

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15th Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

Boris Derow ~ Music Director/Cantor

Parish Office

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March 10, 2024

4th Sunday of the Great Fast

St. John of the Ladder

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday of the Great Fast

St. Mary of Egypt

LITURGICAL SERVICES

Sunday, March 10
10:00 AM

4th Sunday of the Great Fast
St. John of the Ladder

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
+John Huzinec

by Dorothy Huzinec
Followed By Panachida
and the

Reading of the Hramoty
for the
4th All Souls Saturday

Tuesday, March 12
6:00 PM

Presanctified Liturgy
For the Parish Families
of St. Mary's and Holy Cross
and Lenten Soup Meal

Wednesday, March 13
12:15 PM

Lenten Moleben
and Soup Meal

Thursday, March 14
7:30 AM

Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Sunday, March 17
10:00 AM

5th Sunday of the Great Fast
Mary of Egypt

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
+Mary & +John Malast
+Kevin Guiteras

By Debbie Sank

Panachida +Mikulas Sikoryak
By Sikoryak & Ceselka Families

Tuesday, March 19
6:00 PM

Presanctified Liturgy
+Edward Zapala
By Mary Zapala
and Lenten Soup Meal

Wednesday, March 20
12:15 PM

Lenten Moleben
and Soup Meal

Sunday, March 24
10:00 AM

Palm/Flowery Sunday

with the Blessing
of Willows and Palms
Festal Anointing
Service of Holy Anointing
+John & Mary Ruschak
by Margie Ruschak

Monday, March 25
6:00 PM

**Feast of the Annunciation
of the Theotokos**

For the Parish Families of St.
Mary's and Holy Cross

Thursday, March 28
Great and Holy Thursday
6:00 PM
Vespers and Divine Liturgy

Friday, March 29
Good Friday
3:00 PM
Vespers and Burial Procession

Sunday, March 31
Easter Sunday - 10:00 AM
Resurrection Matins
and Divine Liturgy
Followed by the Blessing of
Baskets

WELCOME VISITORS!

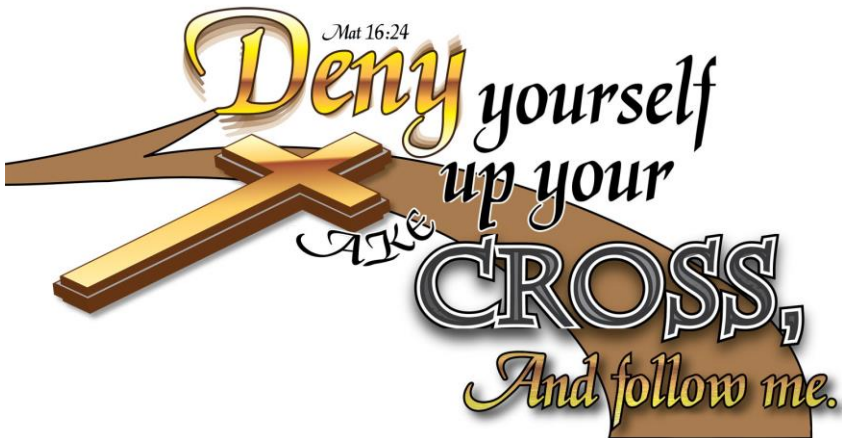
**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL PEOPLES.”** - Isaiah 56: 7

If you are a visitor to St. Mary’s, we want you to know how welcome you are, whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship true and reverent and that our people here are friendly and cordial. If you seek a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our family. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.



Mystery of Reconciliation

Fr. Ed is always available to celebrate the Mystery of Reconciliation before the Divine Liturgy and at any other time. If Fr. Ed is not in the confessional, please look for him; he will gladly help you. Fr. Ed will be in the confessional on the Sundays before Easter from 9:15 to 9:45. He will be available before every service during Holy Week week.





The St. Ephrem Prayer

O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust of power and idle chatter. Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed now and ever and forever. Amen

St. George's Choral Society Free Open Rehearsal

March 13, 2024

7:00 PM

St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

246 East 15th Street (at 2nd Ave.)

New York, NY 10003

(This choir rehearses at St. Mary's every Wednesday)



Pussywillows

Following the Presanctified Liturgy on Tuesday, March 19, we will be bundling Pussywillows and Palms. Please plan on staying and helping for a bit. Thank You!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 24

Palm/Flowery Sunday

10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
with Blessing of Palms and Pussywillows
Followed by the Service of Holy Anointing

Monday, March 25

Feast of the Annunciation

6:00 PM – Divine Liturgy

Thursday, March 28 * Great and Holy Thursday

6:00 PM

Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Friday, March 29 * Great and Good Friday

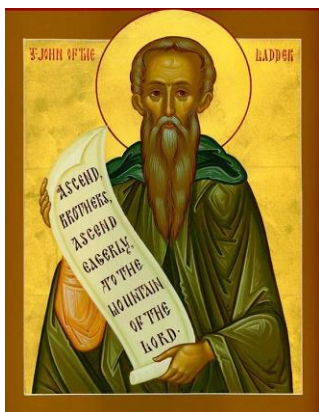
3:00 PM – Vespers with Burial Procession
(With Choir)

Easter Sunday, April 9

The Resurrection of Our Lord

10:00 AM – Resurrection Matins
and Divine Liturgy (With Choir)
Followed by the Blessing of Baskets

St. John Climacus (AKA – St. John of the Ladder) Celebrated the 4th Sunday of the Great Fast



John Climacus (c 579-c 649) takes his surname from his book *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, which became one of the most important devotional texts of the Middle Ages, especially in the Eastern Church.

The Ladder (*Klimakos* in Greek) is composed of 30 steps, each representing a particular vice or virtue encountered in the ascent towards spiritual fulfillment.

Little is known of its author, beyond the fact that he spent most of his life practicing extreme asceticism as a monk and hermit on Mount Sinai. At some stage, though, he visited a large monastery outside Alexandria, where he was impressed by the combination of sternness and affection which the abbot dispensed.

Errant monks were sent to the nearby “Prison”, where they suffered every privation that a fertile imagination could invent. John himself stayed a month there, concluding that “those who are fallen and are penitent are more blessed than those who have never fallen and do not have to mourn over themselves”.

A modern writer, by contrast, has likened the Prison to a badly run psychiatric institution.

Around 600 John became abbot and superior to all the religious on Mount Sinai. It was then that he wrote *The Ladder*, which focuses on the eternal conflict between the lure of temptation and the pursuit of holiness.

It is a battle that cannot be won, the book emphasizes, without liberating



oneself entirely from the world. For this reason, the Christian must, at all costs, abhor flatterers. “Defeat and shame,” John held, “should fall on all who say: ‘Well done.’”

Notwithstanding the years that John spent in his hermitage, he came to believe that it is easier to attain virtue in a community. “As galloping horses race one another,” he wrote, “so a good community excites mutual fervor.”

Devotion, by contrast, must be essentially private. “Those who have learned true prayer,” John reflected, “converse with the Lord face to face, as if speaking into the ear of an emperor.”

In stark contrast to modern psychiatrists, John held that guilt and the fear of damnation were essential starting points for spiritual progress. The soul proceeds from the dread of hell into the grace of hope. This journey must, of necessity, be a harsh experience. Prayer, John Climacus believed, “is the mother and daughter of tears, the expiation of sin, a bridge across temptation, a bulwark against affliction.”

Yet those who persevere to the Ladder’s topmost rung will be rewarded by the experience of a divine love that wholly transcends all earthly delight. Such love, The Ladder assures us, “grants prophecy and miracles. It is an abyss of illumination, a fountain of fire, bubbling up to inflame the thirsty soul. It is the condition of angels and the progress of eternity.”

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LOURDES FEATURING SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

11 DAYS: OCTOBER 15 - 25, 2024

**LISBON * FATIMA * SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
SALAMANCA * AVILA * MADRID * LOURDES**



HOSTED BY

FR. ED CIMBALA

\$3499 PER PERSON FROM NEWARK*

*Air/land tour price is \$2959 plus \$540 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact Fr. Cimbala:

Tel: (908) 872-2928

Email: fredcimbala@gmail.com

SPACE IS LIMITED! SIGN UP TODAY!!!



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - ST. MARY OF EGYPT

(Mark 10:3245).

This Sunday in Lent commemorates the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Mary of Egypt is a shining example of repentance from sin through prayer and fasting. She lived a sinful life for many years but was converted to a Christian life. She went into the wilderness to live an ascetic life for many years, praying and fasting in repentance of her previous sinful life and dying there. St. Mary's life exemplifies her conviction about Christ, which motivated her to change her life from sin to holiness through repentance. Her understanding of repentance involved not a mere change from small things in her life but an extreme change in her entire attitude and thoughts. The Church commemorates St. Mary for recognizing her sins as an example of how to free oneself from slavery and the burden of wrongdoing. This recognition of sin is imperative during Lent for the faithful as a means of self-examination and preparation for a more virtuous life in anticipation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Christ.