



Sunday of St. John Climacus  
The Gospel According to Mark 9:17-31

*“At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying:  
“Teacher, I brought you my son who has a mute  
spirit”*

*“After a long time the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God” (Exodus 2:23)*

In the scriptures the cry of the oppressed is the gate through which God acts in history. He intervenes and changes the course (W. Brueggeman - Interrupting Silence). Salvation historically happens when those who are oppressed cry out to God breaking the silence of an oppressive evil that cannot be tolerated anymore. Evil should never be tolerated anyway, however this has to be brought to God, “spoken to Him”. The oppressed need to pray. God listens to their prayer. Prayer is the inner voice that breaks the suppression and indifference of evil reaching out to goodness by faith. The oppressed turned to God in prayer by piercing the oppressive silence of evil. At the mission, we feel safe when the poor pray with us in the chapel. It is like heaven made its dwelling on earth.

*Is it nothing to you, all of you who pass by?*

*Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me. (Lam. 1:12)*

In today's gospel the son cannot speak of the evil that was happening to him. One could say he could not pray. Like there was no God for him in his heart. Only the torment of the evil spirit that tried to have him dead several times. It was as if hell had settled down in his being. Jesus wanted to know if the son chose this hell. He did not, it happened since he was a child: “Amen, I say to you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven (Mat 18:3).

Here the gospel tells us that the child did not enter the kingdom of heaven but rather hell took possession of him. He could do nothing and he could say nothing about this evil reality. We do not know how this hell was for him. We do not know it because he could not speak from hell. The evil took away the cry from him. The evil silenced the prayer of the innocent. Where is the hope then if the innocents cannot pray, if the poor cannot cry, where is the hope if the oppressed cannot mourn, where is the hope if those who desire heaven are turned back into hell? Like a reverse ladder that takes you down into the mud, against your own will, after you experienced the love of the Father. After He embraced you and kissed you. You returned from where you were taken just to find out that this was temporary. That mud and the pigs are really your

companions even though you left them behind. Where is the hope for the loving son who cannot find his father?

*"O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you?"*

The gospel tells us that our hope is in the lack of faith that refuses to let the shame take away its prayer. The lack of belief who remembers to kneel down and confess the sin.

It is true that today the brokenness that cannot seem to be healed is between the brothers and sisters. The evil that happened between them seems to be with no end and no hope for healing and forgiveness. No hope in the resurrection between the brothers who harm and kill each other. No hope for the enemy, nor for the loss within myself. In hell you see only enemies. If the church is the communion of the saints, hell would be the reverse of that. Who will recognize the presence of Christ there?

However, if this sorrow has no healing, what will be the hope for the gulf between the generations? Between the younger one who finds itself hating his own brother and the one older one who has no faith? The older one who teaches the children to hate each other? How can there be healing within the nation when the children "will be no more"?

On Friday we talked extensively on the gospel, focusing on the suffering of the children today. It was such a diverse gathering that one could ask if we were able to understand each other. People with diverse cultural backgrounds were brought together, from Canada to Nepal, from Menorca to Singapore, from Russia to Ukraine, from Eastern Europe to Africa and so on. Some were born in Canada, some had just recently arrived. People with different socioeconomic statuses, some with PhDs, others without much formal education. I thought at the time that all the answers should have been recorded. There was such a powerful witness and understanding, care and preoccupation for what makes the young people suffer these days, based on personal experiences and reflection at length.

Chris joined us at some point after he had finished one of his psychotherapy sessions. He said that he had had a similar conversation with his supervisor. In counseling, you see and hear a lot. He is trying to help young people who come to see him. How does it work? He thinks that youth suffer because they cannot speak about what oppresses them. They did not know how to speak because they had this deep experience of not being heard. The problem is that nobody is listening to them. We are so much focused on other things that are not real that we forgot how to listen to them and so they lose their voice. Healing is coming first from naming the demon. Silencing the voice who wants to cry deepens the trauma. They are left alone and they are getting used to not being listened to. And then they do not know how to do that anymore. You start from here. You start by listening.

Evil does not only silence the voice of the innocent. It affects all our senses (see Saturday gospel). In a world where evil prevails, people do not see and hear each other. They do not see the beauty as they do not see the suffering and pain. They do not see the joy as they do not see the sorrow. We are given to live so we can partake fully of holiness. We are infirm in a world where evil prevails. Evil makes us small and insignificant within ourselves. When the children are tormented by evil spirits and cannot speak, our sin is great. The gospel tells us today that the lack of faith, the one who brought about the sorrow in the land, is the one that opens up to God in order for God to heal and intervene. It is the father who cares for the son when there is no hope. It is the one who becomes father when he has no faith that perfect healing will happen. In a world that abandons God and opens up to suffering, he does not believe that things will change completely but knows how to pray and he asks for something to change. A sign that evil does not encompass us fully and prevails. The father remembers God in order for the son to live.

On Friday we also prayed in the chapel for another young, incomprehensible loss. A loss that cannot receive any comfort in the heart of the parent because he is no more. After the prayer the young voice who could not be heard spoke to the heart through the presence of Christ in prayer. That's what the heart of the parent shared with us.  
God is good.

**Mission church collections of 1 Sunday March 20 2022: donations \$0, Candle box \$51.20**

**Mission church collections of 1 Sunday March 27 2022: donations \$575, Candle box \$46.45**

- Next Friday we have the Akathist for the Mother of God. In Lent, only the Mother of God, beautifies the chapel. It is the only time we are free to bring flowers. The chapel will enjoy your gift.
- Next Friday we have the last vigil until midnight. There is nothing like the gathering around Christ in the middle of the night. You are given to see how The Bridegroom is coming to all of us. Do not miss the last chance next week.
- On Wednesday we pray the canon. There is an encounter in the desert and we are allowed to experience that.
- Blondine is going back to Quebec next Sunday. You have all week to thank her for her presence within the community. We thank her for her candid prayer in the chapel and for her courage in listening to the poor. Thank you for bringing us the hope of the young. Do not forget, you are always welcomed by the poor.
- Hector is really thankful for the sandwiches we receive every week from people with a good heart. They are really appreciated among the people.
- Sandra Saji is a student from India. On Sunday, April 10, she will join us for liturgy and sing communion hymns in her own language. We are very happy to welcome her.

## OUR REFUGE IS COOKING

The St. Mary of Egypt Refuge Cookbook



St Mary of Egypt Refugee recently published a cooking book, which is a collection of real recipes experienced and tasted within its community. The refuge is the place where we feel fully alive, where we come back to our senses. And food is one of the many reasons for that.

You can ask Sindu about the book. We also sell them at the bakery.

Reading the book makes fasting go easy and helps us appreciate lent even more.

Did you know that sister Penka continues to make jam at the mission after a successful experience in the summer at the refuge? You can buy her jam at the bakery.

# *What makes it different?*



**Divine Ascent**

**The Sunday Of St John Climacus**



**Babel Tower**

**(Wednesday reading)**

**"Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves"  
(Genesis 10:32-11:9)**

## April 4 – 10

<b>Tuesday</b>	8:30 am	Morning Prayer	<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Vespers/Dinner Great Compline/Canon – 9:30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Morning Prayer Noon Hours Jesus Prayer	<b>Friday</b>	7:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm 6:30pm	Orthros Noon Hours Jesus Prayer Akathist hymn followed by Silent Meal & vigil for peace in Ukraine
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 am	Morning Prayer	<b>Sunday</b>	6:00 am 7:00 am 8:30 am	Jesus Prayer Orthros Divine Liturgy



### St Silouan Chapel at St John's Mission

155 Broadview Ave. Toronto, ON M4M 2E9

T: 416-466-1357 E: info@stjohnsmision.org W: stjohnsmision.org

### St Zoticos Orthodox Church at Good Neighbours Mission

193 Markham Rd Scarborough, ON M1J 3C3

T: 647-358-4105



We are an apostolate of the ecumenical patriarchate "Mother Church of Christ's poor"  
under the Omophorion of Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

St. Silouan Chapel, April 3, 2022

8 Of 8

©2022 St. John the Compassionate Mission

[www.stjohnsmision.org](http://www.stjohnsmision.org)

Prayer request:

For those who are sick:

Dominique and her daughter (Dominique has cancer and her daughter was born with heart conditions).

Alex;Hawa Bibi's sister Fathima; Frank; Chris; Evlokia; Mikayla and her brother Luca; Karunawathi, Gloria, Vijekumari, Ronda, and Regina; Delia; Valerie; Tom; Traian; Peter; Marco; Kim (knee surgery); Tihomir; Kate; Payton Clark (back surgery); Sana, and her family in Egypt. Isaiah; Mary; Sydney; Peter Christine; Stephanie; Iulia; Jason; Sophia; Alexander; Charles; Tom; Paul; Phillip Hadler and his wife Juliet; Cristeena; Ann brown's daughter; Silvia, Jincy; Shiron Crisreen; Allain;Levalin and the family;Seena Colin and her husband; Waheeda and children; Faizah; Shirin and her family; Eva; Frank, Cristina; Daniela, Jerry; Delia ; Ragaie; Victoria; Mike.Farida; Roselyne and family ; Ana, Cornelia; Leon to Jerry; Nikitha, Ocean;Gloria, Anne, Marina, Marie, Edemene; Joanna and family GN; Rejoice;Romana, Coline, Michael, Peter, Henry, George, Kelly;Tom; Marina;Sandra and her son Chris;Kumari;Susan;child James; Aaron; Sylvia;Fr Jonathan;Tharshini and her two children; Ann Tyron and her family; Sandra Gomaz's children; Sameen; Sophia;Amy;Swetha and children ;Charitha; Jitesh's parents ;Demene;Carol; Gloria; Hawa Bibi; Vimaladevi; Lynn; Michelle;Emanuel(Mani);Stefanie;Geoff;Joey;Evangelia;Sophia;Melanie; Césare;Tanya;Piper;Darius; Zamalk; Nelly; Nahla; Mira; Sandral ;Brenda;Anna Avairo's daughter Vol Gomaz; Levlin's two children Sri' ; Helen; Paul; Wafaa

### **Please pray for health and salvation:**

Community in Goma and the children in their care: Neema; Rosine; Justine; Miriam; Chance; Jemyma; Patricia; Alliance; Nice; Dorcas; Justine; Agnes; Muhindo Dorcas. George, Connie, Nick, Fennie, Theodore, Chris, Nick , Toulou, Steven, Nicole, Tony, Sam, Sophia.; Prayer for Mary Mcgee.She lost her grandmother.; Fr. Michael and Pani Karen; Anthony and the family.He lost his brother in Trinidad.He is hoping to make a visit to Trinidad; Ramanand and his families in Gayana, USA and here in Canada (Ramanand lost three of his family members including one of his brothers, suddenly within two months); Paola; Elizabeth; Matthi; Dave and his family; Jai's family; Anne Tyran; Joseph to find housing; Lito; Mauro, Prayers for Ted's family (incarcerated son to be free) Dameal asking prayers for his future wife Fathima to be free from addictions Liz Gibicar asking prayers for her mother; Tejasree and her mother; Prashastha; Maria and Dingo; Crisent; Helen; Greta; Elizabeth; Dean; John; Liz; Crisent; Ann Brown; Elizabeth; Sifie; Allen; Leon;Ricky and his family from back home for the hope of reuniting; Aaron, Anastas, Olivia, Gelly, Frank, Eva, George, Rebecca, Andreas, Cathyann, Reigan, Stephanie, Peter, Christine; Christian family from Bangladesh, Sandra, Peter,

Angel, Bless, Grace, Swetha family; Atlaw single mom at shelter, Vernevil family; the family of Kenide; Saathiya; Sena; Vinothiny Yvienne; Abdul; Sakanthalathevy; Jumke; Naimi; Anish; Joshua DanielJMaria Lolita Soliman Torres, Jonathan , Richard, Richard, Mary , Elizabeth, Michael, Bill, Robert, Alan, Joanne

**Please pray for the deceased:**

Andree: Akhir - died this last week in Scarborough (killed in front of people who come to GoodNeighbours )

Dillon; Elena; Pani Mary; Rejoice`s mother ;Edmund; Pani Eleanor; Fr John; Alexandru; Constantin; Robert; fr Aurel; Georgi; Rada; Petre; Stela; William; Samuel; Debie; John; Amy, Willie; Dave`s wife; Ana; Shirin `s cousin in Jordan; Father Lawrence; Dave; Anne Tyran`s father; Edith, Sr. Mary Magdalene, Joice, BettyAnn, James, Pauanasuy Kamthasang, Maria (Covid), Andrei, Agostina, Carminda, Vimaladevi's sister; Sri's mother, Carol's Mother and 23 year old nephew passed away in Haiti. Demene's mother; Dalalzaki.