

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MARCH 22, 2015**



**STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND  
IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos  
Jimmy Smith, Psaltis**

**3074 Bethelview Road † Cumming GA 30040  
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**We are an intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia!**

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# WORSHIP

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*We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.*



*The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.*

*The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind.*

*Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas anything you wish after the service.*

*At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the "blessed bread" from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church "hungry!"*

*Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.  
May God bless you and your family.*

*Your Servant,*

*Father Barnabas*

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## TODAY WE REMEMBER

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### SUNDAY OF OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS) OF SINAI, AUTHOR OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

**Tone of the week: Plagal of the Fourth Tone  
Eighth Eothinon**

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.

#### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

#### **Apolytikion of Sun. of St. John Climacus**

With the rivers of your tears, you have made the barren desert fertile. Through sighs of sorrow from deep within you, your labors have borne fruit a hundred-fold. By your miracles you have become a light, shining upon the world. O John, our Holy Father, pray to Christ our God, to save our souls.

#### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

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!"

#### ***We Also Remember:***

Basil of Ancyra; Kalliniki & Vassilisa; Euthemios the New Martyr

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# EPISTLE READING

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St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.



Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

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.

Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπει κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὡμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἥ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσότερο βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδειξάι τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσήλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα

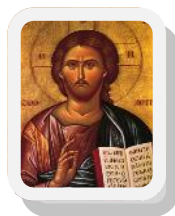
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# GOSPEL READING

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Sunday of St. John Climacus

The Gospel of 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."

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# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

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*Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.*

*Please call the Church office for more information:  
(770) 781-5250.*

**TODAY, March 22nd**    8:45 a.m. **Orthros**  
10 a.m. **Divine Liturgy**  
General Assembly  
8:00 p.m. Radio Program “Feast  
of the Annunciation”

**Wed., March 25th**    10:00 a.m. Scripture Study  
6:30 p.m. **Presanctified Liturgy Service**

**Fri., March 27th**    7:00 p.m. **Salutation to the Theotokos**

**Sat. March 28th**    5:00 p.m. **Great Vespers**



**Parish Council of 2015:**

*John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President;  
David Chapman, Secretary; Chris Foxhall, Treasurer;  
Anthony Birozes, Kosta Bozzuto, Marie Chapman, Helen McCart, Johnny  
Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias, Len Vanerstrom*

***For Today:***

*Ushers: Members of Parish Council  
Welcoming Ministry: Mildred Zourzoukis  
Fellowship Ministry: Diane Walters*

***Acolytes:***

*Jacob and Jimmy Atkinson, David Druffner, Mike & Peter Jordanopolos, Spiro  
Kefalas, Christos Kaloudis, Thomas Miller, Jacob Sparks, Mike Trainor, Alex &  
Niko Tzevelekos, Christos Zourzoukis — Senior Acolytes: Johnny Melts, Mike  
Manos, Dean Pryles*

**PLEASE SEE THE EVENTS CALENDAR FOR ALL  
UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS**



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*Singers and Chanters: Anthony Birozes, David Boyd, Marie Chapman, Lynn Lucher, Jimmy Smith*

## **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone:**

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

## **Apolytikion for the Saint in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone:**

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.

## **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone:**

O Champion General, I your City now ascribe 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

## **Please Pray for the following individuals:**

S and K Wilson; L. Pappas; P. Vamvakias

(If you would like to add somebody to the prayer list, please send an email to [officeadmin@stsrni.org](mailto:officeadmin@stsrni.org))



Jim & Angie Andropoulos  
Sarante & Julie Athenson  
Deane & Stephen Barnard  
Anthony & Mary Birozes  
Mabel Antigone Birozes  
Renee Birozes  
Deborah Bowen  
David & Michelle Boyd  
Kosta & Carolyn Bozzuto  
Athena Catapano  
David & Marie Chapman  
Giles & Emily Christie  
Rick & Jan Christy  
Connie Condos  
John & Shelia Consos  
Keith & Mary Druffner  
Quay & Trissie Farr  
Chris & Liz Foxhall  
William & Hayley Fulbright  
Bill & Margaret Gasper  
Rob & Carey Gilbert  
Robert & Jennifer Guano  
Harald & Stamatia Hagen  
Michael & Ann Costakis Hayes  
Steven & Linda Hutka  
Jennie Johnson  
Vasilios & Mary Kaloudis  
Jim Kanellos  
Soula Levendakis &  
Theodoros Kazazakis  
Tasso & Laura Kefalas  
Leon & Frances Lopez  
David & Lynne Lucher  
Archie & Florence Lytle  
Tina Maheras  
Bill & Margaret Manos  
Bill & Audrey Marianes  
Riley Todd & Elizabeth Marvos  
Al & Helen McCart  
Johnny & Becky Melts  
Bill & Mary Milam  
Matt & Athena Miller  
Nikolaos Moissiadis & Family  
Patricia Morris  
Nick & Teddie Panos  
Constantinos & Evelyn Pantazopoulos  
Gregory Pappas  
Gus Pappas  
John & Evon Patrick  
Michele Perry  
Mihai & Heidi Popa  
Fr. Barnabas & Pres. Connie Powell  
Pam Powers

Vic & Suzi Pryles  
Marina Raymond  
Aftan Romanczak  
Mary Samaltanos  
Dina Sarandis  
Takanori & Kathryn Shoji  
James Smith  
Estelle Sofikitis  
Dennis & Laura Sparks  
O'Brien Statham  
James Stockdill  
Koko & Carol Tadros  
Steven & Thalia Thompson  
Nick & Eva Thrasivoulou  
Ed & Anne Trainor  
Greg & Evie Tzevelekos  
Eleanor Vamvakias  
Plutarch & Tina Vamvakias  
Len Vanerstrom  
Rusty & Christine Waldron  
Tim & Diane Walters  
George & Thalia Zazanis  
John and Mildred Zourzoukis

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