

Sunday, April 11, 2021

4th Sunday of Lent – St. John Climacus

**Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum; Tryphanie and Matrona the Righteous;
Pharmuthius, anchorite of Egypt; Guthlac, Hermit of Crowland.**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY: Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.

The church will be opened to the first 225 parishioners who have phoned into the church this past week and registered to attend worship (please review church protocols). Unfortunately due to the recent power surge that damaged many of our systems this service will be live streamed only on the You Tube Channel.

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

3 – Ευφραίνεσθω τα ουρανια/Rejoice all the heavenly

124 – Ταϊς των δακρυων σου ροαις/With the river of tears

134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky

234 – Τη Υπερμαχω Στρατηγω τα νικητηρια/To you the champion

READINGS: Orthros Gospel: John 21:14-25

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or
The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL DUTY: Jim Siatras & ALL Council members and volunteers.

MEMORIALS

9 days	Andreas Liadakis	4 year	Anastasia Yiatras
6 mon.	Apostolos Collaros	5 year	Helen Andreatos
6 mon.	Maria Georgiadis	5 year	Leonidas (Louis) Condos
9 mon.	Irene Kazonis	6 year	Stamatia Zembillas
1 year	Katina Mamounas	16 year	Paraskevi (Voula) Condos
3 year	Mary Bilski	17 year	Anastasia Petalas

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: With the easing of some of the COVID-19 restrictions in the state of Indiana, we are able to once again host a limited Coffee Fellowship Hour following worship services on Sunday. **Mask wearing and social distancing are still required when attending. We must stress that everyone entering the Great Hall or walking around in the hall needs to wear a face mask!** We are looking forward to seeing our parishioners and visiting with them after almost a year of no Coffee Fellowship.

Today's Coffee Fellowship is being offered in memory of Apostolos (Paul) Collaros. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

CHUCKLE FOR THE SEASON: A man was overheard as he was leaving his companion at the entrance to the Internal Revenue Service office:

"As your tax consultant, I said in case of an audit I would accompany you to the IRS. I never said anything about going in with you."

LENTEN/EASTER DONATIONS: The Lenten season is a time that allows us to provide for the church various items needed. Giving to the church is always special, but during Great Lent and Easter it takes on even more meaning. For this reason we would like to invite our faithful to share in making Great Lent, Holy Week and Easter a most beautiful and inspiring time. Those individuals or families wishing to donate towards any of the following items should contact the church office.

Flowered Frame Salutation Services & Akathist Hymn (Friday April 2& 9): \$150

Palms and Bay Leaves for Palm Sunday (April 25): \$3,000

Olive Oil for Holy Wednesday: \$60

Flowered Wreaths (6 small) Holy Thursday: \$150 each

Epitaphio Flowers – Carnations, etc.: \$5,000

58 Easter Lilies: \$900 (\$15 each)

GREAT LENT: is a period of prayer, examination, rededication, penance and spiritual preparation for the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Participate fully in the beautiful and spiritually moving services that our Orthodox Faith provides for us during this time. See the service schedule for dates and times of worship.

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Monday, April 12th – *Compline:* 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Wednesday, April 14th – *Presanctified Liturgy:* 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Friday, April 16th – *Akathist Hymn:* 6:30 p.m. in the Cathedral

Saturday, April 17th – *Vespers for St. Savvas of Kalymnos:* 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral.

ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Δευτερα, 12 Απριλιου – *Μεγα Αποδειπνον* – 6:00 μ.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

Τεταρτη, 14 Απριλιου – *Λειτουργια Προηγιασμενων Δωρων* – 6:00 μ.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

Παρασκευη, 16 Απριλιου – *Ακαθιστος Υμνος* – 6:30 μ.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

Σαββατο, 17 Απριλιου – *Εσπερινος του Αγιου Σαββα ο εν Καλυμνω* – 6:00 μ.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

SHUT-IN VISITATION: If there is anyone shut in at home, hospital, or nursing home and would like our clergy to visit them and administer the Sacraments of Holy Confession, Holy Communion, and/or Holy Unction for Lent, Holy Week or Pascha, please call the church office at 219-769-2481 to make an appointment.

NOTICE: IMPORTANT UPDATES REGARDING HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND THE COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Reservations are still required for all those faithful wishing to attend worship.** Don't take it for granted that you can attend without calling the church office to reserve your space. **Reservations will be taken starting Tuesday, April 13th.** Call 219-769-2481 Monday through Friday during the regular office hours of 9am-3pm. Please remember that the church office is closed on weekends.
- Capacity in the Cathedral will be limited to 350 worshippers.** This is about a third of our normal capacity for services. If the church reaches capacity, there will be no walk-ins allowed to enter. If we see, based on reservations, that we have more people than we can accommodate in the Cathedral, we will have a second service for Palm Sunday and Anastasi in the Great Hall. This is another reason why it's very important that you call to make a reservation if you are planning on coming.
- Everyone attending church services is required to wear a face mask to enter per Metropolis of Chicago safety protocols.** There will be no exceptions.
- The service of the Resurrection (receiving the Holy Light) for those not wishing to remain for the Divine Liturgy will take place in the Great Hall.** Those who plan on staying for the Divine Liturgy will attend services in the Cathedral. This is being done to accommodate the many faithful who wish to attend worship.

**ATTENTION FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF SAINTS
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CATHEDRAL**

**OUTLINE OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS
BEFORE ATTENDING CHURCH**

- The church (or areas used for worship) will be sanitized before each service.
- The church will only be allowed to hold as many people (225) as can maintain social distancing (6 feet distance).
- Due to the limited seating available, every person who is planning on attending worship services will need to register through the church office (219-769-2481) between 11am–1pm, Monday through Friday. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. • According to the directives of the Metropolis of Chicago, the high-risk population and those caring for them should not attend services. Our parish will be using a system of self-reporting. We will not be verifying your age or medical history at the door.
- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are in the same household as someone positive for COVID-19, or who are feeling sick should not attend services.
- Worship Services will continue to be lived streamed on our Cathedral’s Facebook Page and You Tube Channel for those who cannot or may not feel safe to attend.

COMING TO CHURCH

- Every person attending worship will need to check in upon arrival at the designated area in the Exo-Narthex. There will be a brief screening process (verbal questions and a temperature check) at the sign-in table.
- Every attendee will need to wear masks (you must provide your own mask) at all times while they are in the physical area of worship, except when receiving Holy Communion.
- Use non-contact greetings (waving, a bowing of the head) with fellow parishioners instead of the traditional hugging, kissing or shaking of hands. Social distancing must be maintained. No walking about the church to greet, talk or visit with one another.

IN THE CHURCH

- There will be hand sanitizer stations at the entry of the church, at the candle stands, at the entry into the Nave, and at the Solea.
- There will be no veneration (kissing) of icons, sacred objects, or the priest’s hand.
- Parish Council members will distribute candles for the faithful to light, as well as place the 3-hour votives and 5-day red votives in there designated areas of the church. After lighting candles you will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the church.
- No paper bulletins, monthly newsletters or other items will be distributed to those attending worship.
- Due to the need to socially distance, a Parish Council member or a designated usher will escort you to your seat. Please do not insist on sitting in “your spot,” as the Parish Council’s only concern will be in maintaining social distancing to maximize safety.
- Every other pew will be available for seating with six feet in between each worshiper. People living in the same household can sit together.
- There will be no liturgical books in the pews.
- At the time for Holy Communion, the Parish Council will direct people to approach the Chalice and observe social distancing. Sanitize your hands before approaching the Chalice (sanitizer stations will be available on the Solea).

**Please remember: It is YOUR CHOICE whether to ATTEND CHURCH or not.
It is YOUR CHOICE whether to RECEIVE Holy Communion or not.
DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL of those who do or don’t.**

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY - IT ALL BEGAN WITH GIVING: Christ’s giving went into depths of His being so that He emptied Himself, becoming poor so that others might become rich. No giving can be called too much in the light of this love.

This year of 2021, our parish faces a reduced budget of \$800,000, without major repairs or costly renovations (see announcement below for an update). To meet our financial obligations, we have set a goal of at least \$800,000 for our Stewardship Program to reach in pledges (average pledge \$1500). It is only with your love and generosity that this goal will be reached. Please remember that this goal is what our community needs to operate at and be vital in the lives of all our members.

Quarterly statements of contribution have been mailed out to all parishioners. If you haven’t already submitted your 2021 Stewardship Pledge form to the church office, please do so today. When considering your pledge, please do not view it as “How little can I give?” but rather “How much can I offer to God and His Church?” As of April 8th, the church office has received 466 pledges for a total of \$344,960, which averages out to \$740 a pledge. This is less than half of what is needed to operate our Cathedral ministries and maintain our facilities. Remember that \$200 from every pledge goes to the support of the Archdiocese and the Metropolis of Chicago. Without our personal love and commitment of time, talent and resources – **THERE IS NO CHURCH** – and without the Church, then who will preach the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ? Your Stewardship pledge should be at least one quarter paid by the end of March. It is a symbolic profession of faith and helps your church to better plan for various financial needs and expenditures.

If you are one of the 40 members who have failed to pay their 2020 stewardship that has resulted in a total unpaid balance of over \$10,313, please do so today! If you haven’t pledged for 2021 as yet, please do so today! In addition to the monetary pledge, just as importantly, the personal involvement and participation by all is needed not only in time of worship but in every affair of the Church.

EVERY PARISHIONER of a Greek Orthodox parish, 18 years and older, single or married according to Archdiocese regulations should be a supporting member, a steward, of a parish. Everyone should contribute their fair share to the financial support to their parish. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to “go on record” as being a believer and a supporter of God’s work through His Church. To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Look below and check out the link listed. It is a profession of faith when we all work together and help our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: Close to a month ago, we had a power surge throughout our Cathedral complex which caused major damage to various parts of our electrical grid, air conditioning unit for the Gold Room, and air handlers for the offices, Gold Room and Great Hall. Our Maintenance Committee is working to repair the damage, but this is an unseen major expense that has befallen our community. We kindly ask all our parishioners to please be active stewards, current with your pledge payments, as well as support our Building Fund which handles the maintenance and repairs for our Cathedral complex. Building Fund donation forms are being included in our 1st quarter Stewardship Statements that are being mailed out to all our parishioners.

FOR PONDERING: The essence of Christianity is summed up in one mind-boggling sentence: **Jesus Christ is God** (John 10:30). Not just part God, or sent by God, or related to God. *He is God!*

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: Following services, our Philoptochos Society will be collecting donations for **the flowers of the Epitaphio** for Good Friday. Just like everything else today, these costs have gone up. Please give generously!

Lambathes-Candle Sale today in the lobby of the Great Hall following worship.

Monthly Meeting for our St. Helen's Philoptochos Society is Tuesday April 13th, 6:30 p.m. Please note the day change!

The Palm Sunday Preparations of making the Palm Crosses and preparing the Bay Leaves for distribution will take place on the Saturday of Lazarus, April 24th, following the worship services of the day in the Gold Room. Volunteers are needed! Whether you are a member of Philoptochos or not, one of our youth members or senior citizens, your help is needed. Come one and all, and assist the Philoptochos in preparing these items to be blessed and distributed among the faithful.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale featuring delicious Greek pastries and specialties will be held on Sunday, April 25th after worship services for Palm Sunday in the lobby of the Great Hall. Pre-orders are being taken through Sunday, April 11th. Order forms are available through the church office or our Cathedral website. For further information, please contact Frances Klimis at 219-696-4851.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: Registration for the Lent Faith Box is now open. Sign up at tinyurl.com/lentfaithbox.

Each month, families will have the opportunity to register to receive a box packed with activities, readings, discussion questions and games for the whole family! Families can pick up their box after church on Sunday, at the monthly Youth Night, or during the week and complete the different elements at their own pace. That way, everybody can have a few no-stress, faith-centered family nights each month focused on a particular Christian virtue. Just open the box, and the work is done! Contact Fr. Dimitri if you have any questions.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Along with our usual needs of canned goods, boxed foods, and cleaning items, our Food Pantry is seeking donations of hams for Easter. Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or left at the church office during the week. Ham donations should be brought to church by April 9th. For more information regarding our Food Pantry, contact Karen Petalas at the Ross Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

LAMB RAFFLE: GOYA will be raffling off two Pascha lambs during the Lenten season to raise money for their scholarship fund. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five tickets. Sales are ongoing each Sunday of Lent in the Hall lobby. Tickets can also be purchased online at <https://tithelive.com/event-registration/#/3389608>. The winners will be drawn on Palm Sunday, April 25th and will be announced on the church's Facebook Page and in the Sunday bulletin. Call Susan Tsagris at 219-617-4483 with any questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 25th

Orthodox Easter (Pascha) – Sunday, May 2nd

Ss. Constantine & Helen Vespers – Thursday, May 20th

Ss. Constantine & Helen Feast Day – Friday, May 21st

Grecian Festival – Friday, Saturday & Sunday, July 9th, 10th & 11th

Memorials will not be celebrated on the following Sundays in 2021: April 25th, May 2nd & 9th, June 20th, August 15th, and November 21st

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for the Order of AHEPA, GOYA, Cathedral, Novak Family Foundation, and the Panagiotis Proimos Memorial Scholarships are available in the church office or on our church website. All high school seniors of our Cathedral are eligible. To be considered for one of the scholarships, pick up/print an application, fill it out and return it to the church office by their deadlines. For more information, see Fr. Ted.

IF YOU CAN BELIEVE: In the Gospel lesson today, the father whose sick child was brought for healing said to Jesus, **“If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.”** Now that was a very sad *if*; it was a misplaced *if*. The father placed that *if* against God's great power. “If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus responded immediately, “Not if I can,” He said, “but if you can. I have the compassion and the pity and the power to heal, but do you have the ability to believe?” If only the father would believe, healing would be possible.

We can apply these words to ourselves. How often do we say: if Jesus can save me from the power of sin! No! He can save you from the power of sin *if* you can believe. If Jesus can deliver me from this temptation! No! He can deliver you from that temptation *if* you can believe. If Jesus can see me through the terrible crisis! No! He can see you through your terrible crisis *if* you can believe. The great *if* is not on God's side but on our side, on our ability to believe. This is the only limitation to God's power. That is the only *if* in the matter. The other side – God's side – is certain, absolutely certain. God has an everlasting love that did not stop even at the cross.

“If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us. And Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes!’” (Mark 9:23).

CLIMBING UPWARD: Each year, our Holy Orthodox Church dedicates the 4th Sunday of the Great Fast to the Venerable **JOHN CLIMACUS**, or “*John of the Ladder*” as he is also commonly called. John was the Abbot of the famous Monastery of St. Catherine on Mt. Sinai. Before dying in 603 A.D., he wrote a spiritual treatise – “*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*” – which is still considered a classic writing in regards to the struggles we ALL face in our attempts to reach the Kingdom of Heaven. The book is divided into 30 chapters, or “*steps*,” which describe the journey from sinfulness to perfection, and the ultimate reward of salvation that this spiritual “*climb*” brings about.

The icon depicting “*The Ladder of Divine Ascent*” is a frightening one. It shows the agony and eternal punishment that awaits those who fall off at various stages of their climb. Indeed only the spiritually strong will be able to reach their intended destination!

We must note, however, that we do not make this difficult journey alone. As we seek the Kingdom of Heaven, we can either be a **HELP** or a **HINDRANCE** to those around us. Many have found themselves dragged down by the sinful behavior of others. By the same token, the righteousness and goodness of others have served as a source of inspiration to those who may have otherwise “fallen by the wayside” without the proper guidance and example set by those around them.

Let us give this some thought today. Are we aiding our neighbors in their quest for the Kingdom of Heaven, or are we contributing to their untimely demise? Let us rise to the challenge of living the proper Orthodox Christian life every step of the way!

SAINT OF THE DAY – ANTIPAS, BISHOP OF PERGAMOS: Antipas was the first Christian martyr in Asia Minor. Antipas and John the Theologian worked side by side converting large groups of idol worshippers to Christianity. John later called one of their idol temples the place of Satan in the Book of Revelation. Together, they broke the centuries old tradition of idol worship. John left Antipas as Bishop of Pergamos when he moved on in his apostolic journeys. Because of his alarming success of pagan conversions, Antipas was brought before the magistrate. In a battle cry heard even today, the magistrate reasoned that tradition was more important than the new Christian religion. Antipas showed that the traditions of the Old Testament prophecies foretold of Jesus, and related also the parables and life of Jesus. When the magistrate saw that his own arguments were lacking, he ceased all reasoning, and gave Antipas the choice of death or idol worship. Antipas chose death. He was cast into a bronze bull that had been heated exceedingly. It was here he met his martyrdom. The Evangelist John writes of him: **“I know thy works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast My Name, and did not deny My faith, even in those days which in Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells”** (Revelation 2:13).