

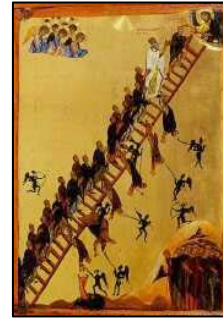
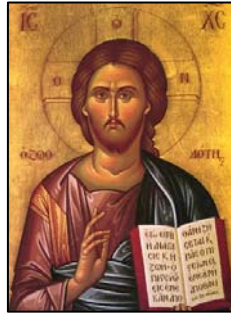


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, March 14, 2010

ON THIS DAY, THE *FOURTH* SUNDAY OF LENT, WE COMMEMORATE OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER JOHN OF THE LADDER (CLIMACUS), AUTHOR OF “THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT” (649 A.D.). (*SEE TRIODION INSERT ON NEXT PAGE*). WE ALSO COMMEMORATE our Righteous Father Benedict (+547); Holy Martyr Alexander of Pidnos; and Righteous Father and Confessor Efschimon, Bishop of Lampsakos (+829-842). *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

TODAY's Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

On the *Fourth Sunday of Lent*, the Church commemorates the famous saint and ascetic *St. John of the Ladder (Climacus in Greek)*, who was head of the monastery located on Mt. Sinai for much of his life. St. John got his name from a famous book of spiritual exercises which he wrote and entitled *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, and which he intended to serve as a means of climbing spiritually from earth to heaven. His book of spiritual directions is read in monasteries during Lenten periods and is available to us in English.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. Hymn for St. John of the Ladder – (Hymnal-pp.136-139):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: Like warm and gentle rain, your tears of compunction made the desert burst forth in bloom. Your patient endurance made your sufferings bear fruit one hundredfold and your wondrous deeds

have filled all the world with light. O holy father John, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

5. Kontakion sung for Lenten Sundays – (Hymnal-pp. 268-271):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom

Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading (Hebrews 6:13-20)

When God made a promise to Abraham, because He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, “I will surely bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel Reading (Mark 9:17-31)

Someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought You my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever 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, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be

among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to Me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if You are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” 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 was able to stand. When He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill Him, and three days after being killed, He will rise again.”

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)



We hope you will join us for our General Parish Assembly following today's church services and GOYA Luncheon. Your presence is both needed and appreciated. We will conclude by 1:00 p.m.

Looking for the Perfect

Birthday Gift, Bridal Shower Gift, Wedding Gift, Mother's Day Gift, Graduation Gift, Father's Day Gift, Housewarming Gift?

Then Join Us For A Pampered Chef Fundraiser

When: Sunday, March 21st at 1 pm (in lieu of General Meeting)

Who: Sponsored by Philoptochos - All Welcome

Why: A Fundraiser to Support the Ministries of Philoptochos

A Lenten dish will be prepared with Pampered Chef products.

Philoptochos will receive 10% of sales of less than \$600 and 15% for sales of \$600 or more, plus an additional \$3 for any parties booked from this one.

Thank you for your support.

Hope to see you there!!!



Philoptochos Hands of Love

“For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, “You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land.” (Deut. 15:11)

March 14th, Holy Cross Orthodox School of
Theology

We will be collecting monetary donations to benefit Holy Cross School of Theology / Hellenic College.

Centered upon Jesus Christ and His Gospel, Holy Cross is a graduate School of Theology and Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. Holy Cross was founded in 1937 and is supported by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, an Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The mission of Holy Cross is to provide theological education and formation for future clergy and lay leaders of the Church and society.

And on this *the three hundred and tenth* Sunday of our St. Christopher’s parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into

His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 4th Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.

Sunday, March 14 (Sunday of St. John Climacus):

- 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Begins (*We hope you advanced your clocks one hour forward – if not, please do so now!*)
- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 a.m. GOYA Fundraising Luncheon
- 10:30 am Philoptochos Hands of Love Collection (*see inside*) & Philoptochos Membership Drive
- 11:15 am General Parish Assembly (*all parishioners invited to attend*)

Monday, March 15:

- 7:00 p.m. Religious Educators & Youth Workers Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. ECYDC Meeting

Wednesday, March 17 (5th Wednesday of Great Lent – Name Day of Metropolitan Alexios):

- 6:00 p.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy
- 7:15 p.m. Community Lenten Dinner & Lenten Family Program (*Please bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series that concludes each Wednesday by 8:30 p.m. For six consecutive weeks, we will focus on the book, Living the Beatitudes by Kyriaki and Thomas FitzGerald. You and your family are encouraged to attend.*)

Thursday, March 18:

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, March 19 (5th Friday of Great Lent):

- 7:00 p.m. Akathist Hymn (*final Friday service before Holy Week*)

Sunday, March 21 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship/Philoptochos Membership Drive
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

11:30 am GOYA Meeting

1:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting (*Pampered Chef Presentation*)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!