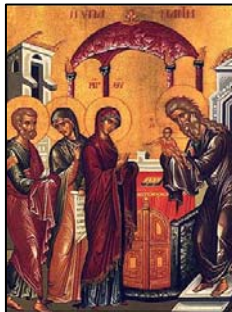
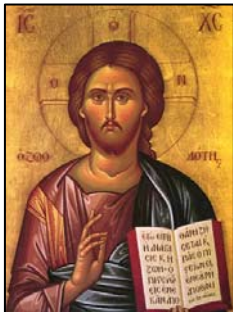




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlmetropolis.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org*

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 15, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE REMEMBER OUR LORD'S PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Apostle Onesimos of the 70 Apostles, Disciple of the Holy Apostle Paul (+109); Righteous Father Eusebios of Syria (+440); and Holy Martyr Maior (Majoros). *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our

mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. ***You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!***

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER THE SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

4. Kontakion for Sunday of the Prodigal Son– (Hymnal-pp.256-259):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: From my Father's glory, I have foolishly turned away. By my sins, I squandered all the riches He gave me. Therefore, like the prodigal, I cry out to Him: I have sinned before You, compassionate Father. Accept my repentance, and take me back again as one of Your hired servants.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES **FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts.

– St. John Chrysostom

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 15:11-32)

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Your commandments." (Psalm 119:73)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

(Excerpt from the Canon of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Sixth Ode: SAVIOR, I AM HELD FAST, IN THE DEPTH OF SIN, OVERWHELMED BY THE SEA OF LIFE. BUT AS YOU BROUGHT JONAH FROM THE BELLY OF THE WHALE, SO BRING ME OUT FROM THE PASSIONS AND SAVE ME!



*GLORY TO YOU, OUR GOD, GLORY
TO YOU!*

The depths of sin ever hold me fast, and the tempest of transgressions overwhelms me! Pilot me, O Christ my God, to the haven of life and save me, King of glory!

I have wasted in evil living the wealth which the Father gave me, and now I am brought to poverty. I am filled with shame and enslaved to fruitless thoughts.

Therefore I cry to You, Lover of humankind: Take pity on me and save me! I am wasted with hunger, deprived of every blessing, and an exile from Your presence. O Christ, supreme in loving kindness, take pity on me now as I return and save me as I sing Your praises, O Lover of humankind!

Theotokion: O Maiden who conceived Christ the Savior and Master, count me worthy of salvation. I lack all good in my poverty, pure Virgin: Grant that I may sing the praises of your majesty!

SAVIOR, I AM HELD FAST, IN THE DEPTH OF SIN, OVERWHELMED BY THE SEA OF LIFE. BUT AS YOU BROUGHT JONAH FROM THE BELLY OF THE WHALE, SO BRING ME OUT FROM THE PASSIONS AND SAVE ME!

Philoptochos Fundraising Baking – THIS Saturday!

Come join us THIS

Saturday, February 21, after the 1st Saturday of the Souls Church Services – from 10:00 a.m. – until we finish...

to prepare Tiropetes & Spanakopites

for our 2009 Spring Fundraiser.

Bring a bag lunch, your pastry brush, and apron.

Please confirm your commitment to be present and assist us by calling Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis, 770/381-1842 today!

We appreciate your help and welcome your efforts. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to bake these delicious Greek appetizers if you have never done so before!

And if you have, we need you!

We also will be following this same schedule after the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of the Souls Church Services on Saturday, February 28, and Saturday, March 7, respectively.

Healthy Parenting Program

Sunday, February 22, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Good parenting isn't hammering our child into a clone or ideal of the "perfect child", but rather, being a partner in helping our young ones to discover what God intends them to be and helping them reach that goal. Good parenting seeks to discover healthier ways to raise our children and be well-functioning adults.

This third installment in Paula Marchman's ongoing series of pastoral support and counseling for our parish starts with an examination of how our children develop in their early years, along with the importance of their relationship with their parents or caregivers. This early growth influences later developmental issues of autonomy and self-esteem, and how they show up in adolescence and young adulthood.

In addition, Paula will examine the importance of healthy boundaries in our families. She will use role plays and interactive discussion to demonstrate the importance of boundaries, structure, discipline, and power in childhood development. In today's world, rather than parents becoming their children's best friends, they are encouraged to become leaders of their youth. This approach will help our youth make healthy choices and become problem-solvers and good decision-makers as they confront the challenges of today's world. Handouts and resources from the Archdiocese Center for Family Care will be distributed.

As parents, it is our goal to we give our children roots and wings. We hope you and our youth, twelve years of age and up will join us as we learn and practice healthy parenting.

And on this the two hundred and fifty-ninth Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia area for the glory of God!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Today is the 2nd Sunday of the Triodion period – *Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 2nd.*

Sunday, February 15 (Sunday of the Prodigal Son):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class
- 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Orthodoxy Class

Monday, February 16:

- 7:00 pm Religious Education/Youth Workers Meeting
- 8:00 pm Education, Youth, & Culture Diakonia Committee Meeting

Monday, February 16 – Wednesday, February 18:

Fr. George will attend Annual Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Retreat at the Diakonia Center in Salem, South Carolina

Saturday, February 21 (First Saturday of the Souls):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (Bring Kolyva)
- 10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Appetizers Preparation - Week 1

Sunday, February 22 (Meatfare Sunday – Sunday of Judgment):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 11:005 a.m. Parish Program - *Paula Marchman – Healthy Parenting*
- 1:00 p.m. GOYA Outing for Lunch/Putt-Putt Golf
- 1:30 p.m. Hellenic Dance Practice

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!