Icon of the Church’s Patron Saint

Church name

Address  
City, State & Zip code

**Telephone number**

Church website

NOTES

Coffee with a little Stewardship

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Menu

**March 22, 2015**

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent - St. John Climacus**

Our venerable and God-bearing Father John Climacus (ca. 579 - 649), also known as John of the Ladder, John Scholasticus, and John Sinaites, was a seventh century monk at St. Catherine's monastery at the base of Mount Sinai. The Orthodox Church celebrates his feast day on March 30. He came to the monastery and became a novice when he was about 16 years old, and when he died in 649 he was the monastery's abbot. He wrote a number of instructive books, the most famous of which is The Ladder of Divine Ascent. (It is because of this book that John is known as "Climacus," which means "of the ladder".) It describes how to raise one's soul to God, as if on a ladder. This book is one of the most widely read among Eastern Orthodox Christians, especially during the season of Great Lent which immediately precedes Pascha (Easter), and on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent he is especially commemorated.

***Stewardship - Care for Prayer.***

*Prayer is our opportunity to communicate with God. To speak with Him, to ask of Him and to develop a relationship with Him for guidance in our faith and daily life. One may follow the recommended daily prayer cycle, pray before and after meals or complete their prayers at various times throughout the day. The key is to make the effort and speak with God from your heart.*

**Stewardship Introduction**

This week’s take aways…

Prayer provides us with the opportunity to speak with God. Consider the Pocket Prayer Book for Orthodox Christians or the Serbian Orthodox Divine Liturgy, Prayers and Catechism book as resources. They have many prayers including the daily cycle as well as prayers for special circumstances (i.e. a prayer before leaving on a trip).

Establish an area where you can pray on a daily basis – typically, in front of your home Altar but at minimum, in front of an icon of Christ.

Develop the habit of prayer with the children in your life. It is very important that they build a relationship with God, are thankful and ask for His blessing.