

Церковний Бюлетень

Parish Newsletter

Sunday March 29, 2009

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

4818 Smith Dr. Cumming GA 30041

WE WELCOME ALL THE GUESTS!

We feel very privileged to have you pray with us today. As you look for a new home church, we hope you feel special here and consider becoming a part of our Christian family. The text for Divine Liturgy may be found in the Service Book at the entrance to the Church.

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the Chalice for Holy Communion, but everyone is welcome to partake of the Blessed Bread after the Liturgy.

We thank you for joining us in prayer and invite you to join us for fellowship in the social hall after the Liturgy.

COMMUNION & VISITING

by appointment. If you or one of your relatives are infirm and wish for priest to come and pray or with Holy Communion please call Fr. Bohdan 770-667-7257. or E-mail: fr_bohdan@yahoo.com Please do not wait until the person is unconscious or near death.

BAPTISMS... Call priest before a date can be scheduled.

WEDDINGS... We strongly recommend to make arrangements for weddings at least six months in advance. You need to meet with priest before any other arrangements are made.

CONFESSIONS

Before Every Liturgy 9:30 AM–10:00 AM or by appointment.

Sunday of St. John Climacus

The Sunday of St. St John of the Ladder (Climacus) is the fourth Sunday of Great Lent. It commemorates St John Climacus (+649), the author of the work The Ladder of Divine Ascent.

St John's witness to the real spiritual struggle needed for entrance into God's Kingdom. It also is encouragement for the faithful to keep the goal of their Lenten efforts, for according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt 24:13).

The Ladder describes how to raise one's soul and body to God, as if on a ladder, the goal of which is theosis (mystical union with God). Climacus uses the analogy of Jacob's Ladder as the framework for his spiritual teaching. Each chapter is referred to as a "step", and deals with a separate spiritual subject. There are thirty steps of the ladder, which



correspond with the age of Jesus at his baptism and the beginning of his earthly ministry. The first 23 steps give instruction on overcoming the vices and the remainder speak of building of the virtues.

The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus and kneeling said to him, "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, Lord; 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 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."

Meditation: What kind of faith does the Lord expect of us, especially when we meet challenges and difficulties? Inevitably there will be times when each of us cause disappointment to others. In this gospel incident the disciples of Jesus brought disappointment to a pleading father because they failed to heal his epileptic son. Jesus' response seemed stern; but it was really tempered with love and compassion. We see at once both Jesus' dismay with the

disciples' lack of faith and his concern to meet the need of this troubled boy and his anguished father. Jesus recognized the weakness of the father's faith and at the same time challenged him to pray boldly with expectant faith: "All things are possible to him who believes!" Augustine, in his commentary on this passage, reminds us that prayer and faith go together: *"Where faith fails, prayer perishes. For who prays for that in which he does not believe? ..So then in order that we may pray, let us believe, and let us pray that this same faith by which we pray may not falter."* The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit that we may have the confidence and boldness we need to ask our heavenly Father for his help and grace. Do you trust in God's love and care for you and pray with expectant faith that he will give you what you need?

4 Неділя Посту

Христос говорив: "Якщо хоч трохи можеш вірувати, все можливе віруючому".

Багато з нас можуть сказати: і ми віруємо, але чому ж не завжди отримуємо по нашій вірі? Відповідь може бути такою: тому що недостатньо віримо й сумніваємося; віримо, а коли нам важко, впадаємо у відчай, холодно віримо або зовсім не віримо. Чи багато з нас сьогодні можуть сказати: що у нас така ж віра, яка була у сучасників Христа Спасителя світу, котра була у Його святих учнів та апостолів, у перших християн? Чи є у нас віра Закхея? Чи є у нас, нарешті, віра, яку сьогодні сповідував Христу нещасний батько хворого сина? То була віра, яка заповнювала не тільки думки і серця, а охоплювала все людське ество; то була віра, котра заставляла людей забувати про їжу, питво, лише б слухати невимовні слова Божественного Вчителя; то була віра, котра заставляла людей забувати про сім'ю, дім, про всі земні уподобання, пам'ятати тільки про те, що є єдиним на потребу. Саме про таку віру говорив апостол Павло: вона спасала праведників, перемагала царства, творила правду,

затуляла уста левам, гасила силу вогню, зміцнювала в немочі... (Євр. 11). "Істинно, істинно кажу вам: хто вірує в Мене, діла, котрі творю Я, і він сотворить, і більше цих сотворить" (Ін. 14, 12). Чи можемо ми сказати, що маємо таку віру? І чи маємо ми право дивуватися, чому ж ми, віруючи, не завжди отримуємо по вірі своїй?

Не увірувавши по-справжньому в Бога, ми чекаємо знамень та чудес. Вимагали цього і сучасники Христа іудеї, забуваючи, як і ми сьогодні забуваємо, що знамення й чудеса даються, за словом Христа, тільки справжнім віруючим. Після зцілення біснுவатого юнака апостоли запитали Христа на самоті: "Чому ми не змогли вигнати його?" (злого духа). Христос відповів: "Цей рід не може вийти інакше, як від молитви і посту" (Мк. 9, 28-29). Ці слова особливо повинні бути близькими й зрозумілими для нас в священні дні Великого посту, коли Церква закликає до подвигу стримання, покаяння, й молитви. Як же потрібно молитися й постити? Слово Боже говорить: коли ти молишся, закрий двері свого серця, зосередься на тій бесіді, котру ведеш з Богом, не говори нічого зайвого, не уподібнюйся нерозумним дітям, котрі просять у батьків пекучого вогню або гострого ножа. Коли молишся, не будь, як лицемір (Мф. 6, 5). Коли стоїш на молитві, прощай (Мк. 11, 25) і т.д. Те саме можна сказати і у відношенні посту. Щоб піст був спасительним, він повинен бути не тільки обмеженням в їжі. Устами старозавітного пророка Ісаї Господь учить, що, починаючи піст, ми повинні розірвати союз з усякою неправдою, позбавитися злоби, подати допомогу нужденному, очистити своє серце від злопам'ятства, лицемірства і т.д. Свята Церква вчить, що "справжній піст є відчуження від злих, стримання язика, відкинення злості, відвернення від гріховних бажань..."

Прислухаючись до слів Святого Євангелія, обдумаємо коротко три спасительні чесноти: віру, піст і молитву, подякуємо Господу за всі Його милості, котрими Він постійно сприяє справі нашого спасіння.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

April 5 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Divine Liturgy10 a.m.

April 12 PALM SUNDAY
Confessions 9:30 Liturgy 10 am
Blessing of willows, after the service.
After the service "pysanky" making workshop, cost of supplies \$5.00 Bring your kids. Olya Broadwell instructor.

April 16 GREAT THURSDAY
Reading of 12 Passion Gospels
Passion of our Lord 7:00 pm

April 17 GREAT FRIDAY
Vespers procession with Holy Shroud
7:00 pm

April 18 GREAT SATURDAY
Confessions 3pm - 4:30 pm
Reading of the Acts of Apostles 5:00 pm

April 19 RESURRECTION PASCHA!
Resurrection Matins 8:30 am
Liturgy 9:30 am
Blessing of Easter Baskets after the Liturgy

April 20 BRIGHT MONDAY
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Our Sisterhood needs your help!

Recently our Sisterhood covered expense related to making walkway around the church building and one leading to the church. Please be generous with your donations.

Big thanks to our brotherhood for getting together and pouring concrete.

Special thanks to: Nadiya and Yuriy Kardash for their donation of icon stands. Andriy Senko, Mikhajlo Mokrynsky and Evhen Saranchuk for their time and effort preparing foundation and casing for concrete. Sisterhood is collecting funds for flowers and purchase of icons.

St. Andrew's UOC web site:
ukrainianorthodoxfaith.org