



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
 Weekly Newsletter
 Sunday, April 11, 2021

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Hebrews 6:13-20

Mark 9:17-31

Upcoming Meetings

- Choir – Tues 4/6, 7pm
In person practice
- Parish Council – Sun 4/11, 1:30pm
Office will send Zoom link

Catechumen Class:

The inquirer/catechumen class is weekly on Saturday at 6:30pm. [Click here for the Google meeting link.](#)

Philly OCF

- Meeting – Monday 4/5, 8pm
[Zoom link](#)
Mtg ID # 835 2215 9264
Password: Fellowship
- Bible study - Tuesday 4/13, 11am
[Zoom link](#)
Mtg ID #880 5713 0161
Password: Scripture

End of Year Finance Report:

The 2020 Finance Report is now available. If you are interested in receiving a copy, [please contact the office.](#)

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
 - **Tuesday 4/6** – Matins 9am and Akathist 7pm
 - **Wednesday 4/7** – Presanctified, 6:30pm
 - **Thursday 4/8** – 3rd Hour, 9am
 - **Friday 4/9** – Akathist, 6:30pm
 - **Saturday 4/10** – Vespers, 5pm
 - **Sunday 4/11** – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
 - **Monday 4/12** – Compline 6pm
- To attend one of the services listed above at the church, please sign up via Sign Up Genius ([April services](#)). When doing so, please keep in mind the following:
 - reserve the number of slots for family members attending (For example, if there are 3 household members attending, reserve 3 slots.)
 - those who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or currently are not feeling well are asked to remain home.
 - children who are too young to keep a mask on are asked to remain home.
- To set up a time to receive communion, please sign up via the [Sign Up Genius](#). Please reserve only one slot per household unit. Prior to arriving at the church for communion, please say the [Morning Prayers](#) and the [Prayers of Preparation before Communion](#).
- Confession is also being scheduled by appointment. To set up an appointment, please email the church office and provide a few dates/times you are available. The office will email you to confirm your appointment time.

Troparion of St. George

O liberator and deliverer of captives, helper of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

If you attend a service, you must wear a mask/face covering out of care for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors.

Antiochian Village Summer Camp Registration

Summer camp will be in person for 2021! For more information about changes for this year, visit the [Antiochian Village's website](#). Registration is now open.

Youth Zoom Townhall: Meet Your Bishop!

The Assembly of Bishops has declared 2021 as the "Year of the Youth" and have organized virtual townhalls for the youth to meet bishops by region. The session for the Northeast region will be held on Tuesday, April 13, at 7pm. To register, [visit the Assembly of Bishops website](#). Registrants must be children or teens (age 18 or under).

John Climacus

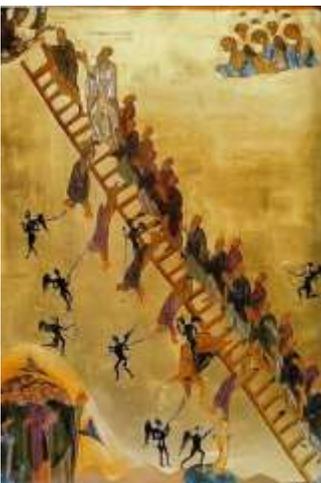
The symbolic ascent to heaven is customarily portrayed by the flight skyward with angelic wings; one of our saints, however, depicts the ascension by the more practical use of a ladder. This symbolic ladder is to be scaled in a series of spiritual rungs where increasingly more exertion is required in order to see the Kingdom of God. The author of this approach was St. John of the Ladder who was one of the greatest writers in Christianity. "The Ladder of Perfection" is a treatise on spiritual exercises and actions, which present in a brilliant and scholarly fashion and approach to the throne of Heaven.

Born in the sixth century, John spent the first sixteen years of his life in Palestine, the ancient Holy Land of his birth whose traditions he respected and whose Christian heritage is cherished. His early ambitions were realized when he went to the monastery of St. Catherine at Mt. Sinai, the oldest Christian monastery in the world. There he became one of the most scholarly monks in Christendom. The site of St. Catherine's was conducive to prayer and meditation, for there the scene of the burning bush took place and there Moses received the word of God himself. Moreover, to this place the grieving St. Helen, mother of St. Constantine the Great, came on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land some three hundred years before.

John is remembered not only as the author of the masterful "Ladder of Perfection," but also as the originator of hesychasm, the divine quietness that leads one to God through constant prayer, the prayer which has come to

be known as the pure or intellectual "Jesus Prayer." Regarding this John wrote: "Let the remembrance of Jesus be present with each breath, and then you will know the value of hesychia." He continued to champion this doctrine which found eager support among Christian thinkers, chief among them was St. Gregory Palamas, whose sponsorship brought about official Church recognition of hesychasm in the fourteenth century.

For more than seventy years, John of the Ladder practiced what he preached in the confines of his desert monastery. He achieved such a reputation for piety and wisdom that men from all walks of life were drawn to his side and came from all over the east to make a pilgrimage to his retreat. From John's strong faith and fervent prayer came the power of healing through the divine intervention of the Jesus. If nothing else, St. John's visitors would leave him with a serenity which they had never before experienced and with a sense of fulfillment that would last a lifetime.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

April Feast: Palm Sunday (April 25)

April 4

- Elementary school: Ask Abouna
- Middle school: At home resources
- High school: Class (via Zoom)

April 11

- Elementary school: At Home Resources
- Middle school: Class (via Zoom)
- High school: Ask Abouna (3pm)

April 18

- Elementary school: Class (via Zoom)
- Middle school: Ask Abouna
- High school: At home resources

April 25

No Sunday School