



The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
March 22, 2015
+ St. John Climacus (Of the ladder) +



“Humility is constant forgetfulness of one’s
achievements.” ~ St. John Climacus

www.theoliveshoots.webstarts.com

Upcoming Events

Tuesday: Great Vespers for Annunciation at 6:30PM
Wednesday: Divine Liturgy for Annunciation at 10:00AM
Thursday: Entire Canon of St. Andrew with matins at 6:30PM
Friday: Akathist to the Theotokos with matins at 6:30PM
Saturday: Great Vespers 6:00PM



Troparion — Tone 1

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body, thou wast shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father John. Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith. Glory to Him who gave thee strength! Glory to Him who granted thee a crown! Glory to Him who through thee grants healing to all!

Kontakion — Tone 4

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our Father and Teacher John.

Today's Bible Verse:

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately a man cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

~Mark 9: 23-24

St. John Climacus

St. John Climacus was a monk at St. Catherine's Monastery at the bottom of Mount Sinai. He became a novice at age 16, and by the time he died, he had become the abbot of St.

Catherine's. He wrote a book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, where he talks about a ladder going from Earth to Heaven. As we do good and holy things, we move up the ladder. As we do bad things, we fall off of the ladder and have to start again. We can learn about how to become closer to God by what St. John says. If we think about moving up the ladder, we can become closer to God, and someday, join him in his holy kingdom of Heaven. God wants us to be like him, and the Ladder shows us how. The more kind things you do, the closer you become to Heaven.





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