



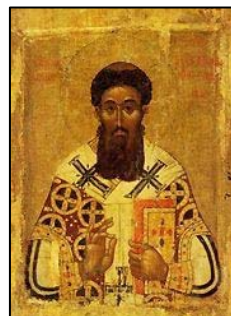
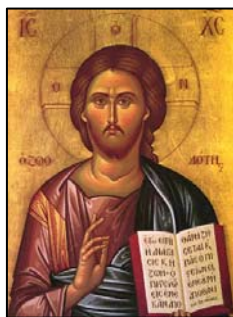
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, March 15, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT AND HOLY LENT, WE CALL TO MIND OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKI (+1360). (SEE *TRIODION INSERT INSIDE*.) WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Martyrs Agapios and his companions: Plesios, Romylos, Timolaos, the two Alexanders, and the two Dionisios (+303); Manuel the New Martyr of Crete (1792) and Parthenios the New Martyr; Holy Apostle Aristoboulos of the 70, brother of Barnabas the Apostle and Bishop of Britain (1st cent.); and Holy Martyr Nikanor of Egypt (+284). *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:

Since 1268, the *Second Sunday of Lent* is dedicated to the memory of *St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki* (1296-1359). This commemoration forms a continuation of last Sunday's celebration: Gregory's victory over the *heretics* of his time is seen by the Church as a renewed triumph of Orthodoxy.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 2nd Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Gregory Palamas – (Hymnal-pp.132-135):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. O light of Orthodoxy, O pillar of strength and teacher of the Church! Glory of monks and nuns, and of theologians the protector invincible! O wonderworker Gregory, pride of Thessalonika and preacher of grace, intercede without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion sung for Lenten Sundays – (Hymnal-pp. 268-271):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

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 (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that

everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

And, "In the beginning, Lord, You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak You will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will never end." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him,

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 2:1-12)

When He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and He was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down

the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in His spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and He said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”
(Mark 2:5)

This Week's Lenten Worship & Study

This Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy

(Vespers/Communion Service)

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner

7:30 – 8:30 p.m. “Walk in the Light” Lenten Study

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

(Excerpt from Orthros for Today's Feast of St. Gregory Palamas)

You appeared as an angelic messenger on earth, proclaiming the mysteries of God to mortal men. Endowed with a human mind and flesh, you spoke with the voice of the bodiless powers, filling us with wonder, saint inspired by God, so that we cry out to you:

Rejoice, for through you the darkness is dispelled;

Rejoice, for through you the light has returned!

Rejoice, messenger of the uncreated Godhead;

Rejoice, reprover of created folly!

Rejoice, unscaleable height, telling of God's nature;

Rejoice, unfathomable depth which speaks of His power!

Rejoice, for you rightly proclaimed the glory of God;

Rejoice, for you denounced the opinions of evildoers.

Rejoice, torch that shows us the Sun,

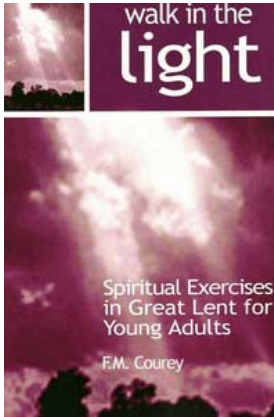
Rejoice, cup flowing with nectar!

Rejoice, for the truth has shown forth from you;

Rejoice, for error has been plunged into darkness through you!

REJOICE, O PREACHER OF GRACE!

“Walk in the Light” Lenten Worship & Study Series Continues THIS Wednesday, March 18th



For the remaining four Wednesdays of Great Lent, our schedule on Wednesdays will be the Service of the 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy (Vespers/Communion Service) beginning at 6:00 p.m. and a community lenten dinner beginning at 7:15 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., we will continue our Family Community Program using *Walk in the Light*. We will end around 8:30 p.m.

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 Bookstore is selling this text for \$20 (292 pages) – we have a new supply coming in by this Wednesday. Each week, 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 remaining dates are March 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!”

On this the two hundred and sixty-third 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 2nd Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.

Sunday, March 15 (2nd Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 am Philoptochos General Assembly
- 12:30 pm Introduction to Orthodoxy Class

Wednesday, March 18 (3rd Wednesday of Great Lent):

[Greek Appetizer & Dessert Sale – Order Deadline]

- 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. Lenten Family Program (*Walk in the Light*)

Friday, March 20 (3rd Friday of Great Lent):

[No Church Services in Peachtree City tonight – join us at Annunciation Cathedral with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios Officiating at 7:00 p.m. for 3rd Part of Salutations Service.]

[Atlanta Cathedral & GOYA Lock-In Retreat for High School Girls]

Sunday, March 22 (3rd Sunday of Great Lent - The Veneration of the Holy Cross):

[No Church Services in Peachtree City this morning – join us at Annunciation Cathedral with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios

- 8:15 am Orthros at Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA
- 9:30 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!