

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

11200 Elgin Boulevard, Spring Hill, Florida 34608 · 352 584 5461 · htoc-sh@outlook.com · www.htoc-sh.org

A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America · Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

HTOC Weekly Update

Sunday, April 14, 2024 · 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Saint John Climacus Sunday

Upwardly Mobile

This coming weekend, the fourth Sunday of Great Lent, is **Saint John Climacus Sunday** — honoring a seventh-century monk who wrote **The Ladder of Divine Ascent**. (His nickname **Climacus** comes from the Greek word for “ladder.”)



His book maps how to climb the rungs of spiritual life from vice to virtue, from earth to heaven — quite a different goal from “the ladder of success” our money-driven, ambition-crazed culture emphasizes.

Remembering him during Great Lent reminds us that our focus as Christians aims toward an upward trajectory unlike the rest of the world’s: **“All I want is to know Christ and to experience the power of his resurrection... The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 3:10-14).

And so we have our marching orders as we head onward and upward toward Pascha: **“Set your sight on heavenly things, not on earthly things”** (Colossians 3:2).

This Sunday: Lenten Mission

During Great Lent, our diocese has a longstanding tradition of **Lenten Mission** — seasonal gatherings where neighboring parishes meet together for worship and fellowship. Since that is not feasible in Florida — where our diocese’s parishes are few and far apart — we will honor that intention with a “priest exchange” this Sunday, April 14. This coming Sunday, Father Woytek will lead the Divine Liturgy at Saint Nectarios Church in Lakeland, while its priest Father Demetrious Glimidakis will lead the Divine Liturgy here. **Welcome, Father Demetrious!**

Pitch In!

Church doesn’t happen on its own. It happens when all of us pool our time, talent, and treasure together and put them at God’s disposal to do his will as followers of Jesus. In a word, that’s **stewardship**. Want to lend a helping hand? See our parish priest, Father Alexis Woytek to find out what needs doing. Want to become a supporting member? See our parish treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Pinkowski to find out how. Thanks for pitching in to make **your** church happen!

Reach Out!

The Church doesn’t exist for itself. God calls it to reach out and share his love with the world that it lives in. Our parish charity bin is one way that we do such **outreach**, by collecting nonperishable food that our friends at **People Helping People in Hernando County** (phphernando.org) share with locals in need. Download a **grocery list** from our website (tinyurl.com/htoc-list). Thanks for reaching out and helping others through **your** church’s charity!

MORE! ➡

Safe and Sound

COVID is no longer a global pandemic, but coronavirus still crops up now and then, here and there. Please keep alert and take sensible precautions while our church remains open.

If you feel ill, please stay home, follow doctor's orders, and take good care of yourself. Let us know if you want us to pray for you. We look forward to seeing you again once you get well!

Please feel free to wear a face mask if your health requires it or you just feel safer doing so.

Please respect personal space and give each other courteous leeway.

Thanks for your consideration, which is simply part of doing what Christ Jesus told us to do: **"Love others as much as you love yourself"** (Mark 12:31).

This Week and Next!

Join Father Alexis Woytek and our church family on

Thursday, April 18 • 6 p.m.

Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Friday, April 19 • 6 p.m.

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, April 20 • 12 noon

Akathist to Mary the Virgin Birthgiver of God

Sunday, April 21 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent • Saint Mary of Egypt

We look forward to seeing you then!

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage each other all the more..."

Hebrews 10:25