

*St. Michael the Archangel Antiochian Orthodox Church*

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**Sunday, April 03, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**

**Commemoration of John Climacus,**

**Author of “The Ladder”**

**Abbot Nikitas the Confessor of Medikion;**

**Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer;**

**New-martyr Paul the Russian**

**Celebrant: Fr. Ben Kjendal**

## LITTLE ENTRANCE WEEKLY VARIABLES

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN): In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT: From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT: The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL: O ye foremost of the heavenly host, we beseech thee, though we are unworthy. Pray that we may be encompassed with the shadow of thy unearthly glory. Preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly. Deliver us from oppression since Ye are the princes of the highest power.

### KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY)

IN TONE EIGHT: To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

### TRISAGION PRAYER

*English* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have Mercy on us

*Arabic* Qudoos El Laah, Quodoos El Qawi, Qudoos El Lathi La Yamoot, Urhamnah

*Greek* Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, Eyleison Imas

*Russian* Svyatij Bozhe, Svyatij Krepkij, Svatij Bessmertnij pomiluj nas

**The Mission of St Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church is to love and worship God, to grow closer to Him, and to proclaim and to spread the Good News of the salvation of Jesus Christ to our parishioners, our neighbors and people everywhere.**

**We worship and pray in English. We experience the beauty and joy of living the Holy Orthodox Christian faith – sharing love and fellowship, teaching and leading by example, growing together through service, education, stewardship and forgiveness.**

**ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION:** All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

**A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION:** *Since we understand Communion to mean we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, only those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession may participate in Holy Communion. We invite all present to partake of the blessed bread distributed at the end of the service.*

**UNLESS YOU ARE INJURED OR UNABLE, PLEASE REMAIN STANDING DURING COMMUNION**

**SCHEDULE:**

<b><u>Friday, April 1</u></b>	6:30 PM Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn
<b><u>Sunday, April 3</u></b>	9:00 AM Orthros / Church School 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy
<b><u>Monday, April 4</u></b>	6:30 PM Great Compline
<b><u>Wednesday, April 6</u></b>	6:00 PM Little Compline with the full Great Canon of Repentance by St. Andrew of Crete and the life of St. Mary of Egypt
<b><u>Thursday, April 7</u></b>	6:00 PM Presanctified Divine Liturgy
<b><u>Friday, April 8</u></b>	6:30 PM Little Complain with Akathist Hymn
<b><u>Saturday, April 9</u></b>	5:00 PM Vespers
<b><u>Sunday, April 10</u></b>	9:00 AM Orthros / Church School 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

**Please consider making a donation for Pascha flowers.**

**\*\*\*In case of emergency, there are emergency numbers posted next to the telephones in the coat room and in the kitchen\*\*\***

PLEASE SEE ST MICHAEL HAPPENINGS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS & CHARITABLE NEEDS OVER THE COMING WEEKS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!

**\*\*\* DON'T FORGET NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY \*\*\***

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR**

***Our People are our Choir! We love to hear you sing with us! WELCOME!***

***We are glad to have you worship with us today!***

Father Ben Kjendal is available to visit with you in your home for pastoral care, counseling and inquiries regarding Orthodoxy by appointment. His cell number is (978) 397-3285.

## THE EPISTLE

*The Lord will give strength to His people. Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God, bring unto the Lord glory and honor.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee." And thus, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For people indeed swear by what is greater, and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. So when God, being minded to show more abundantly to the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, He interposed it with an oath, that by two immutable things—in which it is impossible for God to lie—we might have a strong consolation, we, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope that is set before us; a hope, which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and entering into "that which is within the veil," where Jesus entered as a Forerunner on our behalf, having become a High Priest "forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)**

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And 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!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."



## ST. MICHAEL HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY BULLETIN CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE  
ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH

**ONLY 45 BOOKS LEFT!** The Women's Group still has Cookbooks to sell, please let us know if you have ideas or an opportunity to take books with you to a public event where they could be sold. Please speak with Michelle Mullaney if you are interested in helping.

**FISH FEAST THANK YOU!** Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped in the kitchen, set up, cleaned up, bought raffle tickets, and enjoyed a delicious FISH FEAST together. Your hard work and generosity raised over \$1750 for ZOE House! Thank you for supporting this life-saving ministry!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** We need volunteers on Friday, April 22nd to help decorate the church and the bier for Pascha Sunday. There will be a potluck lunch for the volunteers afterwards, please bring Lent appropriate items.

**EASTER MEALS** - Once again we will be donating meals to Faith Family kitchen to be distributed to families in need. If you are able to donate monetarily toward the cost of the grocery store gift cards and hams, please make your check out to “Saint Michael Outreach” and write “Easter Meals” in the memo. Please see Kh. Alyssa with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

**CANCER CARE BAGS** This Sunday after Liturgy we will be assembling care bags to give to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy on Cape Cod. If you have not already, please sign up [HERE](#) to bring some of the needed items still remaining on the list and bring them to church THIS SUNDAY. Thank you to everyone who helped make the t-shirt bags this past Sunday that we will be filling this Sunday! Please see Kh. Alyssa with any questions.



**COFFEE HOUR** We continue to neglect cleaning up after ourselves after coffee hour. This clean up effort is the responsibility of everyone in the parish, please do your part to clean up after yourselves and to help with the overall clean up. We could use a volunteer(s) to oversee this each week or to coordinate a rotation schedule.

**LENT AND PASCHA BOOKS AND SUPPLIES - Shop SOYO bookstore**

The bookstore has a large selection of resources for Lent and Pascha, not the least of which is the HOLY WEEK PRAYER SERVICE BOOKS. More items are coming in over the next few weeks, so keep checking back. We have your any occasion needs covered. Books. Icons. Incense. Crosses. Prayer ropes. So much variety for you. Our bookstore is fully stocked and ready. If you need something specific, please speak with one of our teens or email us at [bookstore@stmichaelcapecod.org](mailto:bookstore@stmichaelcapecod.org).

**International Food Festival and Flea Market** It is time to begin planning our next International Food Festival and Flea Market. We are looking for volunteers to chair these combined events. If you are interested in being the chairperson for either of these events please contact Rick Bardine or Michelle Mullaney. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to cook and help with both events so please think about volunteering and as soon as we have our chairpersons in place they will begin to coordinate with you.

## THE SYNAXARION

On April 03 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Nikitas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion; Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer; and New-martyr Paul the Russian.

On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (or Climacus).

### **Verses**

*John, dead in the flesh and also living,  
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.  
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,  
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.*

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen