



Holy Cross-Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

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Bulletin for Sunday, April 14, 2024

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 103.24,1.

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

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.

Gospel Reading

Sunday of St. John Climacus

The Reading is from Mark 9:17-31

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."

Hymns of the Day

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 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!"

Apolytikion for Sun. of St. John Climacus in the Eighth 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.

Apolytikia for the Church in the First Mode

Save O Lord, Your people, and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by your cross protecting your common wealth.

Tou Stavrou' Sou ton ti'pon en ourano' theasa'menos ke os o Pa'vlos tin kli'sin ouk ex anthro'pon dexa'menos, o en vasilev'sin Apo'stolos Sou Ki'rie vasile'vousan po'lin ti hiri' Sou pare'theto, in peri'soze dia pantos' en iri'ni, presvi'es tis Theoto'kou mo'ne philan'thrope.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Eighth 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.

Services and Events

Parish Calendar

April 14 to April 28, 2024

Sunday, April 14

9:00AM Orthros
10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 17

6:00PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 18

7:00AM Mens Fellowship
10:15AM Bible Study
6:30PM Catechism Class

Friday, April 19

6:30PM Akathist Hymn

Saturday, April 20

5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, April 21

9:00AM Orthros
10:00AM Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 24

6:00PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 25

7:00AM Mens Fellowship
10:15AM Bible Study
6:30PM Catechism Class

Saturday, April 27

10:00AM Saturday of Lazarus
5:30PM Great Vespers

Sunday, April 28

9:00AM Orthros
9:00AM Palm Sunday
10:00AM Divine Liturgy
6:00PM Bridegroom Service

News and Announcements

Parish News:

The Lenten sign-up sheets are located in the Parish Hall. We are collecting donations for our Lenten needs, including, palms, flowers for the

tomb of Christ, flowers for Sunday of the Holy Cross and otherservices, etc. Please give your donations to Helena Xenofos or Patricia Tiller.

We welcome Christopher Phillips (Edward) to the Orthodox Faith. Ray and Vickie Kendall were his sponsors.

Palm Sunday Luncheon: Sign-up sheet for the Palm Sunday luncheon is in the Parish Hall. Please sign up if you plan to attend this Philoptochos hosted fish luncheon. Adult plates are \$10 and children's are \$5. We need a headcount to know how much fish to order so please sign-up by April 21.

The old playground will be replaced with a new swingset, etc for our children. A big thank you to those who worked to get the old one down. If you would like to make a donation toward this equipment, please see Patricia Tiller.

Saint Stephens camp registration is still open. Please see their website if you are interested for summer session dates and details (Week 2 and 3 are still available to register for) <https://atlmeteropolis.org/st-stephens-summer-camp>. Our parish offers a stipend to help defray the cost of those children who want to attend camp.

Mark Your Calendars!

April 13th - Philoptochos Brunch at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

April 27th - Saturday of Lazarus Pancake Breakfast and Youth Retreat following the Divine Liturgy

April 28th - Palm Sunday Luncheon

May 18th - Saturday at 11:00-3:00 North Precient Block Party

May 19th - Sunday following the Liturgy- High School Graduate Recognition

September 29th - Liturgy at Monte Sano Mountain

October 3-5 - Greek Festival Holy Trinity Holy Cross Birmingham

Prayer List:

If you know anyone who is sick, in the hospital, nursing home, rehab center, or shut in, and needs a visit from Father Elias, please let him know.

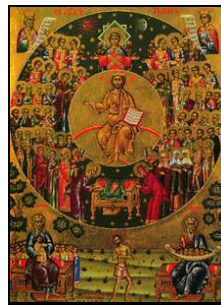
In our prayers: Anne Pappas Eadon (sister of Rick Pappas), Rick Pappas, James Likis (father of Angela Leak), Matthew (nephew of Staci Jones), Jackie Burbules, Doug "Rosey" Rosenburg, Eugene and Joan (parents of Laura Samaras), Nathan Sterrett, Ray Hale, Constance Kersch, George Gray, Maria Diminova, Pavlos Honderich, David Shular.

Father Elias is available to meet with you at the Church office, discussing any questions or just for fellowship. You can contact him by text (251) 281-7691 or by email at freliasstevens@me.com

Saints and Feasts

April 15

Crescens the Martyr



This Martyr was from Myra of Lycia, born of an illustrious family. Of his own accord he went amidst the idolaters and admonished them to leave off their futile religion and worship the only true God, Who is worshipped by the Christians;

for this he was arrested. When asked by the ruler what his name and lineage were, the Saint would answer only that he was a Christian; counseled to offer sacrifice to the idols, he refused. For this, he was hung up and beaten, was scraped, and then was cast into fire, in which he gave up his holy soul into the hands of God, though not even the hair of his head was harmed by the flames.

April 14

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.

Wisdom of the Fathers

Seest thou how He now proceeds to lay beforehand in them the foundation of His doctrine about fasting? ... See, at any rate, how many blessings spring from them both. For he that is praying as he ought, and fasting, hath not many wants, and he that hath not many wants, cannot be covetous; ...

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17,4,5. B#54, pp.355,356., 4th Century

... he that is not covetous, will be also more disposed for almsgiving. He that fasts is light, and winged, and prays with wakefulness, and quenches his wicked lusts, and propitiates God, and humbles his soul when lifted up. Therefore even the apostles were almost always fasting.

St. John Chrysostom

Homily 57 on Matthew 17,4,5. B#54, pp.355,356., 4th Century