

Parish Announcements

- **Sunday School:** Classes will meet today following coffee hour.
- **Service Schedule:** Additional services will take place this week as follows:
 - Wednesday** – Presanctified Liturgy (6 PM)
 - Thursday** – Little Compline, Great Canon of Repentance, and Life of St. Mary of Egypt (5 PM)
 - Friday** – Akathist to the Theotokos (6:30 PM)
- **Spring Retreat and Pilgrimage Led by Bishop Thomas:** A spiritual retreat and ministry meeting for the Eastern Dioceses will take place from Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 14 at Antiochian Village. His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph, will be presiding on Friday evening, and several events will take place over the course of the weekend. Please see <http://ww1.antiochian.org/antiochianvillagenews> and <https://www.antiochianvillage.org/antiochian-archdiocese-meetings-events/> for further information.
- **Visit by Bishop Thomas** (April 22): Bishop Thomas will be celebrating Holy Monday services with us this year.
- **Agape Vespers Signup:** If interested in reading the Gospel in another language for Agape Vespers, please see the signup sheet in the narthex.
- **Flowers for Pascha:** Please consider bringing a white flower or two on Holy Saturday to decorate the church for Pascha night (Ginny C. will coordinate beautification efforts). Any white lilies, tulips, daffodils, green houseplants, or similar specimens would be wonderful.
- **Orthodoxy 101:** Classes will continue on Saturdays at 4 PM, concluding on April 20.
- **Wednesday Night Potlucks:** Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays during Lent will each be followed by a potluck meal.

Ways to Get Involved

- **Lenten Charity Boxes:** Boxes for Lenten almsgiving are now available at church. They will be collected on Palm Sunday.
- **DERD Syrian Relief Program:** For details on contributing to relief efforts, see <http://antiochian.org/syrian-relief-program-introducing-derd>.
- **West Chester Food Cupboard:** We are now collecting **canned fruit, boxed pasta, and spaghetti sauce**. Please place your donations in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!

Sunday, April 7, 2019



HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarchy

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Daniel Meyer

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment

*For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Four

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation – and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of St. John Climacus in Tone Eight

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears, and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion for Great Lent in Tone Eight

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror – but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free; from all forms of danger free me and deliver me that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen Laurie W.; Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Amira S., Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen David S.; Cindy (Mark R.'s sister, recent hospitalization); Kyle F.'s family (friends of Johnny B.); Seraphim B.; Kathy A. (cancer and stomach); Jeff K. (recovering from knee surgery); Marlan A.; Alexandra C.; Sue (Yiannis B.'s aunt, undergoing chemotherapy); Tom (Yiannis B.'s uncle); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Erik (Joanna S.'s family); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Patty Y. (recovering from accident); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

DEPARTED:

Henrietta (Fr. Daniel's great-aunt)
Metropolitan Philip (5-year memorial)
Kyle F. (friend of Johnny B.)
Those killed in recent natural disasters
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world



Commemoration of St. John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder"

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul 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 by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one 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 forever after the order of Melchizedek.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "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 Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus 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 Jesus, 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 Thou canst 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." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, 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 Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus 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 Jesus would not have anyone 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 after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

Did you know ...

Do not say, after spending a long time in prayer, that nothing has been gained; for you have already gained something. And what higher good is there than to cling to the Lord and persevere in unceasing union with Him?



St. John Climacus (Step 28.29)

