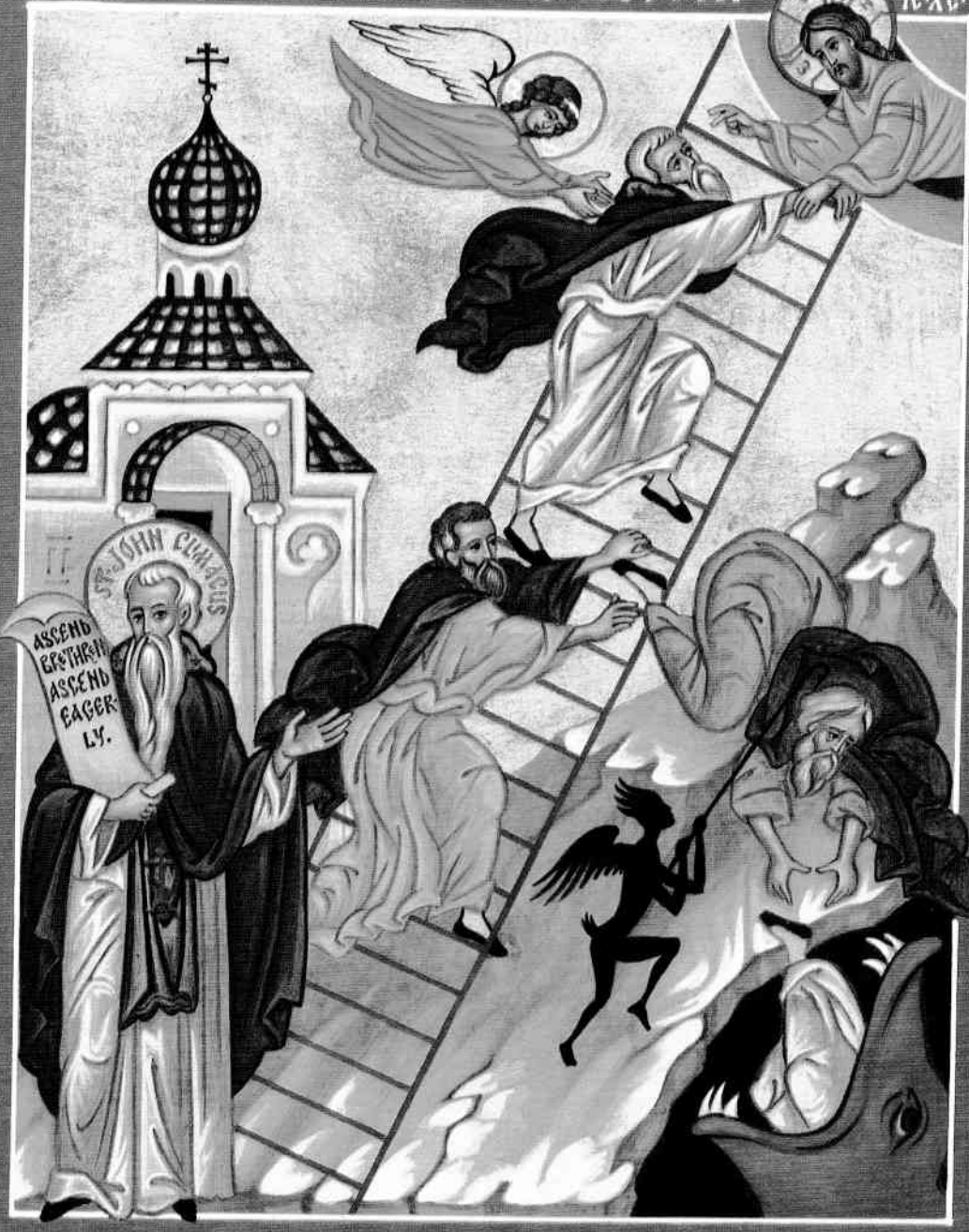


THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

IC XC



Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church Bulletin

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HOLY MYSTERIES

VISITATIONS OF THE SICK AND INFIRM - If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Father Stephen at the Rectory. Our hospitalization code for Christiana and Wilmington Hospitals is **UKR**.

EMERGENCY CALLS - Please call the Rectory anytime (day or night) in an Emergency!

BAPTISMS - Celebrated by appointment.

CROWNING IN MARRIAGE - Please discuss timing with Father prior to setting a date. At least six months notice is needed. There are three 2-hour courses that must be attended prior to the Wedding.

BULLETIN DEADLINE - The deadline for getting information printed in the Weekly Bulletin is Wednesday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - For the Needs of the Parish; 2nd Youth Ministry

April 7, 2019
Volume 55: Number 14
Schedule of Services and Activities
Week of April 7 - 14, 2019
Celebrating our 92nd year of Service to the Lord

Sunday, April 7 – 4th Sunday of the Fast – Annunciation - Tone 4

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – Vespers – Holy Assumption (South Philadelphia)

Monday, April 8

7:00 AM – Matins

8:30 AM – 250 Lbs. butter and onions

3:00 PM – Frying Sauerkraut

No Bible Study

Tuesday, April 9

7:00 AM – Matins

7:00 AM – Peeling potatoes

6:00 PM – Potato balls

Wednesday, April 10

7:00 AM – Matins

9:00 AM – Making holubtsi

Cutting vegetables – frying cabbage

6:00 PM – Community Lenten Service – Chester Bethel Methodist Church

Thursday, April 11

7:00 AM - Matins

7:00 AM – Making pyrohy

Friday, April 12

7:00 AM - Matins

8:00 AM – Making the mushrooms soup - Getting the kovbassa ready

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Bake table donations - Set up

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

Panakhyda: +Anna Hutnick (14 Yr. An.)

Saturday, April 13 – Spring Bazaar
8:00 AM – Prep for the Bazaar
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 14 – 5th Sunday of the Fast – St. Mary of Egypt - Tone 4

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Confessions

9:15 AM – Hours

9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for the Faithful

Coffee Hour

4:00 PM – Vespers – Mother of God Church (Georgian) 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Fourth Sunday of the Fast – St. John of the Ladder – Annunciation of the Mother of God - Matins: Luke 1:39-49; 56; Liturgy: Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38; Sunday – Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

Monday - Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4; Isaiah 37:33-38.

Tuesday - Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19; Isaiah 40:18-31

Wednesday - Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9; Isaiah 41:4-14.

Thursday - Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17; Isaiah 42:5-16

Friday - Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5; Isaiah 45:11-17

Saturday - Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 8:27-31; God-Bearer - Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

5th Sunday of the Fast - Matins John 21:1-14; Liturgy: Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45; **St. Mary of Egypt**: Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 7:36-50.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION



The hymns of Vespers sung on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God beautifully explain the feast. One of these especially gives us much food for meditation. “The archangel Gabriel went down from heaven to announce to the Virgin that she would conceive. He came down over Nazareth, meditating, bewildered by this wondrous event and saying: How can the One beyond understanding, the Most High Himself, come to be born of a virgin? How can the One whose throne is heaven, to whom the earth serves as a footstool, ever be contained in a woman's womb? How could He condescend to be

incarnate of her at a single word that only she can say, He upon whom the Six-Winged and Many-Eyed Seraphim are not allowed to gaze? He who is coming is the Word of God! Why do I hesitate instead of saying to the Maiden: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace! The

Lord is with you. Rejoice, pure Virgin! Rejoice, O Bride and maiden ever-pure! Rejoice, O Mother of Life! Blessed is the fruit of your womb?"

The joy of the Incarnation is readily seen in the Icon of the Annunciation. Everything in the Icon leads to and is centered on the Mother of God. The very posture of the Archangel Gabriel with his right hand extended toward the Mother of God is both a greeting and a communication. The Mother of God is shown with an initial perplexed reaction. She accepts the message and gives her consent. The ray of light descending upon the Virgin illustrates the fulfillment of the message: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35).

The Annunciation

Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the revelation of an eternal mystery; the Son of God becomes the Son of a Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of this grace. Therefore, let us join with him crying out to the Mother of God; "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you." (Tropar of the Feast of the Annunciation)

The Annunciation celebrates another example of human choice of and for God, in Mary's choosing to become the Mother of God, in effect setting the whole plan of salvation in motion by obedience rather than disobedience (Adam and Eve). Mary allows a new creation to begin for all of us. Jesus comes through Mary into this world to recreate it, to again allow mankind access to Paradise. What an absolutely loving plan of the Father for us! He shows us again and again what awaits those who use their choice in life to choose Goodness, to choose Obedience and to choose Love as a way of life and a way to Life!

ARE WE CLIMBING THE LADDER OF PERFECTION?



On the 4th Sunday of Lent, the Church always honors the memory of St. John of the Ladder (Climacus) who was born about the year 525 and died in the in the year 606. He was a great teacher of religion. At the age of 16 he climbed up Mt. Sinai to offer himself to God as a living sacrifice. He lived 40 years in the service of god practicing self-mortification, abiding in the desolate wasteness of Sinai, praying, meditating and perfecting a method of sanctification.

He received his name from the well-known book of spiritual exercises which he wrote. The book was called **THE LADDER OF PERFECTION**, and contained 30 chapters for attaining the 30 steps of religious perfection. It was designed as a means for Christians to climb spiritually, as up a ladder, from earth to heaven.

In setting before us the example of such persons as St. John, the Church calls upon us to "Seek first the Kingdom of God" and then all that is necessary for our life will be granted unto us.

The Church, during Holy Lent, expects that we depart from the vanities of this world and seek in silence and contemplation the glory of Christ and eternity. It is so difficult for us to do so in this day of great activity and distraction. There is always the radio, television, automobile and telephone. There are so many claims to our attention and our time.

But Lent **MUST** be different. We **MUST** attempt to follow in the footsteps of the warriors of God.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

by Kosmas Damianides

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How much it must grieve a father or a mother to see his or her child suffering without reason. To undergo pain and confusion -- for what? Where is God in our plight -- we may often ask ourselves. Where is God in all this pain and confusion?

Today we arrive at the fourth week of Lent. In today's Gospel reading we heard of a father who was on his last hope. His son was possessed by a certain spirit from childhood, which was causing his son pain and confusion. Not even Jesus' disciples could cure the boy. He brought his son to Jesus, who upon hearing of the father's plight became exceedingly upset at the whole crowd and expressed these strong and direct words "Oh you faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you." The Child was immediately brought close to Jesus and the spirit convulsed him instantly. As we know the child was eventually healed. But at what price one may ask? The father accepted and confessed his unbelief and beseeched God with tears to make his faith complete? This is the price, the fulfillment of our faith --- paid by Christ himself yet we must pray and beseech Him as well.

It is perhaps important to stress here that this miracle account nowhere refers to the spirit by any title such as demon, or devil. It is perhaps because this spirit is in reference to the spirit of this world, the enemy of Christ. It is the spirit of this generation well rooted in society, it is passed on to our children like a virus. Brethren remember these words well --- it is the spirit of this generation which throws our youth about like the child with the spirit we heard earlier today. It smashes them to the ground, it throws them into the fire to be burnt, it throws them into the water to be drowned --- today its drugs, alcohol, gambling, anything to distort the image and likeness of God, within them.

This spirit has a very old history going way back to primordial Man, Adam and Eve. It is firmly established and can not come out by anything --- except, as our Lord instructed Moses, as our Lord instructed his disciples, as our Lord instructs us today, by beseeching God through prayer and fasting.

"Why could we not cast it out", his disciples asked their master in shame. We also must ask why can't we cast this spirit out from our lives and our children's lives?

Brethren, because as our Lord tells us "This kind can come out by nothing except prayer and fasting". This is the key to contrite repentance. this twofold formula which treads on the head of this serpent of old and yields our first step towards heaven --- contrite repentance.

It is no coincidence then that the first and second steps of Saint John's 30 chapter book "**THE LADDER - (OF DIVINE ASCENT)**" are concerned with the renunciation of this life, this world we live in and detachment from all it's pleasures. We honour Saint John of the Ladder today as a great Saint of our church who reminds us that going to heaven is not as easy as getting into an elevator and pressing a button. On the contrary, it is a long and hazardous climb which is impossible to scale fully unless we beseech God for assistance. May God grant us all fullness of faith, peace and joy on our climb to heaven --- Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY - is expressed to the following: Dawn Daniels, 4/7; Christopher Loizides, 4/9; Michael N. Hamilton, 4/10; Andrea Fenstermacher, 4/11 & Patricia Crystal, 4/12. May God grant them a very happy birthday and keep them for many, happy and blessed years!

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES – are offered to Joyce and Neil Belles on the falling asleep in the Lord of her Mother, +Mary Berbick. Funeral Services were celebrated on Thursday. Let us pray, asking God to place the soul of His newly departed Servant, +Mary, in the abode of the Saints, where there is no pain, sorrow nor mourning but only life everlasting. Let us also pray for the family that God ma give them His strength in this, their hour of need.

UOL LENTEN SOUPS – will be available for purchase from March 17 – April 21. A list of the soups will be announced. Soups are sold at \$8.00 per quart. Order yours today!

MEETINGS - MINISTRIES

PARISH BOARD MEETING – Tuesday, May 14 @ 6:30 PM

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE CLAYMONT CIVIC CENTER – For Easter. We are collecting turkeys, hams, non-perishable foods to help supply Easter Dinners for those less fortunate than us. Please help!

TRUSTEES MINISTRY SCHEDULE

(Please find a substitute if you cannot make a given week)

April 7 – Victor Kaliakin and Ann Duncan

April 14 – Victor Kaliakin and Ann Duncan

April 21 – Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

April 28 - Thomas Bringle and Linda Hnatow

May 5 – Lorraine Neff and Victor Kaliakin

May 12 – Lorraine Neff and Victor Kaliakin

PASKA ORDER FORM – ORDER BY April 14

_____ Small Round (\$7) _____ Large Round (\$10) _____ Butter Lamb (\$3)

Name _____

**Please give to Father Stephen or Kathy Duncan with payment
Paskas will be ready for pickup on Palm Sunday, April 21**

**THE POWER OF PRAYER – Please remember your daily prayer for our country.
Today, we begin Day 23.**

GREETER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 7 - Nancy Tur, Zina Twardus

April 14 - John and Sandy Cramer

April 21 - David & Eve Lazaration

April 28 - Lorraine Neff, Sonya Patronik & Alexander Smith

DONATIONS FOR THE BAZAAR – of Coke products and water as well as Bounty (Paper Towels) and Bathroom tissue will be graciously accepted.

BAKERS NEEDED FOR THE BAZAAR – We need all of our bakers to help us fill the bake table with your fabulous treats!

GOOD FRIDAY – PASKA SIGN UP SHEET – Will soon be in the back of the Church. We shall have a few extra hours to fill since I shall be celebrating Paska with Holy Trinity Parish in Whaleyville, MD on Holy Saturday at 4:00 PM. Please make plans to give up an hour to be at the Tomb of Our Lord!!

READER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 7 - John Plachuta

April 14 - Irene Maskaly

April 21 - Andrew Duncan

April 28 - Jean Roeth

May 5 - Linda Hnatow

May 12 - Pani Elizabeth Hutnick

May 19 - Jean Roeth

May 26 - Thomas Kasprzak

ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD LENTEN MISSIONS

(All Services Begin at 4:00 PM)

April 7 – Holy Assumption (OCA) – Philadelphia, PA

April 14 – Mother of God Church (Georgian) 412 Philmont Ave., Feasterville, PA

99th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE

6:00 PM Service – Light Lenten Supper to Follow

April 10 - Chester-Bethel United Methodist Church 2619 Foulk Road, Wilmington

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON? – Did you know that if you would get on Smile Amazon and choose our Parish as your beneficiary that Amazon would donate a percentage of your purchase to us? Search on Orthodox Wilmington and choose SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian (yes it is misspelled and we've tried to correct it). Try it and help our Parish Family benefit from your shopping experience!

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS FOR PASCHA - We shall be taking donations to help pay for the flowers that we order to decorate the Tomb for Good Friday and the Church for Pascha. You can donate in memory of a loved one or for the health of a loved one(s). If you are interested, please see Linda Hnatow. Thank you!

SPECIAL COFFEE HOURS – will be held on Palm Sunday and on Sunday, May 26 to raise money for diapers for the orphanages in Ukraine.

EASTER EGG HUNT – will take place on Palm Sunday (April 21). Please see Pani Liz or Christina Pappas to register your child.

Tentative 2019 Schedule

Saturday, April 13 – Spring Bazaar

Sunday, April 28 – Pascha

Sunday, May 5 – St. Thomas Sunday – Cemeteries

Sunday, May 12 – Mother’s Day Dinner

Saturday, June 15 – Visit by Weeping Icon from Taylor, PA

Sunday, June 16 – Father’s Day Dinner

Monday, June 24 – First Day of the Apostle’s Fast

Sunday, July 14 – Patronal Feast Dinner

Monday, July 15 – 19 – Summer Camp

Saturday, August 3 – UOL Flea Market

Saturday, November 2 – Fall Bazaar

Tuesday, November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Holy Rosary)

Sunday, December 15 – UOL Cookie Sale

CLEANING OF THE CHURCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Week of April 8 - Nancy Hlywiak, Jean Roeth, Zina Twardus

Week of April 15 - Michael Tilson & Linda Hnatow, Irene Maskaly

Week of April 22 – Dawn Daniels, David Duncan & Kathy Duncan

Week of April 29 – John Plachuta and David Lazaration

Week of May 6 - Mark & Laura Andreas, Paul Andreas

Week of May 13 - John Cramer, Victor Melnychenko & Joseph Thurstlic

Week of May 20 - Earle and Jennifer Robinson



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL – Metropolitan Antony, Archimandrite Raphael, Father Vasili Andrejuk, Father Paul Bigelow, Father John Bohush, Father Oleh Hucul, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Andrew Molewski, Father John Nakonechney, Father James Norton, Father Victor Wronskyj, father Volodymyr Wronskyj, Pani Dobrodyka Lisa Weremedic, Mykola, Brennan, Deborah, Charles, Galina, Dolores, Krystyna, Julian, Madison, Mykola, Rita, Ryan, Randy Allen, Carolyn Angelo, Colby Atkinson, Shannon Austin, Stephania Bacha, Joyce Belles, Neil Belles, Ethel Bernhard, Yaroslav Bilinsky, Betty Bosland, Angie Brengle, Paul Brengle, Patricia Bringle, Richard Bringle, John Brick, Fedir Bukacz, George Burns, Christine Cain, Mark Cello, Betty Charney, Mildred (Myrophora) Christo, Erik Colazo, Mary Crystal, Patricia Crystal, Alex Czernik, Sharon Dalaski, Stephen Dalecki, David Dalldorf, Peter DiVirgilio, John Dmytryk, James Dudrick, David Duncan, Rose Eldridge, Thomas Fagan, Stephen Farrell, James Garrett, Peter Glenn, Ivan Golovnirov, Kathleen Gortva, Staci Gray, Charles Gunther, David Hamilton, Mary Eleanor Hamilton, Rick Hastings, Dolores Helms, Victoria Herrschaft, Carla Hitchings, Greg Hitchings, Anthony Hnatow, Betty Hnatow, Daniel Holoviak, Caroline Humphrey, Richard Humphrey, Sally Hutnick, Joette Jago, Stephen Johnson, Linda Josepinson, Rosalie Ann Kane, Josephine Kapelus, Sandra Kasch, Thomas Kasprzak, Charles Kaszytski, Julia Kaszytski, Diane Keyser, Barbara Kirylic, Wendy Klinedinst, Judith Kocinski, Ludmyla Krawchenko, Mykola Krawchenko, Emma Krasnopera, Volodymyr Krasnopera, Sue Kreisa-Christian, Marlene Kuhar, Karen Livick, Charles Lontor, Alla Lysenko, Andrew Makolynyk, Paul Markow, Natalia McDonough, Ronald Michel, Lisa Miller, Matthew Miller, Mary Elizabeth Moran, Barry Morris, Elsie Moroz, Michael Moroz, Karen Needham, Julie Neff, Ann Nester, Laurie Newman, Betty Painter, Anastasios Pantelopulos, Linda Phillips, Joseph Pierson, Barry Pinkowicz, Bernice Pinkowicz, Ryan Pinkowicz, Valentina Plachuta, Joseph Porini, Robert Powers, Joanne Procak, Lynn Procak, Joseph Ptak, Carol Purse, Sharon Reigh, Christopher Riehl, Arlene Roginski, Wyatt Roland, Andrea Roman, Fred Royer, Alla Rudawsky, John Ruczhak, Glenn Runyan, Carol Rusk, Maria Russak, Dana Sargent, Charles Scully, Doris Scully, Joella Seale, Clay Seman, Larissa Serth, Dawn Sheets, Justin Sheets, Emily Smitheman, Georgie Smolyar, Rich Steinman, Joseph Stevens, Charles Joseph Sweeney, Evelyn Synczyszyn, Wasyl Szeremeta, Tatiana Szewc, Pavlo Tabak, Nicholas Taylor, Sue Taylor, Elenora Thomas, Lydia Thomas, Brysen Tomei, Dominic Tomei, Mark Tomei, Violet Tomei, Aria Tonner, Anna Tur, Charles Tyrawsky, Richard Twardus, Martha Vignali, Jack Vognetz, Margaret Vognetz, Marilyn Wagner, John Wardigo, Olena Wasylevska, James Watts, Chris Way, Leah Way, Barbara Weeks, Peter Weremedic, Stephen Wienkowitz, Laura Worley, & James Zook.

A TEACHER OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

The medical community advocates stress management techniques involving relaxation, quietness and meditation for reasons of physical health. The Church, however, has for centuries urged such disciplinary measures for spiritual as well as body health.

One of the great teachers of such spiritual discipline is **ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER**, who is honored on the Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast. He received his name from a book of spiritual exercises called "**The Ladder of Perfection**," containing 30 steps or rules for attaining spiritual growth. He spent years in the monastic community on Mt. Sinai, and died about the year 606.

The starting point for spiritual life is to "*wrestle with the mind*," and then to control the passions of our nature. St. John goes on to speak of the need for prayer of the lips, then for mental prayer, and finally to contemplation. Stress is placed on the Name of Jesus: "*Let the memory of Jesus combine with your breathing, then you will know the profit of silence.*" Again he speaks of the distractions to prayer and meditation: "*Flog the foes with the Name of Jesus, for there is no stronger weapon against them either in heaven or on earth.*"

As we go through the days of the Great Fast, we need guidance from teachers. St. John in fact says: "*As a man travelling without a guide easily loses his way and goes astray, so a man guided by self-will easily perishes even if he possesses all worldly wisdom.*"

Icon by Fr. Paul Drozdowski — www.pd-icons.com