



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Sts. Aristarchos, Pudens, and Trophimos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: First (Matthew 28:16-20)

Mode of the Week: Fourth / Τέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, April 14</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. John Climacus Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival after the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Oratorical Festival 1:00pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance
<i>Wednesday, April 17</i>	5:30pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, April 18</i>	5:00pm Orthros and the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<i>Friday, April 19</i>	5:30pm Small Compline and the Akathist Hymn 7:00pm Not-So-Young-Adult Event
<i>Saturday, April 20</i>	4:00m Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, April 21</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth Activity: Strawberry Picking
<i>Tuesday, April 23</i>	5:30pm Great Compline 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, April 24</i>	5:30pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Saturday, April 27</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Saturday of Lazarus 12:00pm Youth Lenten Breakfast and Mini-Retreat 3:00pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
<i>Sunday, April 28</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Luncheon after the Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance 7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Monday
<i>Monday, April 29</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Tuesday
<i>Tuesday, April 30</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Wednesday (and Hymn of Kassiani)

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (4/21) Pete Tsamolias, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (4/28) Kostas Iakovidis, Charles Glotzbach
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (4/21) John Apostolou; (4/28) Natalia Saratsiotis; (5/5) Sarah Drakopoulos
Upcoming Ushers: (4/17) Cristina L.; (4/18) Norm+Eleni; (4/19) Erick+Cheryl; (4/20) OPEN; (4/21) Jim L.+Sarah D
Upcoming Video Operators: (4/17) Natalia S.; (4/19) David Z.; (4/21) Cristina L.; (4/24) Natalia S.; (4/27) Natalia S
Fellowship Hosts: (4/21) Katerina Iakovidis; (4/28) Philoptochos; (5/5) Pascha Picnic; (5/12) Maria Bronisevsky

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 worshipping 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

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου, Κύριε·
πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει, ἡ ψυχὴ μου, τὸν
Κύριον. Κύριε ὁ Θεός μου,
ἐμεγαλύνθησ σου σφόδρα.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραὰμ ἐπαγγελιάμενος 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 ἐπιδειξαι 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.

*O Lord, Your works shall be
magnified greatly; You made all
things in wisdom.*

*Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O
Lord my God, You are magnified
exceedingly. (Psalm 103)*

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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 σε, 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· ᾧ 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 σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἐξελθε 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 ἐξελεῖν 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 April 14, 2024

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Cleo Bennette

Video: Gray Y./David N. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Richard Stewart (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Pres. Stacey and Others

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: St. John Climacus, Author of the "Ladder"

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. St. John reposed in peace on March 30, 649.

- + The Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Aristarchos, Pudens, and Trophimos (+67)

Saint Aristarchus is mentioned in the Epistle to the Colossians (4:10), and also in the Epistle to Philemon (v. 24). By his ascetical manner of life, this Saint proved to be another Saint John the Baptist. He became Bishop of Apamea in Syria, and brought many to the Faith of Christ. Saints Pudens and Trophimos are mentioned in II Timothy 4:20-21. Also, Acts 21:29 mentions that Trophimos was from Ephesus. According to sources that Saint Dorotheus of Tyre (celebrated on June 5) found written in Latin in Rome, these Apostles were beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero (54-68).

- + The Holy Martyr Ardalion the Mime (+305)
- + The Holy Martyr Thomais of Alexandria (+476)
- + The Holy New Martyr Demetrios of Peloponnesos (+1803)

Through 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 (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- Weekly Hymn of the Resurrection (To φαίδρόν, Fourth Mode):

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!" (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 110)

- Hymn of St. John (Ταῦς των δακρύων σου ποαίς, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 136)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First 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.

- The Kontakion of the Annunciation (Τη υπερμάχω, Plagal of the Fourth 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. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 268)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday of St. John Climacus (4/14—Wine+Oil):

Matthew 28:16-20; Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

Monday (4/15—Strict Fast): Isaiah 37:33-38:6;

Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday (4/16—Strict Fast): Isaiah 40:18-31;

Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday (4/17—Strict Fast): Isaiah 41:4-14;

Genesis 17:1-9; Proverbs 15:20-16:9

Thursday of the Great Canon (4/18—Wine+Oil):

Isaiah 42:5-16; Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday (4/19—Strict Fast): Isaiah 45:11-17; Genesis

22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday of the Akathist Hymn (4/20—

Wine+Oil): Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 1:39-49, 56

Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Jeffrey (+March 23), Audrey (+April 2)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julie G., Bobbie I., Muryah S.

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:

Bobbie, Jessica, Nate, Schyler and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John Climacus (+7th c.), honored today on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent: "To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God's love, it is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness, it is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of Christ I might yet become."

"A good grape-picker, who eats the ripe grapes, will not start gathering unripe ones. A charitable and sensible mind takes careful note of whatever virtues it sees in anyone. But a fool looks for faults and defects. And of such it is said: 'They have searched out iniquity and expired in the search.' (Psalm 64) Do not condemn, even if you see with your eyes, for they are often deceived."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

April 15: Leo Economopoulos

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

April 16: Mary Monika Robinson

April 17: Tim Murphy

April 18: Cornelius Chiorescu

April 19: Georgia Karras

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:

* A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that supported our Lenten Luncheon. With your generous donations we were able to raise \$700.00 for Hellenic College/Holy Cross. A special thank you to Eleni Adams and her dedicated committee for providing such a delicious Lenten lunch. Also a huge **THANK YOU** to Emily Dermatas, Kathye Patras and their faithful committee for providing a delectable dinner following the Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Sunday evening. We had the opportunity to share this meal and fellowship with St. Innocent Orthodox Church. Again, thank you to everyone for their continued support of our Philoptochos chapter, Panagia Prousiotissa.

* The **Bookstore** will be open this coming week on Wednesday, April 17 from 3:00 to 5:00pm. The Church will also be open for personal prayer during that time.

* **Lenten Spiritual Book Discussion** is taking place during the Light Lenten meal after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays. We are discussing the book "Thirty Steps to Heaven." Please see the email that was sent or contact Fr. Theodore for more information.

* If you would like to participate in the 2024 **Paschal Lilies** Dedication "In Memory of" or "For the Health of", please see the link that was sent by email. You may also place your payment in the box located in the Narthex (please specify on the memo line Paschal Lilies Dedication). Deadline is Palm Sunday, April 28th. Names will be listed in the Pascha bulletin as well as the following Sunday.

* If you are interested in **LiveStreaming** services, please contact Natalia. It is very simple and she is willing to teach anyone who is willing to learn. We are looking for a few more people to add to the team.

* **Not-So-Young-Adult:** Please save the date for the next get-together taking place after the Akathist Hymn this coming Friday, April 19 at Society Garden to watch Theo Drakopoulos' band perform! Please contact Beth Zoumberis for more information.

* **Youth:** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival TODAY at the end of Liturgy. Strawberry Picking next Sunday, April 21 after Greek School!

* **Choir:** Please look out for an email from Emily regarding an upcoming practice this week/next in preparation for Holy Week/Pascha!