



# Prayers For Unwavering Faith

For those who desire to strengthen their faith in God, prayer is one of the best ways to make this happen. Prayer enables us to nurture a personal relationship with God.

## Prayer for Unwavering Trust in God

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. – Psalm 107:1**

Heavenly Father, I pray that you give me the grace to develop an unwavering trust in you.

Help me to worship you in spirit and in truth, knowing that in you lies my salvation and redemption. Please forgive me for the times when I doubted your goodness and faithfulness.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I may have the strength to trust you completely.

## Prayer for Faith and Hope

**The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song, I praise him. – Psalm 28:7**

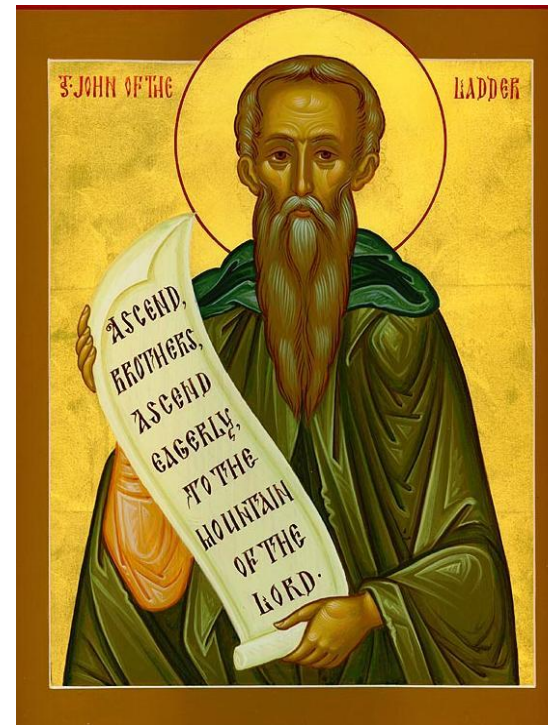
Dear God, help me to be more trusting toward you and constantly inspire hope in me, especially in trying times. Grant me the courage to surrender my fears and doubts to you.

Gracious Lord, help me to deepen my relationship with you through prayer and give me hope as I trust in your plan for my life. Fill me with the wisdom to always discern your will and follow the right path, knowing that you have promised us an abundant life here on earth and eternal life with you in heaven.

## Prayer for Faith and Trust in God

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5-6**

Heavenly Father, I believe in your word and promises, but at times I struggle to trust you completely. Please help me to have faith in your plan for my life and to always trust that you will never leave or forsake me. Strengthen my faith and grant me the courage to always do your will, even when it seems difficult. May your Holy Spirit constantly guide and empower me by your grace to always live a life that honors you. Thank you, O Lord, for hearing my prayer and teaching me to trust you.



**March 15, 2026**

Fourth Sunday of Great Fast

*Our venerable father John of the Ladder (Climacus)*

Octoechos Tone 7

**Changeable Parts** See the special insert available in the church vestibule.

## **Announcements:**

**Pysanky Workshop, Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM** in the Church Hall. All supplies will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. **Please sign up by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

### **Coffee Social:**

We also plan to have our Coffee Social on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Anna Kuncik who has volunteered to bring in the goodies. Hope you can join us for the Pysanky Workshop and the Coffee Social.

### **Our Lenten project:**

This week we have delicious mushroom-barley, potato-cheese and vegetable-barley soup for sale at \$10 per quart. We also have our home-made halushki available. Your support in purchasing these items is much appreciated.

### **Nut roll Sale:**

Our delicious home-made nut rolls are now available for sale. They are \$10 each while supplies last. We appreciate your support!

### **Lenten Mission:**

Our parishioner, Marta Shchur is going to Ukraine next month. Marta works closely with the military and they have asked for donations of bandages and first aid supplies. We have chosen this our Lenten Mission for 2026. If you are interested in supporting this project, please make your check payable to: St. George Ukrainian Church. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

### **Pyrohy Project:**

We are heading to the halfway point in Lent of our pyrohy project. If you can help, we would love to have you join us - whether it's for a few hours or the full day! Pyrohy production starts at 9 a.m. This project is our main fundraiser which greatly supports our church. This week, we will have fresh potato/cheese and sauerkraut. We also have frozen potato/cheese, and loaded baked potato pyrohy available.

### **PARISHIONERS' PRAYER LIST:**

Please make an effort to pray for the following people IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS because they are shut-in either at home, or in hospitals and nursing homes. The names we have received are: Barbara Fedora, Thomas Kunsak, Kathee Shabla, Dorothy Waslo and Msgr. George Appleyard (The Willows, 1215 Hulton Rd, Oakmont, PA 15139).

### **Pilgrimage in August:**

Some of our parishioners have expressed an interest in deepening their spiritual lives by visiting a shrine. As a day trip, we would like to visit the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, OH in conjunction with the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin. In the coming weeks, a sign-up sheet will be available to gauge interest.

### **RaiseRight – Gift Cards with a Purpose:**

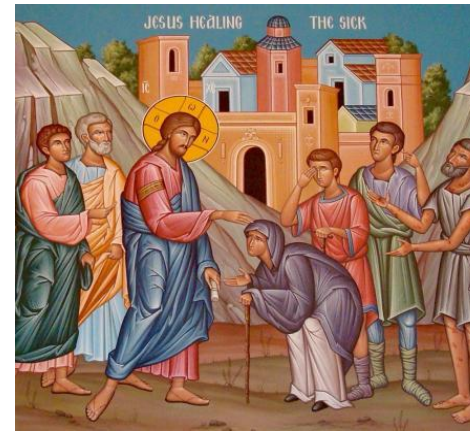
Consider signing up for a RaiseRight account. EX: If you buy a Giant Eagle (GE) gift card through Raise Right, you can then use that Giant Eagle gift card to buy an Amazon card if you are an Amazon shopper or you can use that Giant Eagle gift card for any other card. Every dollar earned helps St. George! You can set up an account easily at:

<https://www.raiseright.com/> The St. George code is: M2MGCVH7NH2P. Please see Vicki Senko with any questions.

### **Collection- May God bless you...**

The grand total for Sunday of March 8, 2026 was **\$4,594.00 + \$2,008.00**  
(Collection: \$3,885.00, Loose: \$109.00, Lenten project: \$600.00 pyrohy: \$2,008.00)

*Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!*



### **Reflection on Mark 9:17–31**

Today's Gospel is an image of the spiritual state both of humanity in general and of each human soul.

As we heard today, this child was possessed by a dumb spirit, which made him unable to speak. Do we not all go through periods in which we can neither hear the voice of God and feel his presence, nor open the mouth to our heart so as to seek Him with true prayer? It is a period of spiritual drought, as if we have lost all contact, as if we were dead.

And many times this state throws us "into the fire and into the water". In other words, it throws us into the fire of the passions — of anger, jealousy, carnal pleasures — and into the waters, into the turbulent sea of worldly cares, where the worries of life wash over us as waves, and we find ourselves on the verge of drowning.

And when we, like the disciples of the Lord, try to cast out this spirit, we find ourselves unable to do so. "And when Jesus had entered the house" — that is, when we briefly come to our senses and become aware of our spiritual state — we also, like the disciples, ask the Lord "Why could we not cast it out?"

We must remember that this story takes place immediately after the Transfiguration on Mount Thabor. The Lord had taken three disciples with him onto the Mountain — Peter, James, and John — and it was to these three that Jesus gave the ability to see his divinity. In other words, the disciples mentioned in today's Gospel reading are the remaining nine, who had not ascended Mount Thabor or seen the glory of the Lord.

The remaining 9 disciples could not cast out this evil spirit because they had not yet ascended. Likewise, it is not possible for us to throw off this spiritual state because we are still down at the bottom of the Ladder of Divine Ascent, we see all things from below with a worldly way of thinking. How are we then to ascend? The Lord's answer to the disciples is as follows: "This kind can come forth by nothing, except by prayer and fasting". Prayer and fasting. These two actions involve and describe two movements: by fasting we move away from the self, from our own will and the demands of our passions, and by prayer we turn towards God. Without this movement, away from the self and towards God, this evil spirit, this state of spiritual drought, will not leave us.

But how are we to find the strength to make this move when we find ourselves in precisely this state of weakness and our faith seems lacking? We will cry out with tears, like the father of the possessed child, and say, "I believe, O Lord, help my unbelief". This humble confession and petition was enough to free the child from the evil spirit. If we do the same, it will undoubtedly be enough to attract the grace of God, which will take us out of our drought and lead us to the still waters of rest. Amen. By Fr. Kristian Akselberg. Posted 4/11/2021, by St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Cathedral, London, U.K.