

EPISTLE 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.

TODAY'S READER: MANOLI ANAGNOSTIADES

GOSPEL Mark 9:17-31

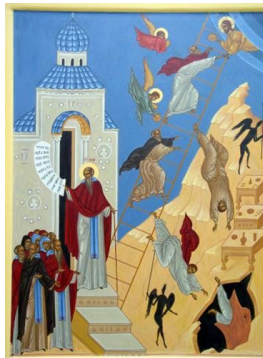
AT THAT TIME, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "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."

ALSO COMMEMORATED : ST. JOSEPH THE HYMNOGRAPHER



Saint Joseph the Hymnographer, "the sweet-voiced nightingale of the Church," was born in Sicily in 816 into a pious Christian family. His parents, Plotinos and Agatha, moved to the Peloponnesos to save themselves from barbarian invasions. When he was fifteen, St Joseph went to Thessalonica and entered the monastery of Latomos. He was distinguished by his piety, his love for work, his meekness, and he gained the good will of all the brethren of the monastery. He was later ordained as a priest. Most of the Canons in the MENAION are St Joseph's work. His name may be found in the Ninth Ode as an acrostic. He also composed many of the hymns in the PARAKLETIKE.

PRAYER LIST: Constantina Speris, Spiro Gianniotis, Ralph Vallone, Christopher Bacas, **Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf**, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, George Virvan, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, Maureen Shriver, Tiffany Keiker, Mary O'Hara, William Coulopoulos, Matina Mantis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios, Private Louis Tiches, EG Robert Stock, and PFC Brett Hughes.



FROM THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT BY ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

"Repentance, that is our return to God is renewal of our baptism; it is our effort to renew our covenant with God, our promise to change our life. It is a time when we can acquire humility, that is peace; peace with God, peace with ourselves, peace with all the created world. Repentance is born of hope and rejection of despair. And one who repents, is one who deserves condemnation - and yet, goes away from the tribunal without shame, because repentance is our peace with God. And this is achieved through a worthy life, alien to the sins we committed in the past. Repentance is cleansing of our conscience. Repentance implies carrying off all sadness and pain. Don't use in prayer falsely wise words; because it is often the simple and uncomplicated whispering of children that rejoices our heavenly Father. Don't try to say much when you speak to God, because otherwise your mind in search of words will be lost in them. One word spoken by the publican brought Divine mercy upon him; one word filled with faith saved the thief on the cross. The use of the multiplicity of words when we pray disperses our mind and fill it with imaginations. One word spoken to God collects the mind in His presence. And if a word, in thy prayer, reaches you deeply, if you perceive it profoundly - dwell in it, dwell in it, because at such moments our Angel guardian prays with us because we are true to ourselves and to God".



APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS

Thou didst prove to be a freeman of the desert, an angel in a body, and a wonder-worker, O our God-bearing Father John. By fasting, vigil and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of those who have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him Who gave thee strength, glory to Him Who crowned thee, glory to Him Who works through thee healings for all.

DIVINE SERVICES THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 6: Presanctified Liturgy followed by Lenten supper and presentation by Fr. Steven Zorzos, Proistamenos of St. Sophia's Cathedral, who will speak on the ultimate transformation of the Cross and Resurrection.

Friday, April 8: The Akathist Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos 7:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Juliet Eleni Peper (40 Days)**, requested by Stella and Scott Peper; for **George Chapin (9 Years)**, requested by his daughter Marian (Jeff) Williams; for **George Kavoukas (9 Years)**, requested by his brothers Triantafillos and Nick and their families; and for **Michael Ioannou (21 Years)**, requested by Andriana Kyriakides, his daughter, and her family. May their memories be eternal!

40-DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day Blessing will be given to the child **Markos Pavlos**, son of Mihalis and Georgia Mastronikolas. God grant him many years!



SOMETHING TO PONDER....

Did you ever stop to reflect on whether our faith community is being faithful to its essential and primary mission as part of the universal Orthodox Church? It's good, on a regular basis, to ask that challenging question. Metropolitan Hierotheos, a contemporary spiritual Father, reminds us in clear and unambiguous terms: "*The most dangerous of all, is when the Church is downgraded to a busy organization, involved in all things but 'the one thing needful' — the spiritual healing and cure of the soul. All else must flow from this primary purpose and vision.*" This is something important to consider during these reflective days of the Great Fast.



PARISH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

ALTAR BOY RETREAT

On Sunday, April 10th, there will be an altar boy retreat after the Divine Liturgy from 12:00-1:30 p.m. We will be going over the Holy Week services. Lunch will be provided to all participants. Please RSVP to Fr. George at frgeorge@stgeorge.org, or call the church office at (301) 469-7990.

QUILT-A-THON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for our 2nd Annual Quilt-A-Thon, (APRIL 9TH, 8:30 A.M.) to make homemade quilts for at-risk babies and small children in our area hospitals. You do not need to know how to sew! We need help to cut, pin, measure and tie square knots. Fabric and supplies will be provided by The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Saint George. Please bring your own lunch. If you are interested in participating please contact Adrienne Barris 703/827-5757 or Stephanie Wilde 301/983-0879.

VOLUNTEERS CRITICALLY NEEDED FOR SPRING FESTIVAL

Our Spring Festival is May 6-8. We need volunteers to help prepare food for the event. PLEASE sign up to help on the sheets that have been placed on the community bulletin board in the main corridor. **WE NEED HELP!** Very few people have signed up to help. The festival is a success insofar as everyone pitches in. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEETS!! *The Domades preparation is on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2 from 9:00a.m. until 6:00p.m. We need 15 to 20 people over the weekend to prepare.*

“SOCRATES” SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

High School Seniors: We are accepting applications for the “Socrates” Scholarship of the Greek School of St. George for Academic Excellence, Greek Language and Community Service. We are giving two awards, one for the Friday Greek School and one for the Saturday. The deadline for sending the application is April 16, 2011. You will find all the forms at www.stgeorge.org. If you need more information, please contact Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or michaelkaterinap@gmail.com

50 PLUS CLUB

At the April 13th meeting, Dr. Nicholas Patronas of the National Institutes of Health, will speak on *Medical Imaging in the Evaluation of Diseases in the Aged Population*. Join us for this informative lecture. On April 27, Basil Assimakopoulos will give a presentation entitled: *My Life in Constantinople and Byzantium*. Are are cordially invited to attend.

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing weekly and year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

March 23 through March 29, 2011

Income \$14,523.00*
Expenses \$ 22.71**

January 1 through March 29, 2011

Income \$244,409.55*
Expenses \$247,435.74**

* - Includes any income from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, General Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, and Harbor School Rent.

** - Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative > items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Archdiocese Stewardship, For those Who Serve, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, Liturgical, Maintenance, Mortgage Interest, Program Expenses, Taxes & Insurance, and Utilities.

APRIL 3, 2011

SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Holy father John, most glorious, * you shed a well-spring of tears, * and your soul thus was purified; * you propitiated God * by your standing in prayer all night. * Thus given wings, you ascended to His love * and to His beauty, all blessed as you are; * which now you worthily * are enjoying endlessly as you rejoice * with your fellow athlete-monks, * O godly-minded Saint.

Holy father John, as one devout, * when you had lifted your mind * unto God on the wings of faith * you despised the turbulence * of the world and its transience. * And on your shoulders you took up your own Cross * and followed after the Lord who sees all things. * Then the unruly flesh * you subordinated to your pious thought, * through ascetic exercise, * by the divine Spirit's might. *(From the Praises at Matins for St. John)*

Resurrection Apolytikion

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Resurrection Kontakion

Savior and Deliverer is He who raised up from the tomb and from the bonds those born on earth, for He is God; and He destroyed Hades' bars and gates, and on the third day arose, as the Master of all.

Seasonal Kontakion

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

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