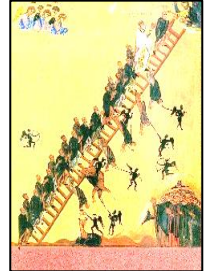


ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 stnicholasfontana.org
st.nicholas.fontana@gmail.com
 9112 OLEANDER AVENUE
 FONTANA, CA 92335
 (909) 822-9917
 Served by: Rev. Stephen Casmus



4TH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST JOHN CLIMACUS
Glory to Jesus Christ!

MAR 11, 2018
Glory forever!

+++++

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday 10:00 AM Holydays 7:00 PM

Sunday 1:30 PM at St. Philip the Apostle
 923 W Congress St, San Bernardino, CA 92410

Confession: Sunday 9:00-9:30 AM or by appointment

Welcome to all visitors to St. Nicholas Church. If you are new and wish to register as a parishioner, please see Fr. Stephen after the Divine Liturgy.

Parish Membership

The Family of Saint Nicholas of Myra is open to any Catholic, and to anyone:

- Who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacred Mysteries.
- Who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Who will help us form a community based on the Lord’s love.
- Who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church.
- Who acknowledges the authority of the Pope, Bishop and Pastor.
- Who will attend Liturgical Services on Sunday, and on the Great Holydays.
- Who is willing to support the growth of the Church by sharing their Time, Talent and Treasure.
- Who will participate in the yearly Eparchial Appeal

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUN. MAR 11 – 4th Sunday of the Great Fast
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
Heb 4:14-5:6, Mark 8:34-9:1

MON. MAR 12 – Theophane, Venerable-Confessor
7:00 PM – Pre-sanctified Liturgy (St. Philip's)
Gen 13:12-18, Prov 14:27-35

WED. MAR 14 – Benedict, Venerable
7:00 PM – Pre-sanctified Liturgy
Gen 17:1-9, Prov 15:20-16:9

FRI. MAR 16 – Sabinus & Papas, Martyrs
7:00 PM – Akathist to the Mother of God
(St. Philip's)

SAT. MAR 17 – Akathist Saturday
10:00 AM – Akathist

SUN. MAR 18 – 5th Sunday of the Great Fast
10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
Heb 9:11-14, Mark 10:32-45

Please make an effort to attend as many of these services as you can so your Lenten Spiritual Journey may be rich and bear much fruit.

Please join us in the hall after the liturgy for fellowship and light refreshments.

PRAY FOR THE SICK & INFIRMED OF OUR PARISH & PARISHIONERS RELATIVES:

Paul Bruckler, Robert Gubany, Teresa Sandoval and Gloria Brissette.

03/04/18 Attendance: 34

Parish Income: Tithe -\$640.00, Donations -\$208.00, Fund Raising -\$256.00,
Recycle - \$196.63

Total - \$1300.63

The Fontana Breakfast Lion’s Club hosts **BINGO** here at St. Nicholas on **Saturday evenings**. The kitchen has become a significant source of income for the parish. Please participate in this fundraising effort. It is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners. Many hands make light work, but currently there are few that regularly participate. Please sign up in the hall to ensure there are at least three working.

Sunday of Saint John Climacus

John’s book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a handbook given to all, revealing the secrets Jesus rendered to him; since he was an abbot, the text was written with his fellow monks immediately in mind, and so if someone who was not called to a monastic life tried to follow the spirit of the text literally, they would find themselves stumbling and falling, but if they look at the text with prudence, they will know they have to adapt its wisdom to apply it for their own lives, and if they do, they will be able to find many hidden secrets in the text, explaining why St. Climacus is able to be given such a prominent place in the liturgical year. He silenced himself so he can give to us, who have not the time nor the talent, the wisdom which would help us in our spiritual life if we but humble ourselves just a little and find ourselves willing to listen and hear to what he has received. He warns us of the struggles ahead – even if we are not called to abandon the world as monks, what he said about the struggle ahead is true for us all:

The Lord has concealed from those in the world the tough, but fine, nature of this struggle. Indeed, if people really understood it, no one would renounce the world. Still, offer your labors gladly to Christ in your youth and He will make your old age happy with abundant goodness. The things which they have gathered in their youth will come to the

support and encouragement of those worn down by age, so we should toil zealously when we are young and run our course with serious hearts. Death can come at any time, and we have countless hidden enemies – evil enemies, harsh enemies, wicked enemies with fire in their hands, wishing to set the Lord’s temple alight with the flame that is in it. These enemies are powerful, unsleeping, incorporeal and unseen. John tells us the reason for some of the secrets of God – it is not because Jesus does not desire to share them with us, but because if we received them when we are not ready, they will frighten us and possibly stop us from taking the initiative to follow Christ. If we knew what was in store for us, we would be very afraid. John, having experienced the journey, can warn us – he can explain why the secret has not been revealed to us – and it is because he is great in God and full of love, unattached to himself, that he does so instead of rest in his achievements. He was able to see through the pride which comes to us once we have attained some level of holiness. As he humbled himself, as he silenced the self with its pride, he was able to open up to God and hear what God had to say to him. “The lover of silence draws close to God. He talks to Him in secret and God enlightens him.”

After John was enlightened by God, he gave an indication of the journey which he went through, warning people of the potential hazards as well as the glories to come. In humility, he also realized that however invaluable his manual was, its value was derivative in nature. He provided a map of the spiritual quest, with each possible advance a step which presents its own difficulties and temptations. What was good came from God, often in forms beyond his ability to express, and yet he felt that his work could provide each reader a clue to their own spiritual condition and what they must face next.

Read more at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/henrykarlson/2017/03/fourth-sunday-lent-sunday-st-john-climacus/2/#lefdJf3H2wjTB1p.99>