



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

### Liturgical Guide for Sunday, April 10, 2016

**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 Holy Martyrs Terentios, Afrikanas, Maximos, Pompios, and the other 36 Companions beheaded at Carthage, along with those with the Blessed Zenon, Alexander, and Theodore; Holy Prophetess Hulda; Holy Martyrs Iakovos the Elder and Asa the Deacon; Holy New-Martyr Demos; Holy Father among the Saints, Gregory V, the New-Martyr Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch, who was martyred by hanging in 1821; Holy Father Theona, Archbishop of Thessolonica; and the 150 and more Righteous Martyr Fathers of the Sacred Monastery of Pantocrator Daou Pentelis. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.***

## **Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our 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.

### **Liturgy of St. Basil Used Every Sunday during Great and Holy Lent:**

The Liturgy of St. Basil was, until the twelfth century, the chief Liturgy of Constantinople. Its 'Prayer of Consecration' or *Anaphora* is probably the most eloquent of all liturgies, east and west. Powerful in its unity of thought, theological depth and rich biblical imagery, it was celebrated every Sunday and Great Feast Days. Now it is used only ten times during the year: on the five Sundays of Great and Holy Lent; on the Vigils of Pascha, Christmas and Epiphany; on Holy Thursday and on the Feast of St. Basil, January 1.

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been

vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His 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 (Matthew 28:16-20)**

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.*

### **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)*

## ***PREVIEW...***

**Adult Religious Education Class – Fr. George Tsahakis**

*Sunday, April 10, 2016*

*For today's lesson, Fr. George will share the 18-minute short video documentary, **PISTEVO "I Believe"** and lead a discussion of its relevance to us.*





**Lenten Study Series** – During the Wednesdays of Great Lent, Fr. George will lead our faithful in a discussion of assigned chapters from *“Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives”*.

**Lenten Worship Services** – Our schedule on Wednesdays will be the Service of the 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy (Vespers/Communion Service) beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community lenten dinner beginning at 7:15 p.m. and followed by our Family Community Program using *“Our Thoughts Determine Our lives.”* Our Bookstore is selling this text.

**Lenten Art Series** Also, all persons who wish to *learn step-by-step the basics of simple pencil drawing and its application to our lenten discipline* from our wonderful teacher and parishioner, Jim Whitlock... Each Wednesday, we invite you to bring fasting food to share. You and your family are encouraged to attend as much of the series as possible. This past Wednesday, Jim shared how to draw portraits and we’re grateful to those who participated.



## Hands of Love: April

*“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)*



### All Sundays in April: Fayette County Division of DFCS

In order to assist the Fayette County division of DFCS, we will be collecting **gift cards** for food.

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is the part of the Department of Human Services (DHS) that investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; helps low income, out-of-work parents get back on their feet; assists with childcare costs for low income parents who are working or in job training; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help troubled families.



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator



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And on this 602<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.

### **Sun., April 10 (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Great Lent – Sunday of St. John Climacus):**

**7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**

**10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**

**[Lenten GOYA Retreat at DRC continues through this afternoon.]**

### **\*\*\*Note Day Change: Tuesday, April 12 (4<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Lent):**

**6:00 p.m. Service of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy**

**7:15 p.m. Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program (Please bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series. You, your family, and friends are welcome.)**

### **Thursday, April 14:**

**6:30 p.m. Choir Practice**

### **Friday, April 15:**

**6:00 p.m. Akathist Hymn Service**

### **Sun., April 17 (5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt):**

**7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**

**10:30 a.m. GOYA Meeting**

**10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**

**11:30 a.m. Hellenic Dance Practice**

*Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!*