



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday, March 26, 2023

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus

+ Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)

Mode of the Week: Pl. Fourth/Πλάγιος του Τετάρτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 26</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. John Climacus Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:15pm Spring General Assembly in the Parish House
<i>Tuesday, March 28</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, March 29</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, March 30</i>	9:30am Orthros and the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<i>Friday, March 31</i>	9:30am Akathist Hymn
<i>Sunday, April 2</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm Usher Meeting in the Church
<i>Tuesday, April 4</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, April 5</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House
<i>Friday, April 7</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study
<i>Saturday, April 8</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Saturday of Lazarus 12:00pm Lenten Mini-Retreat: Palm Cross Folding, Altar Boy Meeting 2:30pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
<i>Sunday, April 9</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday Blessing and Procession of the Palms at the end of the Liturgy Philoptochos Palm Sunday Luncheon after the Liturgy 1:30pm Bridegroom Orthros (for Holy Monday)
<i>Monday, April 10</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros (for Holy Tuesday)
<i>Tuesday, April 11</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros (for Holy Wednesday)
<i>Wednesday, April 12</i>	9:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30pm Orthros for Holy Thursday with Holy Unction
Upcoming Epistle Readers: (4/2) Pete Tsamolias, Nadia Cazacu; (4/9) Aleca Hortman, Angelika Passias Upcoming Ushers: (3/28) TBD; (3/29) Maria S.; (3/30) Joanna P.; (3/31) Hazel D.; (4/2) TBD Upcoming Video Operators: (3/29) Cristina L.; (3/31) Joanna P.; (4/2) Joanna P.; (4/5) Cristina L. Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (4/2) Rodica Cazacu; (4/9) Philoptochos; (4/16) Pascha Picnic (Parish Council)	

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ
ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός,
ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί,
τῷ Ἀβραὰμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ Θεός,
ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχε μείζονος
ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσε καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων·
ἢ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε καὶ
πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε· καὶ οὕτω
μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχε τῆς
ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ
τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσι, καὶ πάσης
αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς
βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος· ἐν ᾧ
περισσότερον βουλόμενος ὁ Θεός
ἐπιδειξάι τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς
ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς
βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ,
ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων,
ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι Θεόν,
ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ
καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς
προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν
ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ
βεβαίαν καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ
ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος, ὅπου
πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν
Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ,
Ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

*Pray and return to the Lord Your
God.*

*Verse: In Judah God is known; His
name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to
the Hebrews. (6:13-20)*

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Brethren, when God made a
promise to Abraham, since he had
no one greater by whom to swear,
he swore to himself, saying, "Surely
I will bless you and multiply you."
And thus Abraham, having patiently
endured, obtained the promise.
Men indeed swear by a greater than
themselves, and in all their disputes
an oath is final for confirmation. So
when God desired to show more
convincingly to the heirs of the
promise the unchangeable character
of his purpose, he interposed with
an oath, so that through two
unchangeable things, in which it is
impossible that God should prove
false, we who have fled for refuge
might have strong encouragement
to seize the hope set before us. We
have this as a sure and steadfast
anchor of the soul, a hope that
enters into the inner shrine behind
the curtain, where Jesus has gone as
a forerunner on our behalf, having
become a high priest for ever after
the order of Melchizedek.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (9:17-31)

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ
Ἰησοῦ γονυπετῶν αὐτῷ καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε,
ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σέ, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα
ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει
αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας
αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς
σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ
ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· Ὡ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως
πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι
ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν
αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ
πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς
γῆς ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπηρώτησε τὸν
πατέρα αὐτοῦ· Πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο
γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Παιδιόθεν. καὶ
πολλάκις αὐτόν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα,
ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἴ τι δύνασαι,
βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ
Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι,
πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως
κράξας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρῶν
ἔλεγε· Πιστεύω, Κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ.
ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος
ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων
αὐτῷ· Τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοὶ
ἐπιτάσσω, ἐξέλθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς
εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράξαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράξαν
αὐτόν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε
πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς
κρατήσας αὐτόν τῆς χειρὸς ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ
ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτόν εἰς οἶκον οἱ
μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτων αὐτόν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι
ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπεν
αὐτοῖς· Τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται
ἐξελεθεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ
ἐκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς
Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν ἵνα τις γινῶ·
ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν
αὐτοῖς ὅτι Ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται
εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν,
καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling
and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to
you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever
it seizes him it dashes him down; and he
foams and grinds his teeth and becomes
rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out,
and they were not able." And he answered
them, "O faithless generation, how long am I
to be with you? How long am I to bear with
you? Bring him to me." And they brought the
boy to him; and when the spirit saw him,
immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell
on the ground and rolled about, foaming at
the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How
long has he had this?" And he said, "From
childhood. And it has often cast him into the
fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if
you can do anything, have pity on us and
help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can!
All things are possible to him who believes."
Immediately the father of the child cried out
and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And
when Jesus saw that a crowd came running
together, he rebuked the unclean spirit,
saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I
command you, come out of him, and never
enter him again." And after crying out and
convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the
boy was like a corpse; so that most of them
said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the
hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And
when he had entered the house, his disciples
asked him privately, "Why could we not cast
it out?" And he said to them, "This kind
cannot be driven out by anything but prayer
and fasting." They went on from there and
passed through Galilee. And he would not
have any one know it; for he was teaching his
disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man
will be delivered into the hands of men, and
they will kill him; and when he is killed, after
three days he will rise."

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday: call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of March 26, 2023

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf
Video: Cristina L. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers
Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Bryan Gordy (English)
Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Ehmer Family



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of St. John Climacus

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

+ Synaxis in the honor of the Archangel Gabriel

This festive Synaxis is celebrated to the glory of the Archangel Gabriel, since he ministered to the marvelous mystery of God's incarnate dispensation.

+ The Holy 26 Martyrs who witnessed in the land of the Goths (+375-383)

+ The Holy Martyrs Quadratus, Theodosios, Manuel, and another 40 in the Anatolia (+284-305)

+ The Holy Monk Malchus in Syria (+4th Century)

+ Our Father among the Saints, Felix, Bishop of Trier in Germany (+400)

+ The Devout Mocheallog, patron saint of Kilmallock, Ireland (+639)

+ Our Devout Father Ludger, missionary bishop in the Netherlands and Northwest Germany (+809)

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Εξ ύψους κατήλθες, Plagal 4th Mode):*

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st Mode):*

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross. (sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn)

- *The Kontakion of the Annunciation (Τη υπερμάχω, Plagal 4th Mode):*

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (3/26—Wine+Oil): John 20:11-18; Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

Monday (3/27—Strict Fast): Isaiah 37:33-38:6; Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday (3/28—Strict Fast): Isaiah 40:18-31; Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday (3/29—Strict Fast): Isaiah 41:4-14; Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday (3/30—Wine+Oil): Isaiah 42:5-16; Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday (3/31—Strict Fast): Isaiah 45:11-17; Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday (4/1—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 1:39-49, 56

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Angelo, Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Pete, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Marina, Alexi, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Michael (+February 7), Alexie (+March 5), Jane (+March 17), Tasos (+March 21)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Nate, Chad, Alexander, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John of Damascus (+749) on the Annunciation and the Theotokos: "After the normal nine-month gestational period, Christ was born at the beginning of the tenth, in accordance with the law of gestation. It was the birth that surpassed the established order of birthgiving, as it was without pain; for, where pleasure had not preceded, pain did not follow. And just as at His conception He had kept her who conceived Him virgin, so also at His birth did He maintain her virginity intact, because He alone passed through her and kept her shut [Ezekiel 44:1-3]. While the conception was by 'hearing', the birth was by the usual orifice through which children are born, even though there

are some who concoct an idle tale of His being born from the side of the Mother of God. For it was not impossible for Him to pass through the gate without breaking its seals. Hence, the Ever-Virgin remained virgin even after giving birth and never had converse with a husband as long as she lived."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

March 26: Charles Glotzbach, Katerina Iakovidis
March 28: David Needham, Mary Katherine Saratsiotis
March 30: Joan Cabral, Mikey Cantrell, Lucas Lekas, Pete Tsamolias

Anniversaries—Congratulations!
None in the Records

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Shut-Ins:** If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

* **YOUTH:** This coming weekend, 3/31-4/2, is the GOYA Lenten Retreat at the Diakonia Retreat Center in South Carolina; last minute registrations today - talk to Presv. Stacey! **Registration for St. Stephen's Summer Camp (for 6th-12th graders) starts this Wednesday March 29 at NOON. It typically sells out in 10 minutes.. be prepared!!** Saturday of Lazarus "workshop": After Divine Liturgy we'll eat Lenten pancakes, make and eat Lazarakia, fold Palm Crosses, help spruce up the Altar, and make a Holy Week craft. BRING YOUR KIDS! All ages welcome.

* **Coin Boxes** to support the work of OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) are available for pick up in coffee hour. These will be collected after Pascha.

* **Philoptochos:** The Lenten Food Drive continues collecting non-perishable food. Contributions can be left in the Narthex or in the Parish House. Thank you! Palm Sunday Philoptochos Luncheon will be taking place after Liturgy on April 9. Please plan on attending!

* **Pascha/Easter:** An email has been sent with details regarding the Easter Lily Dedication (for both those living and those reposed) along with the Easter Egg Hunt and Pascha Luncheon on Sunday, April 16 after the Agape Vespers. Please plan on attending so that we can celebrate the greatest day of the Church year together as a Church Family! Kali Anastasi!