

# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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**March 29, 2020**

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Tone 8  
 St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)  
 Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa



## From the Fathers...

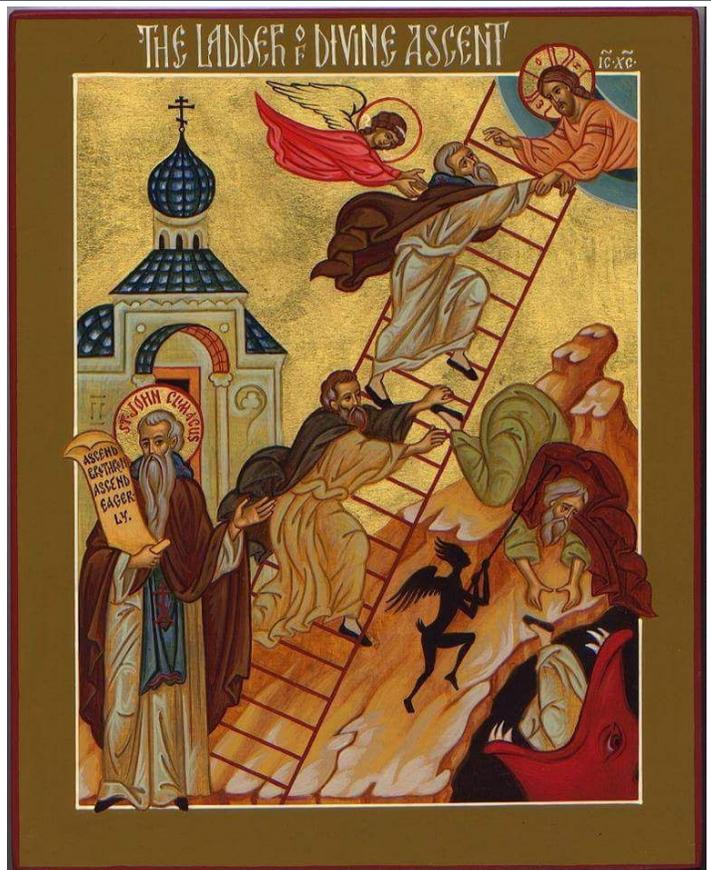
“And so let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us, secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God.”

- St. Basil the Great



## Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



The Lord's praises were always on thy lips, O holy Father John./ With deep wisdom thou didst search the Scriptures,/ which teach us to deny ourselves./ Thou didst become rich in the blessings of grace, // overthrowing the craftiness of the devil.

Thou didst wash thy soul in a fountain of tears, O most glorious Father John, / keeping vigil for God and gaining His mercy./ Upborne on the wings of prayer, thou didst fly to divine love and beauty./ Now, together with thy fellow soldiers, O holy one, // thou dwellest in His spiritual light and unending joy.

On the wings of faith thou didst raise thy mind to God, O holy Father John./ Hating the world's confusion and vanity, / thou didst take up thy cross and didst follow Him Who sees all things./ Thou didst submit thy rebellious flesh to His guidance, through the discipline of self-denial, // by the power of the Holy Spirit. *(Stichera of Lord, I Call)*

## TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Resurrection Troparion in Tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial/ to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### Great Martyr George Troparion in Tone 4

As deliverer of captives/ and defender of the poor;/ healer of the infirm,/ champion of kings;/ victorious Great Martyr George,/ intercede with Christ our God; for our souls' salvation.

### St. John Climacus Troparion in Tone 1

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,/ thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John./ Thou didst receive heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer,/ healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to thee by faith./ Glory to Him Who gave thee strength!// Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!// Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

### Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam./ Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### Great Martyr George Kontakion in Tone 4

As we the faithful flee to thee for refuge and seek thy protection and speedy help,/ We entreat thee, O Champion of Christ, that we who sing thy praises may be delivered from the snares of the enemy/ and from every peril and adversary, that we may cry: "Rejoice, O martyr George!"

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.*

### St. John Climacus Kontakion in Tone 4

The Lord truly set thee on the heights of abstinence,/ to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our father and teacher John.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate before the Creator;/ despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,/ but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you!

### Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

### Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring

him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 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!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him.

And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

## THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

**Sunday, March 29th**

**10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Live Stream)**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)*

Hebrews 6:13-20, Ephesians 5:9-19

Mark 9:17-31, Matthew 4:25-5:12

**Monday, March 30th**

*Ven. John Climacus of Sinai*

*St. Sophrony, Bishop of Irkutsk*

Genesis 13:12-18, Proverbs 14:27-15:4

**Tuesday, March 31st**

*Repose of St. Innocent, Apostle to America*

*Repose of St. Jonah, Metropolitan of Moscow*

Genesis 15:1-15, Proverbs 15:7-19

Hebrews 7:26-8:2, John 10:9-16

**Wednesday, April 1st**

**6:00 PM Presanctified Liturgy (Live Stream)**

*Ven. Mary of Egypt*

*Ven. Euthymius of Suzdal*

Genesis 17:1-9, Proverbs 15:20-16:9

**Thursday, April 2nd**

**6:00 PM Canon of St. Andrew (Canceled)**

*Ven. Titus the Wonderworker*

*Martyr Polycarp of Alexandria*

Genesis 18:20-33, Proverbs 16:17-17:17

**Friday, April 3rd**

**6:00 PM Akathist (Canceled)**

*Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion*

*Virgin Martyr Theodosia of Tyre, and Martyr Irene*

Genesis 22:1-18, Proverbs 17:17-18:5

**Saturday, April 4th**

**5:00 PM Great Vespers (Live Stream)**

*Fifth Saturday of Lent - Saturday of the Akathist*

*Ven. Joseph the Hymnographer*

Hebrews 9:1-7, Hebrews 9:24-28

Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28, Mark 8:27-31

**Sunday, April 5th**

**10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Live Stream)**

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

*St. Mary of Egypt*

Hebrews 6:13-20, Ephesians 5:9-19

Mark 9:17-31, Matthew 4:25-5:12

### A Practical Guide

For Participating in Church Services that are Livestreamed

When physical church participation is not possible, the faithful in addition to the daily cycle of prayer, are encouraged to participate in livestreamed church services from their own homes.

Participating in church services at home may pose challenges. Here are some simple tips to get you started.

- Before**
  - Find a part of the home with limited distractions and setup the following items (when available):
    - A vigil lamp
    - An incense burner
    - An icon/s
    - A prayer rope
    - Flowers and/or adornments
    - Books to follow the service
    - A chair (if needed)
  - Complete tasks and prayers you usually would before attending church. This includes all your preparation pre-communion prayers if you will be viewing Divine Liturgy. Remember, the clergy are offering the liturgy on your behalf, even though you are not physically present.
  - Dress respectfully, be clothed as if you have a visitor in your home.
  - Tell family and members of the household the service will be starting.
  - Get the technology ready. Close apps or notifications that may interrupt viewing.
- During**
  - Stand when possible, at least as you would if you were at church.
  - Listen and follow the words of the clergy and chanters. You may find new meanings as you pray in this context.
  - Direct your prayer to God that He may liberate us from the threat of this pandemic, and for those who are afflicted by it.
  - If the technology fails, do not become impatient or angry. Resort to books and prayer.
- After**
  - Give thanks to God that you have been given the means to worship Him in these times. Give thanks for the priests who are able to offer the divine services on your behalf.
  - After the Divine Liturgy, complete post-communion prayers.
  - You may want to contact family or friends. In these circumstances, it is valuable to have verbal interactions and to encourage and give strength to one another. Greet and interact as you usually would after a service.
  - Send constructive feedback to the priest and the technology team about the streaming service so that improvements can be made for future services.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

**Guidance for COVID-19**

**Cancellation of Services and Events**

All parish events and activities, including Coffee Hour, Church School, and the rest, and all “extra” services including Sunday Evening Pan-Orthodox Vespers **through Sunday, April 12th**, at which point we will adjust as the situation warrants.

Those services that are allowed will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

**Attendance at Services**

Attendance at services is **limited only to those who need to be there**: the priest, a server, a reader, and a chanter. Everyone else is strongly encouraged to remain at home and pray for a speedy end to this outbreak and for those who are currently ill and who care for the ill. Pray for the repose of those who have died. Pray for our leaders as they navigate these days so that we might not share the same fate Italy.

**Confessions and Visitations**

Confessions will not be offered at this time. Due to restrictions put in place by hospitals, visitations are limited only to those who are very sick or dying.

**Stewardship**

*We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Checks can be mailed directly to the church.*

**Heartbeat of Toledo**

We have been informed that Heartbeat of Toledo has been forced to cancel their upcoming fundraiser in April and have been hit particularly hard with the recent economic downturn. We will continue collecting monetary donations for Heartbeat of Toledo through the remainder of Lent. Checks can be sent to the church and made out to St. George Cathedral (memo line “Heartbeat of Toledo”). Please give generously to this worthwhile cause.

**New Look for StGeorgeRossford.org**

Have you seen our new website? After many months of diligent work, the new website went live this week. Please take time to take a look and explore the new features. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

**Lenten Psalter Prayer Group**

We are asked to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). What better way than through the Psalms? The Hospitality Committee is excited to continue the spiritual practice of praying the Psalter this Lenten season. Contact Cindy Hopper or Sarah Allen for any questions.

**Stewardship**

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Checks can be mailed directly to the church.

**We are praying for...**

**Health and Well-Being:**

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

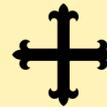
**Catechumens:**

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



**Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit today by the Beleny Family in honor of David Beleny’s 25th birthday. May God grant you many years!



**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:**

Tanya Thompson (3/30)  
Jessica Geib (3/31)  
Cyril Yonov (4/3)

**Name’s Days:**

Svetlana Bulgakova (4/2)  
Svetlana Kalinina (4/2)

