

Life of St. John of the Ladder

John Climacus is the author of *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. John came to Mount Sinai as a sixteen-year-old youth. He remained under obedience to his spiritual father, Martyrius, for nineteen years. Anastasius of Sinai, seeing the young John, prophesied that he would become the abbot of Sinai. After the death of his spiritual father, John withdrew into a cave, where he lived a life of strict asceticism for twenty years. His disciple, Moses, fell asleep one day under the shade of a large stone. John, at 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 that in a dream he had heard John calling him, and that he had jumped up at the moment the stone had fallen. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. At the insistence of the brotherhood, John agreed to become abbot, and he directed the salvation of the souls of men with zeal and love. Certain people reproached John for talking too much. Not at all angered by this, John nevertheless remained silent for an entire year. He did not utter a word until the brothers implored him to speak, and to continue teaching them his God-given wisdom. During his silence in the cave, John wrote many worthwhile books, of which the most glorious is *The Ladder*. This book is still read by many, even today. In this book, John describes the method of raising the soul to God, comparing it to the climbing of a ladder. Before his death, John designated George, his brother in the flesh, as abbot.

“Let us Attend!”



“Ascend, Brethren Ascend ...”

A PARISH BULLETIN OF
ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Olyphant, Pennsylvania

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30 March 2025

Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

St. John of the Ladder

Bulletin, Sunday, 30 March 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 7. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). Ven. John Climacus of Sinai, author of The Ladder (6th c.). St. Sophróny (Sophronius), Bishop of Irkutsk (1771). Prophet Joad (1 Kings 13:11—10th c. B.C.). Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Cæsar, and Epaphroditus, of the Seventy (1st c.). St. Eubula, mother of St. Panteleimon (ca. 303). Ven. John the Silent of St. Savva Monastery (6th c.). St. Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse (ca. 662).

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13–20 (Sunday) ; Ephesians 5:9–19 (St. John)

Gospel: Mark 9:17–31 (Sunday); Matthew 4:25–5:12 (St. John)

Our souls and minds are strengthened and fortified by the regular reading of the Holy Scriptures. Daily readings can be found on the parish's wall calendar, or online by visiting the OCA's daily reading page <https://www.oca.org/readings>.

Weekly Schedule

- **Monday, 31 March 2025: 9AM Lenten Hours.**
- **Wednesday, 2 April 2025: 6pm Joint Presanctified Liturgy at St. Nicholas Parish followed by Lenten Potluck Meal.**
- **Friday, 4 April 2025: 9AM, Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt. 6:30PM Akathist to the Theotokos.**

– **Saturday, 5 April 2025: 5:00–5:45PM Fr. Paul available for Confession ; 6:00PM Great Vespers.**

– **Sunday, 30 March 2025, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, 9:30AM Divine Liturgy followed Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship. 4PM Deanery Mission Vespers at All Saints.**

~ A warm welcome to all visiting with us today. Please come downstairs and share in fellowship with us.

~ The parish is now receiving donations for flowers to adorn the church for Holy Pascha. If you wish to make a donation, please indicate Paschal Flowers on your donation envelope.

~ Our parish will be hosting Mission Vespers next Sunday afternoon at 4PM. Please bring a Lenten covered dish for the light meal following Mission Vespers.

~ We offer up our prayers this week for those who live a solitary life of prayer and pray for us when we forget to pray for ourselves.