

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent • St. John of the Ladder



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Apolytikion for the Resurrection (Tone 8): 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 for St. John of the Ladder (Tone 8): 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 All Saints (Tone 4): Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people! Grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion to the Theotokos for the Sundays of Lent (Tone 8): O Champion Leader, to thee I offer thanks of victory! O Theotokos, thou hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast invincible power, O Theotokos, thou truly can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O bride without bridegroom!

EPISTLE READING

Prokeimenon – Psalm 28:11, 1

May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

The reading from the Epistle to the 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.

GOSPEL READING

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

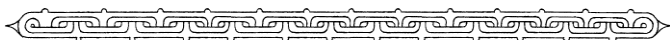
AT THAT TIME, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked Thy disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”

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. 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!” 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."



THE LIFE OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

Courtesy of oca.org

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). ...

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.

The inscription on his icon is from Step 7:2. It reads: "Compunction is a perennial trial of the conscience, which brings about the cooling of the fire of the heart through mental confession. And confession is a forgetfulness of nature, since someone because of this forgot to eat his bread."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services, visit www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Today: St. John of the Ladder

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names A-F
- Church school for all ages; adult class led by Joseph Letendre
- Choir practice for Holy Week and Pascha

Tuesday, March 24: Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation, 7pm, followed by a Lenten potluck

No Tuesday morning prayers at All Saints this week

Wednesday, March 25:

- Festal Orthros for the Annunciation, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-3pm
- *No Wednesday evening services this week*

Thurs., March 26: Morning prayers with the Canon of Repentance, 9am

Friday, March 27:

- Lenten morning prayers, 9am
- Akathist to the Theotokos at St. George Church, 7pm

Saturday, March 28:

- Icon Academy, 9am
- Ladies' book study and dinner, 5pm
- Teen Bible Bowl study and dinner, 5pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, March 29: St. Mary of Egypt

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am
- Coffee hour provided by last names G-K
- Church school for all ages; adult class led by Fr. Pat

CHURCH GIVING: As we enter the season of Lent, our thoughts often turn to fasting and charitable giving. We are blessed to have many opportunities for Lenten almsgiving presented to us at All Saints:

- **Tithes and gifts for the general fund.** It is the responsibility to all church members to support the work and upkeep of the church on a regular basis.
- **Pastoral Discretionary Fund.** These donations are given to the church to allocate as Fr. Andrew sees fit to best serve the needs of our community. Suggested recipients are always welcomed, but the final decision is at the pastor's discretion.
- **Other charitable giving.** Donate to our local Lenten food drive or the archdiocese's "Food for Hungry People" program.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE: Please bring your donations of non-perishable foods, which will be once again donated to individuals served by Northside Housing in their drop-in center and men's shelter. They mainly need items that don't need to be cooked: heat and serve containers, or cans with pop-tops. Please place your donations in the back of the church on or near the table. **The deadline is Sunday, April 5.** Monetary donations are also accepted; please write **"Food Drive"** on the memo line. If you have any questions, please call or email Sandy Abraham. God blesses those who remember the poor!

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE: Once again, let us be generous with the Antiochian Archdiocese's annual Lenten charity to help the poor and hungry around the world. Please take a coin box (at the greeters' table), and use it throughout Lent. Turn them in at Pascha to be blessed, and replace any coins with a **check made out to All Saints Church marked "For the Poor" in the memo line**, or submit paper money and designate it for the poor. If you have any questions, contact Pat K.

ARCHDIOCESE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS. Registration is open for our Antiochian Archdiocese camps, for children and teens ages 9-18. We have some scholarship funds designated to our parish from the Order of St. Ignatius; please see Fr. Andrew before the end of March if your child is interested in attending camp at Antiochian Village or Camp St. George in Iowa.

Volunteer Schedule

| Date | Reader | Prospora | Greeter | Coffee | Food |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|---------|
| Sun 3/22 <i>Climacus</i> | Sd Joseph | Cristina P | JoAnne T | Zach C | A-F |
| Tues 3/24 <i>Annunciation</i> | Jim K | Dn Walid | Azizeh C | N/A | Potluck |
| Sun 3/29 <i>Mary of Egypt</i> | Paul K | Sandy A | Richard B | Lydia A | G-K |
| Wed 4/1 <i>Presanct.</i> | N/A | Dn Walid | Nancy L | N/A | Potluck |
| Sat Apr 4 <i>Lazarus</i> | Steve K | Sarah C | Tobey L | N/A | N/A |
| Sun Apr 5 <i>Palm Sunday</i> | Joseph L | Sephora I | John O | Domitille | L-P |
| Thurs Apr 9 <i>Holy Thurs</i> | Jim K | Debbie K | Domitille | <i>volunteer</i> | Potluck |
| Sat Apr 11 <i>Holy Sat</i> | Rich C | Pat K | JoAnne T | <i>volunteer</i> | Potluck |
| Sun Apr 12 <i>Pascha</i> | Sd Joseph | Domitille | Nancy L | N/A | Baskets |

For Sunday coffee hour, the last names of our church members have been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and make sure they don't take more than they can eat. Please also help your children clean up after themselves.

Shaded dates indicate fasting. No meat, eggs, or dairy should be served.

“DO NOT REJECT AN AFFLICTED SUPPLIANT, NOR TURN YOUR FACE AWAY FROM THE POOR.”

(WISDOM OF SIRACH 4:4)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

MARCH 22-28, 2026

The readings for Lent, with a few exceptions, take us through the books of Genesis, Proverbs, Isaiah, Hebrews, and St. Mark's Gospel.

Sunday, March 22: St. John of the Ladder

John 20:11-18 / Hebrews 6:13-20 / Mark 9:14-32

Monday, March 23: Martyr Nikon and his 199 disciples

Isaiah 36:13-37:7 / Hebrews 10:11-25 / Mark 8:11-21

Genesis 11:27-12:9 / Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday, March 24: Righteous Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia

Isaiah 37:8-20 / Hebrews 10:26-31 / Mark 8:22-30

Genesis 15:1-21 / Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday, March 25: The Annunciation to the Holy Theotokos

Exodus 3:1-12 / Ezekiel 43:27-44:4 / Proverbs 8:22-30

Hebrews 2:11-18 / Luke 1:26-38

Thursday, March 26: Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Isaiah 38:1-8 / Hebrews 11:1-7 / Mark 9:1-8

Genesis 18:20-33 / Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday, March 27: Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica

Isaiah 42:1-9 / Hebrews 11:8-22 / Mark 9:9-13

Genesis 22:1-18 / Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday, March 28: Saturday of the Akathist Hymn

Hebrews 9:1-10 / Luke 1:39-56

**ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**

WWW.ANTIOCHIAN.ORG

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AMERICA
ARCHIMANDRITE JEREMY DAVIS, VICAR FOR THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO &
THE MIDWEST**