



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

*“Glory to Jesus Christ! Slava Isusu Christu!”
“Glory to Him Forever! Slava Naviki Bohu!”*

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, our potluck luncheon is open to everyone, especially our guests. Come join us for fellowship.

***During the Great Lent, Christians prepare themselves through fasting, confession, prayer, almsgiving, frequent services, and all spiritual struggles, to be resurrected from their passions and sins.
Food served at the Sunday luncheons during Lent are meatless.***

*We too need to cry as the father in today's Gospel,
“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”
This passage reveals that faith to conquer our demons comes only from
prayer and fasting.*

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to Help with Fundraising...we are called into service

At this time, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment are also welcomed opportunities to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

Please contact John Danovich, (317) 538-7444, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- Sellers are needed for the Saturday Carmel market to free up those who are baking all week.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tues through Friday). ***Pascha bread baking has started.***
- ***The packaging and mailing of off-site orders for Pascha bread and other baked goods, particularly between now and Pascha, needs to be managed. Without this help we will not be able to accommodate orders and will lose that income. Please check out the specifics on what is needed and make time in your schedule to help fill this need.***
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized, including bathrooms.
- Items for the food pantry are always needed; (food, cans with pop tops, toiletries, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, hand warmers).
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled.
- ***Bags are needed for food pantry items.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE GREAT FAST BEGAN MONDAY FEB12 AND CONTINUES TO PASCHA.

These directives are from <https://parma.org/news/directives-for-lent>

Canon 880: 2. **Strict abstinence** is to be observed on **the first day of the Great Fast and on Great Friday**. **Simple abstinence** is to be observed on **Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast**.

Strict abstinence forbids the use of meat and dairy products, including eggs.

Simple abstinence forbids the use of meat and meat products. The laws of strict and simple abstinence bind all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma.

Expectant and nursing mothers, infants, those with serious health conditions, and those under physician's orders are exempt from the laws of strict abstinence.

Read more: **THE GREAT LENT A TRADITIONAL CUSTOM OF THE BYZANTINE RITE** <https://archpitt.org/the-great-lent-a-traditional-custom-of-the-byzantine-rite/>

Clean-up Day

On Saturday, March 16, there will be a work day following the Akathist to the Holy Mother of God to clean the church and the hall. Weather permitting, bring flowers to plant in front of the church and weeding around the garlic in the garden is needed.

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Please consider making a sacrificial gift to this year's Appeal that reflects the importance of the Church in your life and in the lives of those close to you. The Eparchy needs your support. Your gift will make a positive difference, such as: Development of Parishes, Vocations and Seminarian Education, The Works of the Apostolate and Retired Priests of the Eparchy.

2024 ByzanTEEN Rally

The Rally will take place in San Diego on **June 27-30, 2024**. Registration for the event will be open on Jan 20th, and we are thrilled to invite all teens in your parish ages 13-17. The price for the event weekend is \$380.

*Thank you to those who recently donated to the food pantry: cereal, carton milk, peanut butter and crackers, soup, tuna, spaghetti, etc.
May God grant you many blessings for your charity.*

Services for the Week of March 10 – March 17, 2024				
Day		Time	Service	Readings
Sunday	March 10	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Vespers	Heb 6:13-20 Mk 9:17-31
Monday	March 11	6:00 PM	Psalter: Kathisma 13 & 14, Psalms 91-104	Gen 13:12-18 Prov 14:27-15:4
Tuesday	March 12	6:00 PM	Psalter: Kathisma 15 & 16, Psalms 105-117 & Jesus Prayer	Gen 15:1-15 Prov 15:7-19
Wednesday	March 13	5:00 PM	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy then Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	Gen 17:1-9 Prov 15:20-16:9
Thursday	March 14	6:00 PM	Great Compline	Gen 18:20-33 Prov 16:17-17:17
Friday	March 15	6:00 PM	Presanctified Liturgy	Gen 22:1-18 Prov 17:17-18:5
Saturday	March 16	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Akathist to the Holy Mother of God & clean-up Vespers Confessions	Heb 9:24-28 Mk 8:27-31
Sunday	March 17	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 1:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Vespers	Heb 9:11-14 Mk 10:32-45

Financial Report 3/3/2024

Date	Bakery Sales	Building Fund	Candle	Holy Day	Sunday Tithes	Weekly Total
3/3	\$1,215.38		\$314.00	\$20.00	\$1,672.14	\$3,221.52

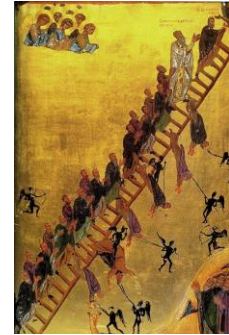
4th Sunday of the Great Fast

Hebrews 6:13-20

The Certainty of God's Promise ¹³When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."^[a] ¹⁵And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. ¹⁶People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Mark 9:17-31

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." ¹⁹"You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." ²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. ²¹Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. ²²"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." ²³"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" ²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. ²⁸After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" ²⁹He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer." **Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time** ³⁰They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise."



Our holy Father among the Saints St John Climacus is the author of a powerful spiritual work that is divided into about thirty chapters, called "steps", as part of the overall book entitled, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." As the Great Fast is about our ascending to the things of Heaven, it is entirely appropriate that the Church focus on the ascetical enterprise as presented by this work and on the person of its author who is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday of the Fast. *The Ladder* reflects the ancient Orthodox perspective on spirituality as being our personal transformation in Christ our God. We do not "imitate" Christ as if He were little different from ourselves. As God Incarnate, we seek to have Communion with Him, to participate in His Life in adoration and worship. We seek to become Temples of

the Holy Spirit through His Grace. *THE LADDER* begins with the rejection of worldliness, and ends with God, Who is love. As we climb the ladder of virtues while making our way toward Christ, we must remember that our focus must remain on the Person and power of our Saviour. As we advance in the spiritual life slowly, taking it one "step" at a time, we need to be in a state of constant prayer, especially the "Jesus Prayer". It is easy to become diverted in this spiritual path of inner struggle. There is a kind of self-delusion, known as "prelest", where we are convinced that what we are doing is that which God wants for us. It is easy to think of ourselves as being "good" in the religious sense. We attend Church on Sunday; we don't do bad things to others; and we pray once in a while. Isn't it obvious that we are on our way to Heaven? St. John assures us that we have accepted certain sinfulness as "part of nature" and refuse to do spiritual battle with them. We need to identify and correct these areas of our lives. Nothing is accomplished without some hard work; we need to entrust our life to God in Christ. We need the Divine Grace of the Holy Spirit through Christ in order to become one with the Father. The acquisition of the Holy Spirit is a life-long struggle. Our commitment to this process is made firm during the Great Fast and is the reason of the Great Fast in the first instance. It is now that we look at our purposes for being here and our responsibilities as Christians with the eyes faith and trust in God.

TEACHINGS OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

- A Christian is one who imitates Christ in thought, word, and deed, as far as is possible for human beings.
- Follow Christ without anxiety or hesitation, always looking heavenward and expecting help from there.
- I do not know whether we must all teach others: but teach yourselves at all costs.
- Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up but stand your ground courageously.
- If anyone could see their own vices accurately without the veil of self-love, they would worry about nothing else in this life.
- If the Holy Spirit is peace of soul, then nothing so prevents the presence of the Spirit in us as anger.

-*The Ladder of Divine Ascent* From the book: *A Year of the Lord*



Pastor: Rev. Mykhaylo Shkyndya

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Danovich, Suzanne Goshorn

Business Manager: John
Danovich 317-538-7444

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Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers

Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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