

March 26, 2023

Sunday of St. John The Ladder

Saints of the Day: Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel, 26 Martyrs in Crimea

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!!!

Thank you for worshipping with us!!! Please join us for fellowship immediately following The Divine Liturgy. For those visiting an Orthodox Church for the first time, please be aware that Holy Communion is a sign of unity of faith which is only offered to Baptized or Chrismated Orthodox Christians. All present are welcome, and encouraged, to receive the antidoron (bread given to those who do not/are not able receive Holy Communion) which is distributed at the end of the service. For those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please feel free to speak with Fr. Demetri after the service.

**WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO FOLLOW ALONG AND PARTICIPATE IN
THE DIVINE LITURGY WITH THE BOOKS PROVIDED!!!**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

George Mallios (1 year)

Coffee hour is sponsored in memory of George Mallios by his family.

WEEK IN PREVIEW

Sun, Mar 26

Sunday of St. John

The Ladder

Orthros 8:45am

Divine Liturgy 10am

Memorial Service

Sponsored Coffee

Hour

Mon, Mar 27

Basketball

3rd Grade 4:30pm

3/4 Coed 6pm

HS Boys 7:30p

Great Compline 6pm

Learn to Chant in

Library 7pm

Tues, Mar 28

Choir Rehearsal

3:30pm

Library Memory

Project Photo ID by

Zoom 7pm

Basketball

HS Boys 7pm

Wed, Mar 29

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

9:30am

Bible Study in Library

11am

Thurs, Mar 30

Choir Rehearsal 6pm

Basketball

5/6 Boys 6pm

7/8 & HS Boys

7:30pm

GLENDI Meeting in

Annex 6:30pm

Fri, Mar 31

The Akathist Hymn

6pm

Sat, Apr 1

Greek Preschool 9am

Sun, Apr 2

Sunday of St. Mary

of Egypt

Orthros 8:45am

Divine Liturgy 10am

Memorial Service

Special General

Assembly

Sponsored Coffee

Hour

Hymns Chanted Following the Small Entrance

Resurrectional Hymn in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὖσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃς τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You

Anthem of St. George in the Fourth Tone

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἱατρός, βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Liberator of captives and defender of the poor, physician of the sick and champion of kings, oh Trophy-bearer and Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Seasonal/Kontakion Hymn in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἀλλ' ὥς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, Ἵνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you* Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude,* Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos.* Inasmuch as you have power unassailable,* From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you * I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 6:13-20

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the

promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Εβραιους 6:13-20

Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγελάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἥ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὅρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσότερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδειῖται τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὅρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσῆλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "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; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he 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; and when the spirit saw him, 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 you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "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 he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he 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 he would not have any one 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 when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Μαρκον 9:17-31

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ λέγων, διδάσκαλε, ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σε, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· ὧ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπηρώτησε τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ· πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· παιδιόθεν. καὶ πολλάκις αὐτὸν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα, ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἴ τι δύνασαι, βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι, πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως κράξας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρύων ἔλεγε· πιστεύω, κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος, ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων αὐτῷ· τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἔξελθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράξαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράξαν αὐτὸν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κρατήσας αὐτόν τῆς χειρὸς ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτόν εἰς οἶκον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτων αὐτόν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελθεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ᾔθελεν ἵνα τις γνῷ· ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES



As we celebrate this most Holy and Sacred week of our Lord's Passion, we pray that our entire Parish will prioritize and arrange their schedules to participate in as many of the Divine Services as possible.

We encourage all of our Faithful to be witnesses in the Passion of our Lord: His betrayal, arrest, death on the Cross, burial, and finally His Glorious Resurrection.

Fr. Demetri, the officers and members of the Board of Directors, wish a Blessed and Joyful Pascha to all of our Parish family members and friends.

Lazarus Saturday, April 8

Matins 8:30am
Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Palm Sunday, April 9

Matins 8:45am
Divine Liturgy 10:00am
with Fish Dinner to follow

April 9, 10, 11

Bridegroom Services 6:00pm

Holy Wednesday, April 12

Mystery of Holy Unction 4:00pm

Holy Thursday, April 13

Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30am

The Passion of our Lord 6:00pm

Holy Friday, April 14

The Royal Hours 8:30am

Decorating of Kouvouklion

Youth Retreat 10:30am

Un-Nailing Service 2:00pm

The Engomia 6:00pm

Great Holy Saturday, April 15

Vesperal Divine Liturgy 9:30am

Paschal Vigil 11:00pm

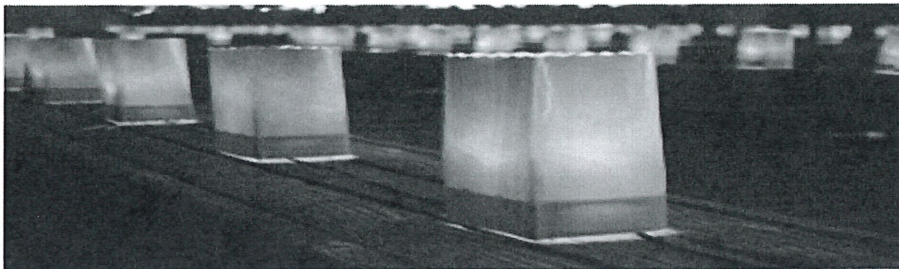
Pascha Reception to follow

Great Holy Pascha Sunday, April 16

Vespers of Love 11:00am

Gospel Passages in many languages

Egg Hunt for kids to follow



LIGHT UP THE CATHEDRAL

The Daughters of Penelope invite you to purchase luminaries in memory of your loved ones, which will be lit around the Cathedral on Good Friday Evening.

The purchase price of each luminary is a donation of \$5.00 for each name or family name.

Kindly fill out the form and return it with your donation no later than APRIL 3, 2023. Checks should be made out to Daughters of Penelope #51 and sent to Maria Dongas, PDG, 846 Union Street Manchester, NH 03104.

Your Name _____

Name(s) to Appear on the Luminaries (please print)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you for your Support of this fundraiser sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope Ilios Chapter 51 Manchester NH



Family Connections

4th Sunday of Lent: St. John Climacus

Hebrews 6:13-20 & Mark 9:17-31

Ascend, my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your hearts' resolve be to climb. Listen to the voice of the one who says: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of our God" (Isaiah 2:3).

—St. John Climacus (7th century)

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Jacob's Ladder—Read the Old Testament story about Jacob's Ladder, which can be found in Genesis 28:10–17. The ladder represents the Theotokos. Talk about how Jesus came down the ladder in order to show us how to ascend it to heaven. Talk about things that help us climb the ladder to heaven and things that make us slide down.

For young children, the game Chutes and Ladders can be helpful in illustrating this point. Visit www.lent.goarch.org for more resources on this Sunday and to guide your Lenten journey.

Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent—Pull up a picture of this icon on your computer—it can easily be found by searching "Byzantine icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent." It shows people ascending toward heaven with angels helping them. It also shows demons pulling people off the ladder, causing them to fall into the pits of hell. This is a very vivid and graphic icon and is best to share cautiously with young children if at all. With teenagers, this icon can be a great discussion starter. When discussing, consider the following: What are the things in my life that are keeping me from ascending the ladder (these are our demons)? What are the things and people in the Church that help me to ascend?

Lord, I Believe; Help My Unbelief—Challenge your family to use the plea of the father in today's Gospel passage as a prayer throughout their day. Remind your children that we should constantly be calling on God to help us.

Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the

5th Sunday of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

Hebrews 9:11-14 & Mark 9:17-31



PRAYER LIST

Pondering on the words of St. Paul, "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's wellbeing. (I Cor. 10:24).

Give rest to the weary, visit the sick, support the poor, for this is also worship. Aphahat

For any prayer concern (salvation, health, employment, stress and anxieties, etc.) please send baptismal names only to:
office@stgeorgenh.org

We may not be able to help others materially or medically, but God does hear our prayers and always asks us to pray for each other and so build up the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

For health, recovery from illness and surgery: Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Peter, Leah, Thomas, Tom, Soultana, Nick, Maura, Ernie, Dean, Vasilios, Rigley, Zachary, Luke, Rachel, Vasiliki, Maria, Daniel, Andrew, Faye, Kathy, Helen, Eleftheria, Elanie, Jamie, Megan, Maryann

For comfort, spiritual help & strengthening of faith: Pres. Patricia and family, Pres. Diane, Pres. Sophia, Pres. Dianthe, Barbara, Nancy, Amantha and Family, Maddie, Dino, Nick, Connie

For couples, parents and their families: Neal and Elena, Paul – Kristin & Michael Francis, Penelope & Florence, Teddy, Alyssa and George, Tracy & family, Christina & Casey

For those engaged to be married: Karleigh and Stavros

For conceiving of children:

For childbearing:

For those in the Armed Forces: Benjamin, Michael, Gabriel, Felipe

For those travelling abroad:

For those seeking employment: Lia, Jillian

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY - Next Sunday, April 2, is the Special General Assembly following Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to attend.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TODAY - We are pleased to have parish family member George Trapotsis who will offer a short presentation on the importance of March 25, 1821.

ASSUMPTION GREEK SCHOOL INVITATION - The Assumption Greek School is celebrating Greek Independence Day today at 1pm. All are invited to attend!

MEMORIAL SERVICE - April 2, Electra Voulgaris Joaquin (40 days) and Anita Stewart (3 years). Coffee hour is sponsored in memory of Anita Stewart.

SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT - We ask that all members of our Cathedral Family do their best to come to as many services as possible during this beautiful season of Great Lent. *Note the time change: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on March 29 is at 9:30am.*

PART-TIME CHANTERS/READERS NEEDED - We have services during Great Lent on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and Great and Holy Week is just a few weeks away. We welcome those who would like to assist and help with the readings. If you would like to volunteer to help with reading various Scripture passages or to chant, please come to the chanter stand before the service to offer your participation.

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT - We are happy to inform you that we are planning to have this retreat for the young people of our Parish Family. The retreat welcomes children from grades K - 12. Those families that are interested we ask that you email the church office so we can begin to know who is interested in this Retreat!

GREAT LENT REFLECTION TABLE - Check out the Great Lent Reflection table to the left of the entrance to the community center. There are various articles and reflections for you to take for yourself or to share with a loved one.

CHAIRPERSON NEEDED - We are looking to hold the Parish level of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, yet we NEED a chairperson. There is a handout in this bulletin with more information about the Festival. Junior Division (grades 7-9) and Senior Division (10-12). Please contact Fr. Demetri if you would like to be the Chairperson.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

LIGHT UP THE CATHEDRAL - The Daughters of Penelope invite you to purchase luminaries in memory of your loved ones which will be lit around the Cathedral on Good Friday Evening. Please see the forms for more information. The deadline is April 3.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - You are invited to join us for our weekly Bible Study which meets on Wednesdays at 11am in the Library. We are discussing St. Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy. We do respect one's time and therefore the Bible Study will be one hour. We hope you will join us!

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS - The Anagennesis Ladies Society will be decorating the Cathedral to celebrate Easter. Easter Flower Offering Forms are available in the Narthex and Community Center. Thank you for your generosity!

PALM SUNDAY FISH DINNER - Save the date of April 9 for the Anagennesis Palm Sunday Fish Dinner! Tickets are available at coffee hour and in the church office. See the flyers for details.

PASCHA EGGS - The Anagennesis Ladies are asking for individuals to donate one or two dozen red, cooked eggs for Pascha. Eggs should be delivered to the Church during Holy Week, but not later than Holy Thursday morning, April 13. Your response to this appeal is greatly appreciated.

PROCESSION OF KOUVOUKLION/EPITAPHIOS - If any strong men and women would like to assist during the procession on Great and Holy Friday evening, please speak with a member of the Board of Directors.

PASCHA FELLOWSHIP HOUR- Following the Service of the Resurrection on Great and Holy Saturday night, our Parish Council invites everyone to stay for a Paschal Fellowship Meal.

VESPERS OF LOVE SERVICE ON PASCHA - As we have in previous years, we are looking for those who can read foreign languages to proclaim the Gospel in as many languages as possible (which is the tradition of the Church at this service). A flyer is included in this bulletin.

GYRO DRIVE-THRU - Join us on Saturday April 22 between 11am and 5pm for the Gyro Drive-Thru. Receive a gyro, a bag of chips, and a drink for \$10 (cash only).



CARRYING THE BODY OF CHRIST



Throughout the Gospels, there are a number of times the Body of our Lord was held by others. During His Presentation in the Temple, the baby Jesus was held by Simeon. For many years, Simeon had awaited the coming of the Messiah.

Christ was carried by animals both during his Flight from Egypt and His Entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. It is interesting to note that the first was to SAVE Him from death and the latter was to DELIVER Him to His death.

Following His arrest and condemnation, Jesus was bodily abused and crucified by the civil authorities. He was treated like a common criminal.

Upon His death, Christ's earthly body was entrusted to the wealthy Joseph of Arimathea. Misunderstanding that our Lord's Kingdom did not belong to this world, Joseph kindly gave up his burial spot. But Jesus was not destined to remain dead. He could not be contained in a tomb!

The reverent Myrrh-Bearing Women thought they knew the correct way to take care of the Lord's Body. They came to honor it with anointing, on that early morning. We all know that the tomb was empty.

But the lesson we learn from all these people is that Jesus Christ's Body was not only to be HELD but to be CARRIED FORTH for the salvation of the world. The message of our spiritual rescue from sin and death is all according to God's plan. May we give our possessions towards the use of God, like Joseph of Arimathea did. May we accept a change of plans like the Myrrh-Bearing women were asked to do. Above all, may we willingly receive God into our lives each day.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Fr. Demetrios Costarakis, Cathedral Dean

Father's E-mail: frdcostarakis@stgeorgenh.org

Lord's Day (Sunday) Services:

Orthros/Matins: 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

An electronic copy of this bulletin is available on the website.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Volume 11, Issue 13

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network



Making progress

If you are in school, you might have gotten something called a "progress report." Do you know what a progress report is? Your teacher shows your parents how well you are doing in math or reading or spelling or even at getting along with others. Your teacher always wants you to "progress" or get better.

Today is the 4th Sunday of Lent. Today we remember a Saint John who wrote a book about a ladder to heaven. It isn't a real ladder, of course, but it is a way to see if we Christians are making progress, to see if we are growing closer to Christ in heaven.

We can ask ourselves if we are growing closer to Christ. Are we really trying to stop doing the wrong things, and start doing the right things? Or are we stuck with bad habits?

The funny thing is that *all* Christians can make progress. All Christians can move forward to Christ... not just kids, but also very, very old people. Not just school kids, but mothers and fathers, priests and bishops, and monks and nuns. We can all keep growing closer to Christ. We can all keep progressing!

Let's always think about that. What would a progress report say about us?



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

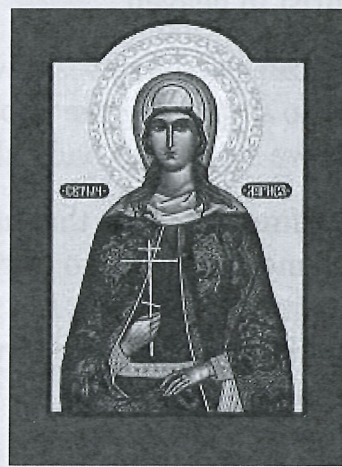
- Christ
- Crimea
- Encouragement
- Faith
- Fourth Sunday
- John
- Larissa
- Lent
- Love
- Martyrs
- Progress
- Saints

I	A	O	T	J	A	P	R	C	W	M	N	W	M	O
G	I	M	Q	K	T	J	C	H	A	T	N	H	N	H
U	I	O	D	Y	R	G	Q	R	B	N	J	I	O	C
O	B	F	B	A	I	S	T	I	W	E	A	R	E	J
C	R	I	M	E	A	Y	C	S	L	M	E	A	Z	F
W	J	U	J	N	R	K	K	T	M	E	F	G	N	S
J	G	H	L	S	S	G	Y	L	T	G	N	I	S	Y
K	C	A	X	P	A	L	O	R	A	A	Q	T	N	R
S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	E	H	R	H	C	B	P
D	N	S	A	V	U	R	Z	T	Q	U	I	G	M	K
E	O	A	E	G	X	X	I	E	L	O	J	S	H	K
J	P	I	W	Q	O	A	Z	P	C	C	O	X	S	T
R	M	N	M	L	F	J	Z	D	D	N	T	P	Y	A
G	V	T	Y	Y	Y	B	D	B	H	E	C	Z	J	E
M	W	S	F	O	U	R	T	H	S	U	N	D	A	Y

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Saint Larissa was one of the 26 saints we celebrate today (see page 3).

Do you see what she is holding in her hand? We can see that she was a martyr because she is holding a cross in her hand!



THE GOOD KIND OF PEER PRESSURE

THE 26 MARTYRS IN THE CRIMEA

Do you ever hear about peer pressure? Sometimes kids pressure their friends to do the wrong kind of thing. You know, things they probably didn't want to do in the first place.



But did you know? Sometimes we can help our friends and family do the *right* kind of thing too. We can guide them and influence them in a good way. Or maybe they can help influence us too!

Many years ago (in the year 375), a group of Christians who lived in Crimea did just that. They were in trouble because they wouldn't worship idols, and they knew they were going to be punished. But these Christians encouraged each other. They helped each other stay strong in their love for Jesus Christ.

Finally, the idol-worshipping ruler had had enough. The 26 Christians were having a church service in a tent, and he brought an idol by on a chariot. When they still wouldn't worship it, he set fire to the tent, and the Christians died in the fire.

We don't know the names of all the saints who died that day, but we remember and celebrate them all. And we pray to God that if we ever had to make a choice like that, we would follow the example of these 26 brave Christians, too!

We celebrate these special martyrs today, March 26th (OC: April 8th).

Rejoice! To you, who has shown Christ as the loving Lord!



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