



SAINT INNOCENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

March 18, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent:

St. John of the Ladder

Rest of St Nikolai of Zhicha/ St Cyril of Alexandria



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Priest Theophan Buck

Troparion and Kontakion

Tone 8 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

Tone 1 Troparion (*for St John Climacus*)

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body, thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer, healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!// Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

Tone 4 Kontakion (*for St John Climacus*)

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe// O our father and teacher John.

Tone 4 Troparion (**St Nikolai of Zhicha**)

In truth thou wast revealed to thy flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; thy humility exalted thee; thy poverty enriched thee. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God// that our souls may be saved!

Tone 2 Kontakion (*St Nikolai of Zhicha*)

O holy hierarch, Father Nikolai, / divine thunder and spiritual trumpet, / planter of faith and the pruner of heresies, / great favorite of the Trinity, / standing now with the Angels before the throne of God /// ceaselessly pray for our souls!

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, ¹⁸that 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. ¹⁹This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

¹⁷Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸And 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." ¹⁹He 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." ²⁰Then 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. ²¹So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And 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." ²³Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" ²⁶Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

³⁰ Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. ³¹ For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

Many Years!

Anniversaries	19	Gary and Dora Cox
Birthdays	19	Thomas Kehayes
	22	Eliza Buck

Announcements for Sunday, March 18, 2018:

- Upcoming Lenten Services:
 - Wednesday, March 21 at **6:30 p.m.** - Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
 - Saturday, March 24 at **6:00 p.m.** - Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation
 - Sunday, March 25 at **10:00 a.m.** - Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation
- One of the most important aspects of our Lenten journey is the Sacrament of Penance. This is the season of repentance and therefore every Orthodox Christian should prepare to make a good confession during these days. Please make every effort to come to confession before March 31 - Lazarus Saturday. Procrastination is not a virtue.
- Confessions may be heard before or after the weekday Lenten services, on Saturday evenings between 5pm-6pm before Great Vespers, on Sunday mornings between 9am-9:30am, or at another time by appointment.

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy this morning.

There are green service booklets in the entrance area of our Church that will help you follow along with the service if you like. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the cross and receiving the Holy Bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please join us for coffee hour at St. Veronica's Hall!