

Saint John, pray for us!



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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Our anchor

Do you know what an anchor does? An anchor is something that keeps a boat from drifting around a lake or a harbor. An anchor keeps the boat in one spot, right where the sailor or fisherman wants it to be.



In the epistle reading today, we hear about how we have an anchor too. Just like a boat's anchor, our anchor keeps us right where we want to be too. For us, that's close to God. The epistle tells us that our anchor is our hope in the resurrection. As Christians, we think about how our Lord, Jesus Christ has opened up heaven for us. We think about how one day we hope to be with Him there. This is our anchor. When we think about Christ, and when we think about all He has done for us, we will stay right where we want to be, close to God.

But why do we need an anchor? Well, sometimes things pull us away from God. Sometimes movies or things on the Internet or games might pull us away from God. Sometimes our own friends might even pull us away from God, getting us to do things that aren't right. These things might make us drift away from our Lord. But when we think about Jesus Christ, and when we think about what He has done for us, we won't drift away! Let's remember the epistle today: "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul."

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Anchor
- Ascetic
- Faith
- Forgiveness
- Fourth Sunday
- Heaven
- Hope
- John
- Ladder
- Prayer

M Y J N J H W J E H G R Y E R
 K W H S C V E F P B K X X C G
 I O A F L C C A P L P X K I P
 J W T L A L N Z V V D A V T K
 A P E I C Y P V X E Q G E E K
 N Z D C K Q D R C M N O K C N
 C Y A D N U S H T R U O F S Y
 H K N O Q R R R Z I H E U A M
 O U S Q E H E S K I Z G M H B
 R S W Y F O R G I V E N E S S
 W H A W L A D D E R O V N H U
 T R T L P H Q D M Y D Z O Z T
 P F T I H V H K G T K P W J N
 V R X Y A E F H J I E R U C N
 K X J N U F B F A J X J J M K

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

This is an icon showing what Saint John talked about. The people are climbing on a ladder and trying very hard to make it to heaven.

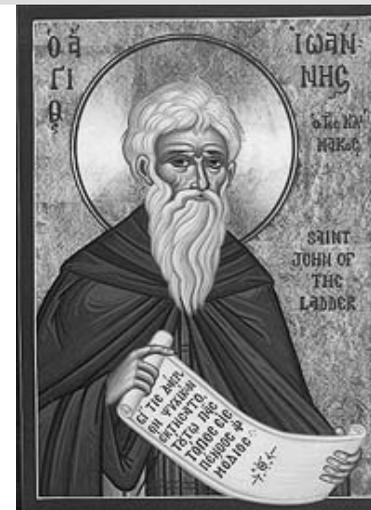
Can you see Who is blessing them at the top?



CLIMBING THE LADDER

SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

Now, we're more than halfway finished with Great Lent! Today is the 4th Sunday, when we remember St. John Climacus. St. John was a monk who wrote an important (but very hard to read!) book. In this book, he gave advice about how we can go up the ladder—to heaven! (That's what Climacus means— “of the ladder.”)



At first, St. John's book was meant only for monks, men who live their whole lives in a special place to grow close to God. But now we know this book can be helpful for all of us Christians! That's because St. John wrote how we Christians must always be trying harder and harder to grow closer to Christ. That's our goal.

Maybe one day, when you're older, you'll have a chance to read and study his book. But for today, let's remember one thing he wrote: “Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And truly, your guardian angel will honor your patience.”

So remember, as YOU are trying every day to climb the ladder to grow closer to our Lord—you're going to make mistakes! But as St. John tells us, don't give up! Be brave and try harder next time! Isn't it nice that we know holy saints made mistakes too?

We celebrate St John today, the 4th Sunday of Great Lent.