

**This coming week:**

**Monday, March 23: *Lenten Vespers*, 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 24: *Matins w/Great Canon of St Andrew*,  
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday, March 25: *Presanctified Liturgy*, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady**

**Thursday, March 26: *Lenten Matins*, 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m.**

**Friday, March 27: *Small Compline with the Akathist*,  
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, March 28: *Vigil*, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 29: *Divine Liturgy*, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Confessions during Lent: Wednesdays and Fridays before evening service. Saturdays before and after Vigil. Or by appointment.**

**Divine Liturgy Streaming:** Can be found on YouTube through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnkronstadtlincoln/streams>



**Flowers:** Do you have a special occasion or want to honor a loved one? Flowers may be brought anytime to beautify our sanctuary. Contact Nikki at [nicolemyles@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemyles@gmail.com)

*(Martyr Drosis continued)*

When she heard of this, Saint Drosis also decided to suffer martyrdom for Christ. She prayed in her prison, asking the Lord to set her free. God heard her prayer, and the guards fell asleep. Saint Drosis went to the furnace, but she wondered: “How can I go to God without a wedding garment (i.e., without being baptized), for I am impure? But, O King of Kings, Lord Jesus Christ, for Your sake I give up my imperial rank, so that I might become the lowliest handmaiden in Your Kingdom. Baptize me Yourself by Your Holy Spirit.”

After praying in this manner, Saint Drosis anointed herself with myrrh [chrism], which she had brought with her, and immersing herself in water three times, she said: “The handmaiden of God Drosis is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

The Saint hid for seven days, spending her time in fasting and prayer. Some Christians found her and learned from her everything that had occurred. On the eighth day, the Holy Martyr Drosis went to the furnace and cast herself into the fire.

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# St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox Church

March 22, 2026

*Fourth Sunday of Lent – St John Climacus of the Ladder*

## Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

### 11 The Great Litany

**14 First Antiphon** – Bless the Lord O my soul: Blessed art Thou O Lord. Bless the Lord O my soul: and all that is within me bless His Holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul: and forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases. The Lord is compassionate and merciful, longsuffering and of great goodness. Bless the Lord O my soul: Blessed art Thou O Lord.

**17 Second Antiphon** – Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord O my soul, I will praise the Lord as long as I live I will sing praises to my God while I have by being. Put not your trust in princes in sons of men in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs he returns to his earth. On that very day his plans perish. The Lord will reign forever: Thy God O Zion to all generations.

**19 Only Begotten Son** – Both now and ever unto the ages of ages, Amen. Only begotten Son and immortal Word of God. Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate. Of the holy Theotokos and ever Virgin Mary. Who without change didst become man and was crucified. O Christ our God, trampling down death by death. Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

**22 The Beatitudes** – In Thy Kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.



**Little Entrance Hymn** – O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ O Son of God, Who didst rise from the dead save us who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

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(Hymns of the Day continued)

## Hymns of the Day



**42 Resurrectional Troparion, Tone 8** – Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst endure the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

**44 St. John of Kronstadt Troparion, Tone 4** – O Wonderworker living in Christ forever with love have mercy on those in danger. Hear thy children who call on thee with faith, be compassionate to those who hope for aid from thee. O Father John of Kronstadt our beloved Shepherd.

*Choir – Saint John Climacus Troparion*

**45 St. John of Kronstadt Kontakion, Tone 4** – Thou wast chosen by God in infancy, and in childhood received the gift of learning. Thou wast called to the priesthood in a vision during sleep and didst become a wonderful shepherd of Christ's Church. Pray to Christ our God, that we may all be with thee in the Kingdom of Heaven. O Father John Namesake of grace.

*Choir – Saint John Climacus Kontakion*

**46 Steadfast Protectress** – Steadfast Protectress of Christians, Constant Advocate before the Creator; despise not the entreating cries of us sinners, but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor You.

**48 Trisagion Hymn** – Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

**55 Prokiemenon, Tone 8** – Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God.

Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel!



**Reading of the Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20,**

**56 Alleluia, Tone 1**



**Reading of the Gospel: Mark 9:17-31**



**Sermon**



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus

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).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age, his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skētē and Tabēnnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine. Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

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."

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## *Drosis, daughter of Emperor Trajan*

The Holy Martyr Drosis, and five Virgin Martyrs with her: Agalida (Αγλαΐδα), Apollinaria (Ἀπολλινάρια), Daria (Δαρεία), Mamousa (Μαμούσα), and Thaïs (Θαΐς).

Saint Drosis was the daughter of Emperor Trajan (98-117), a fierce persecutor of Christians. In the year 99 he revived an earlier law which forbade secret gatherings, and applied it to the Christians. In the year 104 he issued a special edict against Christians.

Beginning in that year, the persecutions continued until the end of his reign. The bodies of martyred Christians often remained unburied in order to intimidate others. Five Christian virgins: Agalida, Apollinaria, Daria, Mamousa, and Thaïs, took upon themselves the task of burying such Christians. In secret, they took the Martyrs' bodies, anointed them with spices, wrapped them in shrouds, and buried them. When she learned of this, Drosis, who was a secret Christian (but not yet baptized) asked the holy virgins to take her with them when they went to bury Christians.

Hadrian, an advisor to the Emperor, who was also the suitor of Drosis, informed Trajan of the women's activities. A guard was posted over those who had been killed, with orders to arrest anyone who attempted to bury them. Saint Drosis and the five virgins were caught on the very first night. Learning that one of the captives was his own daughter, Trajan ordered her to be held separately, hoping that she would change her mind.

The five Holy Virgin Martyrs were sentenced to burn in a furnace for melting copper. They went to their death courageously, and received their imperishable crowns of martyrdom. This copper, mingled with the ashes of the Martyrs, was used to make tripods for the new public bath which Trajan had built. As long as these tripods stood in the bath, no one could enter it. Whoever crossed the threshold was struck dead at once. When the pagan priests realized why this was happening, they ordered the tripods to be removed and melted down. Then Hadrian suggested that the Emperor should have five bronze statues of naked virgins made to resemble the Martyrs, and place them before the entrance to the public bath.

When the statues were in place, Trajan saw in a dream five pure lambs pastured in Paradise, and the Shepherd who said to him, "O most wanton and wicked Caesar! Those whose images you placed there to be mocked have been taken away from you and brought here by the Good and Merciful Shepherd. In time your daughter, the pure lamb Drosis, shall be here as well."

When he awoke, Trajan was furious, and ordered two huge furnaces to be heated. Nearby, an imperial edict was posted: You who worship the Crucified one; save yourselves from a lot of suffering, and also spare us these labors. Offer sacrifice to the gods. If you do not wish to do this, however, then let each of you voluntarily cast himself into this furnace. Many Christians chose martyrdom.

*(Continued on back page)*

*(Litany continued)*

## **58 The Litany of Fervent Supplication**

## **60 The Litany for the Catechumens**

**64 Cherubic Hymn** – Let us who mystic'ly represent the Cherubim, represent the Cherubim. And who sing the thrice holy hymn to the life creating, life creating Trinity. Now lay aside all cares, lay aside all earthly cares, lay a side all earthly cares.



## **63 The Great Entrance**

\*\*\*\*\* **Holy Eucharist** \*\*\*\*\*

## **69 Litany of Supplication**

## **73 The Peace**



## **74 The Creed: The Symbol of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the scriptures And ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **73 The Anaphora**

## **82 The Byzantine Anaphora**

**87 It is Truly Meet** – *Tone 4* – It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God, More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word: True Theotokos, we magnify you.

## **96 Litany before the Lord's Prayer**

*(Continued on next page)*

(Communion continued)



## 98 The Lord's Prayer

## 103 Communion Hymn



**Children line up for Communion.**



**105 Receive the Body of Christ** – Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality. Receive the body of Christ, taste fountain of immortality. Receive the Body of Christ, taste the fountain of immortality.

## 109 The Litany of Thanksgiving

## 112 Dismissal

## 114 Psalm 33

### *Martyrs Kalliniki and Basilissa*



Saints Basilissa (Βασίλισσα) and Kalliniki (Καλλίνικη) were from Galatia. Since Saint Basilissa was wealthy, she gave money to Saint Kalliniki to go to the prison and distribute it to the Christians who were confined there for their sustenance, and so they would pray for her. She wished to prepare them for martyrdom and to stand by them so that they would not lose their courage amid their tribulations.

One day Saint Kalliniki was arrested and they asked her why she was giving the prisoners money. Since she did not know how to lie, she admitted the truth. That is why they tied her up and handed her over to the ruler. Afterward, Saint Basilissa was arrested and was brought before him in court. Both women boldly confessed Christ and were subjected to various tortures, in an attempt to make them deny their faith and offer sacrifice to the idols.

Since they could not be persuaded to do so, their sacred heads were cut off with swords. In this manner they defeated the devil and rejoiced in the Kingdom of Heaven. The martyrdom of the Holy Martyrs Basilissa and Kalliniki took place in the year 252, during the reign of Emperor Gallus (251-253).

### **Other Saints of the day:**

Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Venerable Isaac the Confessor, founder of the Dalmatian Monastery at Constantinople; Monastic Martyr Euthymius of Prodomou, Mount Athos.

To read about any of these Saints go to: <https://www.oca.org/saintslives/2025/03/22>

## Readings

**H**ebrews 6:13-20 For 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.

**M**ark 9:17-31 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."



*Have you given your tithe today?*

The Lord, your God, is in our midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. Zephaniah 3:17

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