

Glory to Jesus Christ! St. Mary ~ Holy Protection Glory Forever!  
 Слава Иисусу Христу! Byzantine Catholic Church Слава на вики!  
 4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

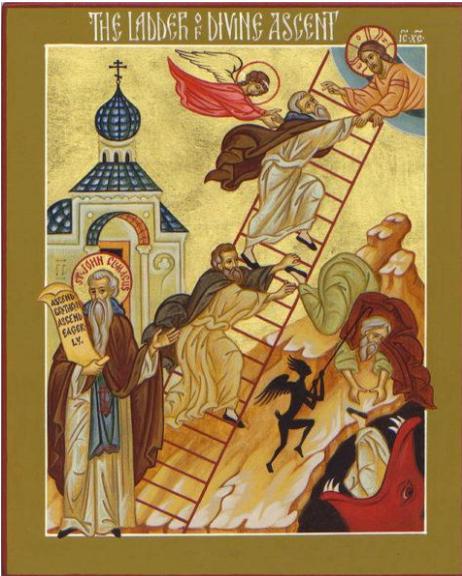
**Administrator:** Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB **Parish Office:** 724-423-3 673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838  
**Confession Schedule:** Saturday 16:00 – 16:30, Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment  
**Parish email:** st.marytrauger@gmail.com **Website:** www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

## 22 MARCH 2020 / 7528 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13 – 20 *God's Sure Promise to Abraham*

GOSPEL: Mark 9:17 – 31 *Healing of a Boy with an Unclean Spirit*



### AMBON PRAYER

#### Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast

○ Christ our God, you support and restore all who have been attacked and overcome, for, by taking flesh from the Virgin Mary, you came to us without leaving the presence of the Father. You came into this world to lift our nature up from it fall among thieves who kill the spirit. We were stripped of everlasting life, and were wounded cruelly by them, yet You deemed us worthy of care, and restored us to our ancient fatherland. Master, heal the bruises and bind up the wounds of our souls by your precious Blood poured out for us and by your holy anointing given to us. Deliver us from the constant

blows of unseen enemies who, in their desire to destroy you grace in us, hasten to rob us of faith and hope in You. In your love for mankind, do not deprive us of your healing salvation, so that after we are healed and cleansed, we may be made worthy of the community of the first-born inscribed in heaven. For You are the Healer of illnesses of both body and soul. You are our God and we ascribe glory to You, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the Ages of Ages. Amen

**Today's Troparion ...** O venerable John, we have found your godly deeds to be a divine ladder leading us to heaven, for you were a model of virtue. Therefore, beg Christ our God to save our souls.

**Today's Kontakion:** John, our teacher and father, the Lord raised you to the heights of self-control, to be a true guiding star enlightening the ends of the earth.

**Magnification:** In you, O Woman Full of Grace, all creation rejoices: the angels in their ranks and the human race. Sanctified Temple and Rational Paradise, Boast of Virgins from whom our God took flesh and became a child while remaining God from before all time. He made your womb a throne, setting it apart, a room more spacious than the heavens. In you, O Women Full of Grace, all creation rejoices. Glory be to you!



**FIFTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST:** In the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the Great Fast, we chant the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, to reaffirm our commitment to follow Christ. This is normally sung at Matins on Thursday of this week, but because of the Feast of the Annunciation to the Theotokos is Wednesday and the Leave-taking of the feast is Thursday, the Great Canon is transferred to Tuesday. The *Great Canon of Repentance* begins with *The Life of St. Mary of Egypt* by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. She is always commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. This service begins on page 533 in your «Publicans Prayer Book».

On Friday of the 5<sup>th</sup> week we read about «The Binding of Isaac – The Akedah» (Genesis 22:1-19) where Abraham's faith is tested for the tenth and last time. He is asked to sacrifice his only child, his son Isaac as a burnt offering. Abraham obeys; he binds his son and lays him on the altar they have built. As he is about to slay his son, God orders Abraham to stop and free him. Because of his great trust, God bestows a great blessing upon our holy patriarch: God will «make his descendents as numerous as the stars of heaven and the sand of the seashore...». Yet, what the Father forbade to Abraham, He will allow for Christ, Who will be sacrificed for the life of the world.



Marc Chagall (1966)  
*The Binding of Isaac*



03 / 15 / 2020	Adults: \$1686	Children: \$19	Candles: \$66
<b>COLLECTION</b>	Eastern Europe: \$165	<b>TOTAL: \$1936</b>	



## ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **STARTING MONDAY, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, the Church will be open from 9:30 – 16:30 for private prayer. Reminder: Do not reverence icons with the traditional kiss, but bow and make the sign of the cross. Please wash your hands before entering the Nave and again before you leave. Observe social-distancing if others are present. The wooden offertory box will be out if you wish to leave an envelope.
- **Dr. Natalie Kontir, MD** has asked to be notified if there are any parishioners in need of help with getting food or groceries. Also if anyone has questions or needs to talk regarding Covid-19, she receives regular updates and information from the healthcare community. Her cell #: 412-558-0554.
- **CANCELLED:** Spring Bingo – St Nicholas, Greensburg; Eggstavaganza – St John the Baptist, Uniontown



- **FINDING CALM IN THE STORM!** If you are feeling particularly stressed, and who isn't, I strongly recommend listening to the **DIVINE LITURGY OF PEACE** composed by Archbishop Ionafan Yeletskyh and recorded (2003) by the *Kyiv Chamber Choir*. The propers of the Divine Liturgy are sung in Church Slavonic and harmonized in the style of 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> century Russian musical practices. But what is truly unique and ecumenical about this composition is that Archbishop Ionafan uses Gregorian chant melodies! «Ubi caritas et amor» is one such melody. The «Alleluia» before the Gospel is also based on a famous Gregorian chant melody Mode VI, and there are hints of passages from Missa VIII (de Angelis)!

«Ubi caritas et amor» is a hymn of the Western Church, long used as one of the nine antiphons for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday (Great and Holy Thursday). It is not really known when the Gregorian melody was composed. Most musical scholars date it sometime between the fourth and tenth centuries. It is usually sung at Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Latin rite and on Holy Thursday evening at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The current *Roman Missal* (3<sup>rd</sup> Typical Edition 2000) reassigned it from the foot-washing *mandatum* to the offertory procession at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. It also is found in current Anglican and Lutheran hymnals. Below is a YouTube link that plays the entire Divine Liturgy of Archbishop Ionafan. I hope you find it a comfort; it certainly is one for me.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy\\_kHin7n8OEx5e7hFq7BiiLbmw-h1Zz8kh8](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kHin7n8OEx5e7hFq7BiiLbmw-h1Zz8kh8)

**GOD WITH US – ON LINE** Many of us are deeply saddened and shocked by the unanticipated turn this Great Lent has taken. It is so important for us to stay firm in the faith! Amidst the uncertainty of these days, we as Christians know with certainty that Christ has the victory. Whether we can join together physically or not, we remain united in prayer, faith and hope in the Resurrection of Christ our God. Our journey to Pascha continues on!

To prepare for Great Week and Pascha, we invite you to join us April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8-9 PM EST for ***the Sacrifice of God: The Mystery of the Cross in the Eastern Christian Tradition*** with Rev. Stephen Freeman. The Webinar is free, but you must register using the link below.

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3OvDULMbT0qugVuLtudrhQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3OvDULMbT0qugVuLtudrhQ)

*Rev. Stephen Freeman is an archpriest in the Orthodox Church in America and serves as pastor emeritus of St. Anne Orthodox Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He was educated at Furman University, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, and Duke University. He is author of the popular blog, Glory to God for All Things, and of the weekly podcast, Glory to God, on Ancient Faith Radio. His work has been widely translated and published in Europe and Russia.*

GOD WITH US ONLINE is an outreach project of the Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) and the Eastern Catholic Associates (ECA) and is dedicated to the catechetical renewal of Eastern Catholics in the United States in accord with the Church's call for a new evangelization.



The following is Bishop Milan Lach's pastoral letter sent to the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma

### **Glory to Jesus Christ,**

Dear brothers and sisters, I am reaching out to you via email during this serious time for people here in the USA and around the globe, when we are all facing the outbreak of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We do not know how long it is going to last, but one day it will end. God will allow something like this, but He will never forsake us.

At this time, after consultation with Metropolitan William, other bishops, the Eparchial Council of Consultors, doctors, and after the statements of the President of the USA, I made the decision to dispense all of you throughout the Eparchy of Parma from attending services until further notice. This dispensation includes the dispensation from celebrating Easter. Our priests will be celebrating Divine Liturgies privately in our churches with their wives and kids or with only a deacon cantoring or cantor. I want to ask you for your understanding and cooperation.

If you would like to be part of the celebration via the internet, we are providing a live stream from the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Parma, every Sunday at 11AM EDT. You can access this live stream at [www.parma.org](http://www.parma.org) or on the Eparchial **Facebook Page**.

If you would like to go to the Mystery of Holy Repentance (Confession), please contact your priest and he will arrange to meet with you in the church for Confession. If you would like to talk to your priest because you are experiencing stress or anxiety, you may call him and he will be there for you. We recommend that other sacraments such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms take place with the immediate family only.

I invite you to pray with your families at home. We need to pray during this time of trial and only true genuine prayer will help us. Pray the Paraklesis, Akathist, Vespers, Matins, Moleben, Jesus Prayer or the Rosary. If you have used prayer books, pull them off the shelves and use them to pray together with your loved ones. I give you a dispensation from attending the Sunday Liturgies, but I cannot give you a dispensation from prayer. That is why we have Sunday. As a family, read the Word of God – the Bible - which is spiritually enriching to us, or any other spiritual books. Do not forget during this time to fast, to fast from meat and dairy products. You can fast in other ways as well, such as fasting from watching the TV or being on the internet.

You can give alms to the poor who are always around. Let us open our eyes to the particular needs of our brothers and sisters and help them. You can help the elderly or people living by themselves with their grocery shopping, or you can call your friends or somebody from your parish as a way of reaching out to them.

Do not put your life or the lives of others in danger, act responsibly and follow the instructions of the health institutions. This type of discipline and thoughtfulness can help bring this pandemic to an end.

I am asking you not to forget to financially support your parish and our church as you did up until now. We are thankful for every financial gift. Without your financial support your parish cannot continue to function in paying its bills, its priests, and their healthcare and the Chancery cannot continue to pay the retirement and healthcare benefits for the retired priests, who served so faithfully.

Many people are asking me what I think of all that is happening right now. I personally take it as an invitation from Our Lord God for us to change. He is giving us another chance to leave the old ways of thinking and acting and to return to a deeper knowledge of God. Have courage and do not be afraid. God is testing us, but He sends us the solutions. I think we need to strengthen our faith, faith in the living and resurrected Jesus Christ, Who is the Victor over death and evil.

Brothers and sisters, I am with you; I pray for you and with you. May the Mother of God of Mariapoch protect us all with her veil.

God bless you,

**Most Reverend Milan Lach, SJ**  
**Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma**

