturgy, 36 attending (13 guests); 04/10 Presanctified Liturgy, 12 attending; 04/12 Akathist to the Holy Passion of Christ, 10 attending; 04/13 Memorial Saturday Divine Liturgy, 8 attending (1 guest)

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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

**17** – Natalie Twarek; **18** – Nancy Bunge; **18** – Diane Tryon; **20** – Ron & Bobbie Royhab  
55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Lions Club/Diabetes” is the charity we donate to for the month of April.



## SUNDAY OFFERING

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

Tithe	\$1,655.00
Candles	\$ 59.00
Vigils	\$ 100.00
Anonymous Donations	\$ 500.00
Donations	\$ 190.00
Holy Day Donations	\$ 110.00
Chandelier	\$ 50.00
Altar Candles	\$ 50.00
St. Tikhon Icon	\$ 20.00
Candes at the Cross	\$ 20.00
Lions Club/Diabetes	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,854.00</b>

*May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!*



## CLEANING SCHEDULE

Apr 15, Natalie  
Apr 22, Basil & Tim  
Apr 29, Susan  
May 6, Jean



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A short Parish Council Meeting will take place today after the Divine Liturgy in our Social Hall. Attendance of all council members is kindly requested.



## PASKA BREAD ORDERS

Our Baker Greg Mazur will be baking his famous Paska breads for the upcoming Feast of Pascha. If you would like to place on order, you may simply call or text **Greg** at **(419) 341-1200**, or sign your name on the sheet which is located on the refrigerator in the Social Hall. There will be **Plain Paska - \$10.00** and **Golden**

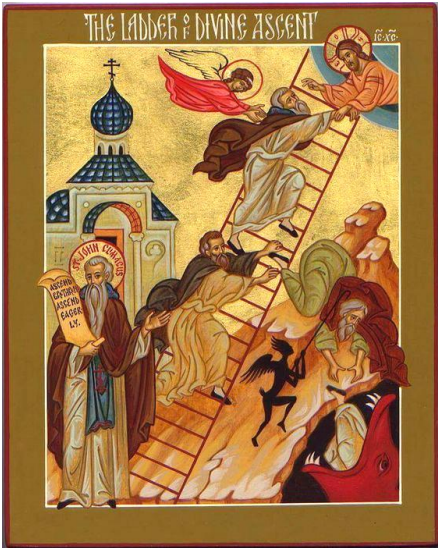
**Raisin Paska - \$12.00** available. If paying by check, please make your check out to Holy Assumption Orthodox Church.

***Please Note: All the payments (cash and checks) are due to Greg Mazur!***

## UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Apr 28<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday
- May 5<sup>th</sup>** GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
- May 12<sup>th</sup>** Antipascha, Thomas Sunday, Mother’s Day
- May 19<sup>th</sup>** Holy Myrrhbearers





## 4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder)

Commemorated on April 14

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).

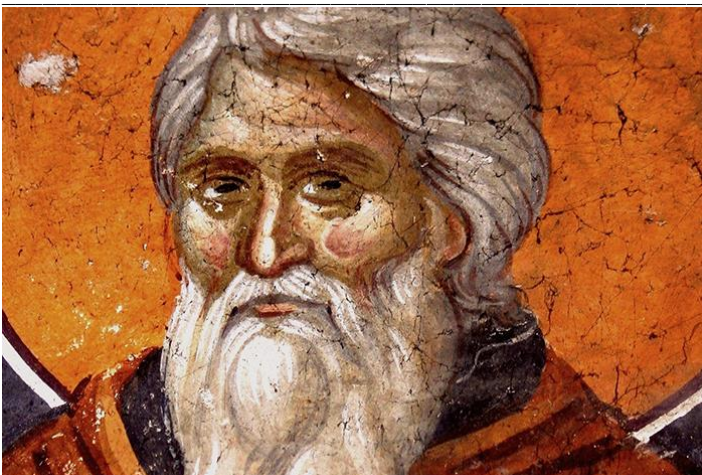
Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age,<sup>1</sup> his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabēnīsē 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.

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



### St. John Climacus: We Should Weep for Our Sins

by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Today we commemorate St. John Climacus. The reason St. John Climacus is so named is because he left us a spiritual guide — the *Ladder* of ascent from earth to heaven, from the depths of sin to the peaks of God's love and union with Him.

Now, on the first step of this ladder, St. John tells us: It is not because we have not performed miracles, nor because we did not do theology, but because we have not wept for our sins that we will be condemned in the Eternal Judgment...

This is where our salvation begins or the knot of our doom is tied up. We weep for many things: we weep for our losses; we weep at the insults of men; we weep because of sickness; we weep because of the various and varied sorrows that befall us in the course of our lives; and we fail to see that sickness, and sorrow, and suffering, and loss, can all be pure, and can be a link that connects us to God and men. There is one thing we forget: we forget that there is sin in our lives; we become insensitive to it, we forget it easily, we grieve little about it. Meanwhile, this is the only misfortune that really exists in human life. Everything else can be pure but the sin is dark; sin defiles, sin kills the man, and not only him alone, not even his accomplices in sin — it kills human and divine relations... No matter what sin we commit, the first thing we seek or want is to shut ourselves off from God. We want God to not be aware of it! We wish He didn't notice it, or if He does, we wish He forgets it!

When we say, "If only He forgave it", we often say so not because of the deep and heartbreaking grief that we have cut off the relationship of love and faith and friendship, but because there are things that happen that make us scared, that make our souls shiver, and because we don't want to be ashamed and afraid when we stand before God...

Sin separates us from other humans. We can share our grief, our loss, our misfortune; we can share it with our neighbor; we can receive support from our neighbor; we can receive strength from mutual trust, from the fact that we share with each other this horror of the earth. Regrettably, sin separates us from one another; it separates us from those we would be ashamed of; it separates us from those who were accomplices to our sins, because they are a living and painful reminder to us; and because we know that we will not only be accountable for ourselves, but also for each other in the implacable trial of the truth and love of the Lord.

Thus, sin kills everything in life — and we feel it as death least of all. We weep for everything; we complain of everything; we grieve for everything except for the fact that we are dying alive, that an impervious ring of alienation is gradually being formed around us, separating us from the sinner, from the righteous, and from God, and that this ring cannot be opened even by the love of others, because we are all the more ashamed and frightened, the more loved we are... That is why John Climacus puts the requirement for us to weep for our sins at the very heart of our salvation, our repentance.

Why should we be crying? We know from experience that we can only cry when grief, or joy, or shame, or horror pierces our souls like a spear, that tears burst out of us only when our suffering reaches its limit... Repentance comes before that — and this is where we must begin: we must be horrified that we could have acted like that, that we could have been like that. Then there comes repentance, that is, the decisive and unrelenting change of the soul, which puts us face to face with God, throws us at His feet, teaches us to ask for healing, purification, mercy, and forgiveness — and not just for ourselves, but also for the victims of our sinfulness.

When our awareness becomes so acute and deep that we can no longer stand being alienated from God; when we are conscious of the spiritual crime of killing ourselves and others — only then can the purifying tears flow out of our eyes. As long as we do not know how to weep for our sins, we can say with certainty that we have not yet acknowledged them, that we are not yet awake, that we are still cold, that we are still in sin.

Now, sin kills; it kills our soul, making it inconsiderate and callous; it kills our relationship with God and with men; it kills our conscience and life in others; it kills Christ on the Cross... Last week we worshiped the Cross; in a few days we will contemplate the Lord's Passion — that's what sin does: it kills. It always kills the innocent one, it always chooses the one who does not deserve this suffering, this humiliation, this pain...

Think carefully about your life, about your every sin. Think thoroughly and ruthlessly; and offer God first your regret, and then your sincere, ever-growing repentance, until a stream of tears breaks from

your heart and you are able to say, "I repent truly, O Lord!" It is with these tears that we shall wash our sins away. Amen.

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**MKA. MICHELLE MARIE – 3M'S CORNER**

I hope everyone had a wonderful week. What a spectacular phenomenon it was to witness the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. I was blessed to share the experience with my brother, Walter (who came in from Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) and my DH (Dear Husband). We hope that you all had amazing experiences shared with your loved ones, and were awed and amazed by God's Glory and Might over the entire Universe!

Our Beacon of the Light at Holy Assumption Church turned on during the eclipse. It was so dark in the church yard, but the light coming on was a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the Light of Christ always shines and calls us to Him!



**LORD, JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER**

Our Beacon of Light - The Jesus Prayer, is embedded in the heart of Orthodox Christian spirituality, and is a wellspring of spiritual depth and grace. It transcends mere words, becoming a silent melody that orchestrates a symphony of peace, humility, and divine connection within the believer's soul. The Jesus Prayer can illuminate your path, and provide clarity and spiritual enrichment in moments of darkness.



**COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST**

- |          |   |               |
|----------|---|---------------|
| April 14 | - | Greg          |
| April 21 | - | Mat. Michelle |
| April 28 | - | Natalia       |
| May 5    | - | HOLY PASCHA   |
| May 12   | - | Available     |

Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall.