

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

My Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This, of course, is the 4th Sunday of the Great Fast. We especially commemorate St. John Climacus who wrote the very famous Ladder of Divine Ascent. I am certainly not an expert on John but this Sunday has always been a favorite of mine. Many years ago I had our custodians bring in a 15 foot ladder in the church and explained to the faithful the idea of how the ladder represents our journey to heaven and that we have to take one step at a time and, even when we are near the top, we are still very vulnerable to the attacks of the evil one. The icon of this Sunday points to this very clearly.

With all that has been happening recently concerning the coronavirus, this Sunday has special meaning. All of you are aware that our services here at Saints Peter & Paul, by decree of our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops, have been temporarily canceled. Many of you are at home feeling frustrated and anxious. We are vulnerable at this time. It is especially important to turn this time into an opportunity for personal and family prayer. Please maintain the Great Fast in whatever way possible. Increase your daily prayer routine. We have many wonderful resources on Catechetics, etc., at our disposal if you would like. They will be on our parish website or send the office an e-mail at sspandpchurch@gmail.com, and I will forward them to you.

One final thought; while it is very difficult to find ourselves in this situation and I share with you in these feelings, one thing that I am very aware of is God's overwhelming love for each and every one of us. He is there with us and for us and to spend this time in communion with Him is an opportunity I encourage none of you to miss.

If any of you would like to talk to me on the phone, please give me a call. Fr. Walter and I will be celebrating the services privately. Please be assured of us praying for all of your intentions.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Mike