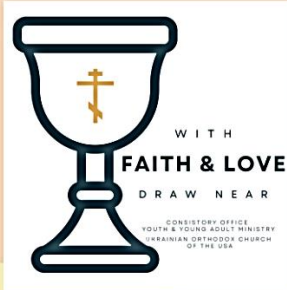
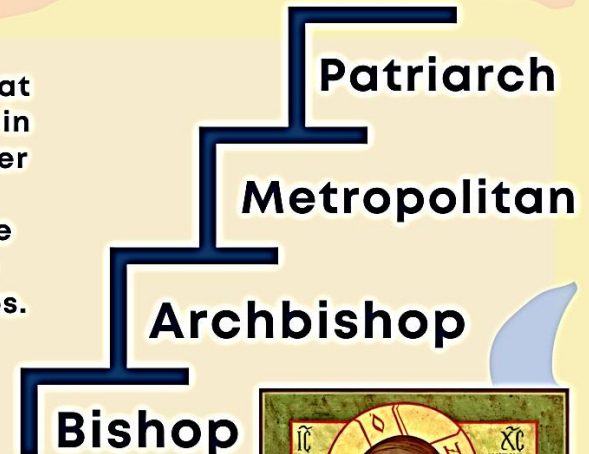


April 2024, Issue 08

LITRUGY & THE BISHOP



Do you remember the 6th Issue where we discussed the ranks of clergy? We learned that the bishop is responsible for all of the people in his parishes- like a shepherd who watches over his sheep. The other clergy go to him for guidance and bishops work together to make decisions- one isn't more powerful over the other. There are also ranks or levels of bishops.



You may have noticed the comparison of the bishop to that of a shepherd. Look at the icon to the right and read John 10:11-18. How do you think this is related?



Bishop

A special office/position in the church of a leader of the people. All bishops are equal in the eyes of the church and are assigned to a parish or town.



Archbishop

An archbishop has more responsibility than a bishop and usually a larger area over which to lead.



Metropolitan

A Metropolitan has even MORE responsibility and an even larger city, region or country to care for.



Patriarch

A Patriarch is the bishop of either the most important city or of a country. There are currently nine patriarchs in the Orthodox Church around the world.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is sort of like the Chairman of the Board in the group or Holy Synod of bishops. As we first said, ALL bishops are equal in the eyes of the church - no matter their title or position. However, order and structure help us in life!



www.uocyouth.org

St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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Web www.stvladimirpgh.org

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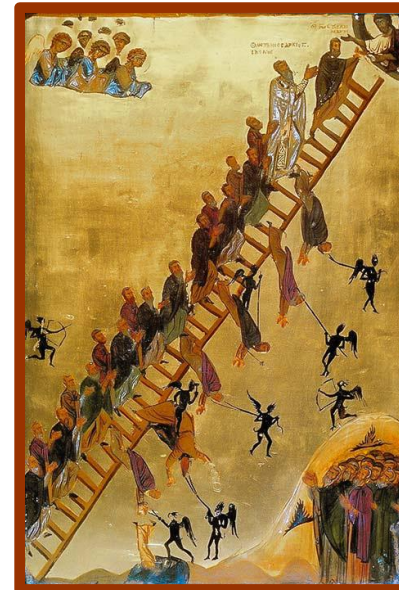
V. Rev. Father John Haluszczak, Pastor (412)-513-9148 otetsivan@gmail.com

Subdeacon Nathan Haluszczak Readers: Julian Borgan and Nicholas Sampson

Choral Directors: Mauri Druash-Gladys, Kira Senedak, and Pani Anne Haluszczak

Sunday April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Great Lent, St John Climacus



At this season of Lent as we focus on spiritual renewal with repentance, prayer, fasting, and works of mercy, the teachings of St John Climacus (c.579-649), commonly known as "John of the Ladder", are very appropriate. He was the seventh century Abbott of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. His famous work "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" is read aloud every Lent in Orthodox monasteries. He depicts the spiritual path to union with God as a ladder with thirty steps.

Step Five of the Ladder entitled "On Penitence". St John Climacus begins his discussion in this chapter as follows:

"Repentance is the renewal of baptism and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life. Repentance goes shopping for humility and is ever distrustful of bodily comfort. Repentance is critical awareness and a sure watch over oneself. Repentance is the daughter of hope and refusal to despair. (The penitent stands guilty -but undisgraced.)

Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by the performance of good deeds which are the opposites of the sins. It is the purification of conscience and the voluntary endurance of affliction. The penitent deals out his own punishment, for repentance is the fierce persecution of the stomach and the flogging of the soul into intense awareness.

Come, gather round, listen here and I will speak to all of you who have angered the Lord. Crowd around me and see what he has revealed to my soul for your edification."

St John of the Ladder goes on to describe a monastery he had visited where the monks practiced fearsome and extreme feats of penance. He commented: "I saw their humble and contrite souls who were saddened by the weight of their burden. The stones themselves have been moved to pity by their voices and by their cries to God."

After witnessing such great examples of repentance, he commented: "It seems to me that those who have fallen and are penitent are more blessed than those who have never fallen and who do not have to mourn over themselves, because through having fallen, they have pulled themselves up by a sure resurrection."

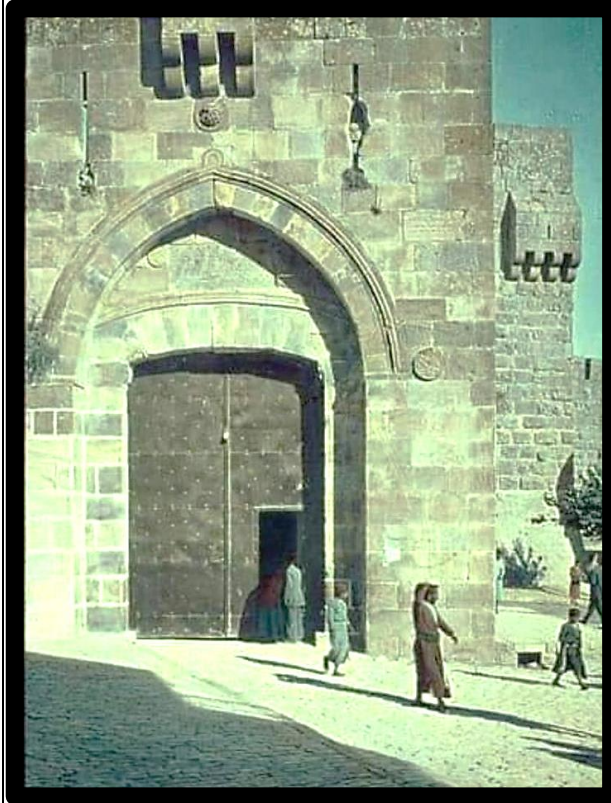
He offered reassurance when he wrote: "Nothing equals the mercy of God or surpasses it. To despair is therefore to inflict death on oneself."

stjoseph.org.au

Remember in Prayer

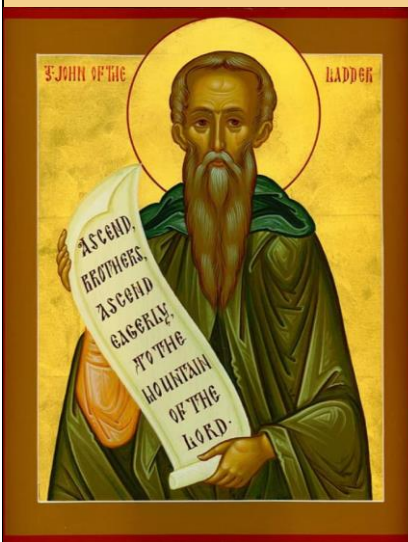
Lyubba, Cecelia, Lotti, Ksenia, Cindy, Wesley, Celia, Carl, Lisa, Peter, Victoria, Theodore, Jamie, Gloria, Maryanne, Marilyn, Chance, Jim, Pauline, Mia, Tatiana, Mary Ann, Wesson, Nicholas, Kateryna, Aleksandra, Kaleena, Amy, Natalia, Stephen, Katherine, Victoria, Peter, Nicole, Jerry, Kathleen, Bohdan, Evalyn, Joseph, Anea Rose, Joshua, Denise, Miriam, Freida, Jaylynn, Collette, Sophia, Theodore, Donna, Lisa, Cathy, Allison, Anna, Stephanie, Mike, Theo, Ann, Chris, Tim, John, Ivy, Natalie, Allysia, Cathleen, Shirley, Kira, Laney, Cassidy, Deborah

O Lord, Jesus Christ, the physician of souls & bodies, look down on your suffering servants, relieve them of their pain and suffering in order that they may be able to arise from their sick-bed and glorify your Holy Name. Amen!



"Did you know the verse "it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven," does not mean a sewing needle? In ancient times those gates had two large leaves and a smaller door called the eye of the needle intended only for the passage of pedestrians. When the large gates were closed, getting a camel through the eye of the needle, it required the camel to shed its load and bend its legs and neck. It was a difficult task that often left scratches. Jesus' teaching was not impossible for a rich man to get into heaven but a reminder that whether you are rich or poor you must shed your burdens, bend your necks in obedience, kneel before God and acknowledge Him that He is the only way to salvation. And on this journey you will get scratches along the way."

Author unknown



As we renew our spiritual efforts and turn to God during the season of Lent the words of St John Climacus remind us of the power of repentance with reliance on God's mercy. It reassures us that when we have fallen away from God and return to him through repentance all is not lost but, on the contrary, God's mercy comes to us with even greater power. Practicing repentance through our Lenten journey offers us the prospect of a joyful Pascha.



2024 UOL Pan-Orthodox Annual Lenten Retreat



Embracing Christ's Call

With Host Pastors Fr. Mykola Zomchak, Spiritual Advisor of the Senior UOL (Sts. Peter & Paul, Youngstown, Ohio) and Fr. John Charest, Spiritual Advisor of Jr. UOL (Sts. Peter & Paul, Carnegie, PA)

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Saints Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Center
1025 N. Belle Vista, Youngstown, Ohio 44509 • Phone: 330-799-3830
(Celebrating our 100th Anniversary)

Registration by April 14, 2024

Fee: \$25.00

Fee: \$20.00 (Ages 19 - 25)

Registration after April 14, 2024

Fee: \$30.00

Fee: \$25.00 (Ages 19 - 25)

To register: e-mail ms98carmack@gmail.com or text 412-565-9441 or visit the UOL of USA
Website: <https://www.uolofusa.org/> to download the Registration Form or Register Online.

Join us for a day of prayer and worship, reflection, self-insight, and worship as we complete our Lenten Journey. The day includes Registration, Continental Breakfast, Morning Prayers, Lecture/Discussion, Lunch and Vespers.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart!

BIRTHDAYS

Alex Popichak /15

Julian Burgan 4/16

Steve Hoza 4/20

Yes, Jesus hung out with prostitutes and drunkards and outcasts.

Here's the thing, though - by the time Jesus was finished with these people, they weren't prostitutes or drunkards or outcasts anymore.

Jesus came to transform people, not indulge them. Christianity is about surrender, not comfort. We are to align ourselves to his standard, not the other way around.

Today's Memorial Litany was requested by Fr John in memory of his Mother,
Mary Haluszczak and Metro Haritan Jr

Schedule of services change

Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday and Holy Saturday
will be moved up to start at 9:30 AM

