



St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: St. Mark 9:17-31; St. Matthew 4:25-5:12

St. Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome

Lenten Fast

Archpriest John Mikita, Dean
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Sunday, April 14, 2024

Today's Announcements

- We welcome all visitors and those who are entering an Orthodox Church for the first time. Please join us downstairs after the service for coffee, food and fellowship. We have a dedicated table for those who have questions about Orthodoxy or who just want to learn more by listening to and meeting others who are new to the church. Fr. John and the other clergy look forward to meeting you.
- Welcome to the St. Tikhon's Seminary Mission Choir. A collection is being taken for the Seminary, so please be generous!
- Please continue to pray for the health of Sophia Radinsky, Daniel Casciato, Fr. Paul and Mat. Mary Suda, Vasily, Lindsey, Phyllis, and Fr. Joseph.
- Marilyn Weis fell asleep in the Lord Monday, April 8. The funeral was served Friday at the Cathedral. May Marilyn's memory be eternal!
- Catechumen class – following coffee hour

Wednesday – April 17

- Confessions – 5:30 pm
- Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 7:00 pm.
- Reading of the life of St. Mary of Egypt – during post-Liturgy meal

Friday – April 19

- Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts – 9:00 am
- Adult Choir rehearsal – 5:45 pm
- Confessions – 6:00 pm
- Akathist – 7:00 pm
- Book Study – following Akathist. We will continue our discussion of *Bright Faith: Father Artemy Vladimirov Talks with Western Orthodox Christians*.

Saturday – April 20

- Moleben for Victims of Abortion – 4:15 pm.
- Great Vespers – 5:00 pm, followed by Confessions

Next Sunday – April 21 – St. Mary of Egypt

- Church School – 9:00 am
- Hours – 9:40 am / Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am
- Catechumen class – following coffee hour

Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- Next Sunday, April 21, is the last day to return WCN gift bags for moms and babies. Please put your bags on the OCLife table and sign them back in. Amy Mee from WCN will pick up the bags during coffee hour to deliver them to the centers for us.
- Diocesan Youth Day at PNC Park – May 10

Church School News

Come & See Ministries: Educational series for our youngest members ages 1-6 yrs. Meets in the Sanctuary at noon after coffee hour.

- April 14: Blessing ourselves & Receiving a Blessing

Saint Martin the Confessor became pope of Rome on July 5, 649 A.D., at the time of the furious debates between the Orthodox and the Monothelite heretics, who held to the belief in a single will in Christ. Reigning at that time was Constans II, the grandson of Heraclius. The Patriarch of Constantinople was Paul. In order to establish peace in the Church, the emperor compiled a small volume entitled the "Typos," which was very favorable to the heretics. Pope Martin convoked a Council of 105 bishops (in the Church of the Holy Savior in the Lateran Palace in October), which condemned this book of the emperor. At the same time, the pope wrote a letter to Patriarch Paul, imploring him to adhere to the purity of the Orthodox Faith and to counsel the emperor to renounce this heretical sophistry. This letter angered both the emperor and the patriarch. The emperor dispatched Olympius, one of his commanders, to Rome to bring the pope to Constantinople in bonds. The commander did not dare to bind the pope, but bribed a soldier to slay him in church with a sword. When the soldier entered the church with the concealed sword, he was instantly blinded. Thus, by the providence of God, Martin escaped death. At that time the Saracens attacked Sicily, and Olympius was ordered to Sicily, where he died. Then, through the intrigues of the heretical Patriarch Paul, the emperor dispatched Theodore, another commander, to bind the pope and bring him to Constantinople, under the accusation that he, Pope Martin, was in collaboration with the Saracens and did not honor the All-pure Mother of God. When the commander arrived in Rome and read the accusation against Pope Martin, the latter responded that this was slanderous and that he had no association with the Saracens, the adversaries of Christianity: "And as regards the All-pure Mother of God, if one does not honor her and does not confess her and does not reverence her, let him be cursed in this world and in the next." However, this did not alter the decision of the commander. Pope Martin was bound and brought to Constantinople, where he lay for a long time in prison, painfully ill, suffering from grief and hunger, until he was finally sentenced to exile to Cherson. Pope Martin lived for two years in exile. He died in the year 655 A.D., offering his soul to the Lord, for Whom he had suffered much. Two years prior to Pope Martin's death, the repentant Paul died. When the emperor visited him before his death, Paul turned his face toward the wall and wept, confessing that he had greatly sinned against Pope Martin, and begged the emperor to release Martin.