

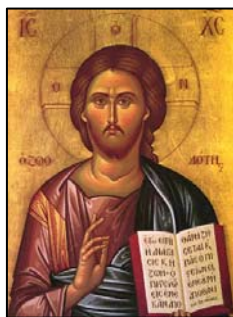


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.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, March 1, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, WHICH WE REFER TO AS CHEESEFARE SUNDAY AND THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS, WE CALL TO MIND the banishment of Adam and Eve, the first created from the joys of Paradise. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Holy Righteous Martyr Eudokia of Samaria (+107); Holy Domnina and her Companions; Holy Martyrs Marcellus and Anthony; Holy Martyr Andonina (+302); Holy Martyrs Sylvester and Sofronios; Holy Nestorians; Righteous Agapios (+1265) and Eudokimos of Athos. *O Christ our God, through Your ineffable compassion, deem us worthy of the joys of Paradise, and have mercy on us, as the only Loving One. Amen. 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.

TODAY'S Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

The fall of our first parents, *Adam and Eve*, and their banishment from Paradise are commemorated on this day. Today is also the SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS as emphasized in the Gospel reading. *We are reminded, before we enter the Lenten fast, that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.*

Please join us here this coming Saturday, March 7th,
as we commemorate
the Third and Final Saturday of the Souls before Pascha.
Orthros, 7:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.,
followed by Memorial Service for our departed brethren.
For those who are able, please bring Kolyva.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been

vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

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 sung for Cheese Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp. 264-267):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O You Who are the source of all wisdom and discernment, instructor of the ignorant and champion of the poor; strengthen my heart, O Master, and grant me understanding. O Word of the Father, bring words to my lips, that nothing would keep me from crying out to You: In Your compassion have mercy on me, for I have fallen.

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
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 5:14-19)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them

an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Romans 13:11-14:4)

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 6:14-21)

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume

and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“How great is the mercy of the Lord, and His forgiveness for those who return to Him.” *(Sirach 17:29)*

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May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!

GREAT LENT AND PASCHA IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH 2009

Great Lent Begins March 2, 2009

Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday) - April 12-April 18

PASCHA (Easter) - April 19

Ascension Day – May 28

Pentecost - June 7

For more information on the Orthodox Christian observance of Great Lent and Pascha: <http://www.greatlent.goarch.org/>

Reminders for Next Sunday

1. *Each parishioner is encouraged to bring an icon to church next week for the Sunday of Orthodoxy and join us in the procession at the end of the Divine Liturgy.*

2. *Our faithful are invited to join ALL Orthodox of the Atlanta metro area next Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. for Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Elias Church in Decatur. (See insert in today's bulletin.)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

(Excerpt from the Orthros of Clean Monday morning – 1st day of Lent)



First Ode: COME, NATIONS; LET US SING A SONG TO CHRIST OUR GOD! HE DIVIDED THE WATERS AND GUIDED THE PEOPLE FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT, FOR HE IS GREATLY GLORIFIED!

*GLORY TO YOU, OUR GOD,
GLORY TO YOU.*

How shall I begin to weep for my failures? Where can I make a start for salvation? I have lived as a Prodigal. Save me by the ways that are Yours, O Bountiful One.

This is the time of repentance. This is the day of salvation. This is the beginning of the fast. Be vigilant, my soul! Close the door of your passions, and seek the Lord.

The tempest of my sins has drawn me to the depths of despair. But I flee to the sea of Your mercy: O Lord, save me!

I have become a slave to sin. I alone have opened the doors to passion, O Word, but convert me by Your compassion, O Savior!

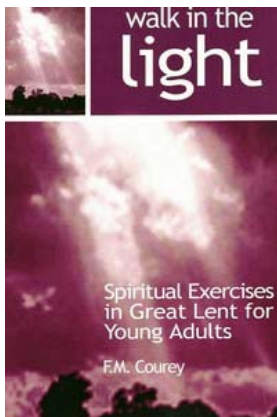
Katavasia COME, NATIONS; LET US SING A SONG TO CHRIST OUR GOD! HE DIVIDED THE WATERS AND GUIDED THE PEOPLE FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT, FOR HE IS GREATLY GLORIFIED!

This is the time of great spiritual efforts, the course of the Fast. Let us all begin with sincerity, bearing good works to the Lord as gifts.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Let us praise the simple unity of three Lights, the most powerful and ever-existing and ever-acting Lord and God: The Father Almighty, the Son and the Spirit!

Both now and ever and until the ages of ages. Amen. Let us sing of the holy mount of God, of the immaculate Mary, from whom the Sun of Righteousness arose, and shone light on those who were in darkness: Christ the life of all.

"Walk in the Light" Lenten Worship & Study Series Begins THIS Wednesday, March 4th



Great & Holy Lent begins on "Clean Monday", March 2nd. Fr. George invites you to join us for Great Compline that night at 6:00 p.m. for a reflective service that focuses on Scripture readings, prayers, and simple repetitive and easy-to-learn hymns. Afterwards, he will distribute to those who

wish to journey, worship, and study with him the new book, *Walk in the Light* - written especially for young adults but applicable to our faithful of all ages.

Each of the six Wednesdays beginning the first week of Great Lent, Fr. George will lead our faithful in a discussion of one of its six group exercises, as well as discuss and answer questions on the 34 individual exercises to be used throughout the 40 Days of Great and Holy Lent. Our schedule on Wednesdays will be the Service of the 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy (Vespers/Communion Service) beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community lenten dinner beginning at 7:15 p.m. and followed by our Family Community Program using *Walk in the Light*. We will end around 8:30 p.m.

Our Bookstore will be selling this text for \$20 (292 pages). Each Wednesday, we invite you to bring fasting food to share. You and your family are encouraged to attend as much of the series as possible. The dates are March 4, 11, 18, 25 (Feast of Annunciation, so Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be offered instead of 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy), April 1 and 8. I pray you have a "Blessed Lent!"



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

SCOBA Encyclical for the Sunday of Orthodoxy

This is the Faith that has established the world. - The Synodikon of Orthodoxy

March 8, 2009 - The Feast of the Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Hierarchs of the Standing Conference

of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

To all the Clergy and the Laity of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the Americas

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We, the Hierarchs of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, greet you with love and blessings on the Feast of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the first Sunday of Holy and Great Lent. This year, amidst the tumult and the insecurity that seem to pervade the globe, we exhort all of you to stand firm in your Orthodox Faith in God, *the Faith that has established the world*, the Faith that is the bedrock of our Holy Church, *the pillar and ground of truth* (1 Timothy 3:15).

We, who have been blessed with the continuation of the Apostolic ministry, understand well that it is in the most difficult of circumstances that our Faith is tested. In times of trial and tribulation

we are confirmed as believers, or contrary to that, as the Lord said, those identified as people of *little faith* (Matthew 6:30). But it is in these very same moments that by grace and through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can experience transformation of spirit and soul, as we realize *the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us* (Romans 8:18).

This revelation of God's love and purpose for our lives is oftentimes unanticipated by us, and certainly not always heralded by blaring trumpets. More likely, it comes through the *still small voice* (1 Kings 19:12) that speaks volumes. It is the voice that speaks only truth proclaiming Orthodoxy, the sound that comforts the soul, the music that lifts our hearts heavenward.

Therefore, in these times when the pressures of daily life have taken on greater weight, and our world appears confused and confusing, let us re-commit ourselves to the practice of believing. Let us live each day with gratitude to God for the gift of faith: *the Faith of the Apostles, the Faith of the Fathers, the Faith of the Orthodox, the Faith that has established the world.*

With paternal blessings and love in Christ,

+Archbishop DEMETRIOS, Chairman
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of
America

+Metropolitan PHILIP, Vice Chairman
Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America

**+Metropolitan CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary**

Serbian Orthodox Church in North and
South America

**+Metropolitan NICHOLAS of Amissos,
Treasurer**

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox
Diocese in the USA

+Archbishop NICOLAE
Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the
Americas

+Metropolitan JOSEPH
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church

+Metropolitan JONAH
Orthodox Church in America

+Metropolitan CONSTANTINE
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

+Bishop MERCURIUS of Zarsk
Representation of the Moscow
Patriarchate in the USA

+Bishop ILIA of Philomelion
Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America

Pan-Orthodox Vespers - Sunday of Orthodoxy

St. Elias Church, March 8, 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we proclaim the Triumph of Orthodoxy as a Pan-Orthodox



family comprised of all canonical Orthodox parishes in the Atlanta metro area. Vespers begin at 6:00 p.m., with His Grace Bishop Antoun officiating and all area Orthodox clergy participating. Guest speaker is Fr. Thomas Alessandroni, Assistant Priest at St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church near Lilburn, GA. Afterwards, the St. Elias Parish is hosting a reception for all guests present. Its Priest, Fr.

Michael Evans, has asked that every parish attending bring a good supply of either fruit or a tossed salad with dressing for everyone. The church address is 2045 Ponce De Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307,

(404) 378-8191.

On this the two hundred and sixty-first 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!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 4th Sunday of the Trodion period – *Great & Holy Lent begins tomorrow!*

Sunday, March 1 (Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday –no dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Great Lent):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Water
- 10:15 a.m. Vespers of Forgiveness
- 11:00 a.m. Philoptochos Membership Drive
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class
- 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Orthodoxy Class

Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 2nd

Monday, March 2 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera”):

- 6:00 p.m. Great Compline Service (*note earlier start time*)

Wednesday, March 4:

- 6:00 p.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy
- 7:15 p.m. Community Lenten Dinner (*please bring food*)
- 7:30 p.m. Family Program (*Walk in the Light* – see inside)

Friday, March 6:

- 7:00 p.m. Salutations Service

Saturday, March 7 (Third Saturday of the Souls – Bring Kolyva):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (Bring Kolyva)
- 10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Appetizers Preparation - Week 3

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!