



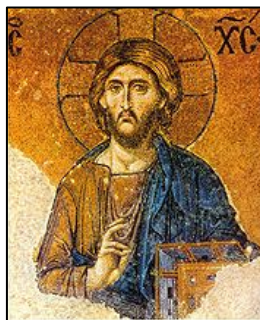
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, January 3, 2010

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE Malachi the Prophet (450 B.C. – the last of the prophets, he foretold the coming of John the Baptist [3:7] and of the Day of Judgment [4:1-3]); Holy Martyr Gordios of Caesarea (+421); Righteous Thomais; Righteous Father Peter the Bearer of Wonders; and the Three Holy Martyrs – the mother and two children – who perished by fire. *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 Welcome to our Guest Clergy/Family

Today, we welcome *the Rev. Deacon Barnabas Powell, Diakonissa Connie, and their daughter Alexandra* to St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church. Dn. Barnabas is a senior seminarian at Holy Cross School of Theology (the first seminarian ever to visit our parish) and he was ordained by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta during the 2009 Archangel Michael Hierarchical Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral on November 8th. Dn. Barnabas will offer the sermon today, and afterwards, he will teach the Adult Religious Education Class. *Let us all pray for his continued success at Holy Cross Seminary, and for his family and ministry.*

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 1st Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

3. Hymn for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (Hymnal-pp.204-207):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Make ready, Zebulon; prepare, O Nephthali. O Jordan, stop your flow, and with rejoicing receive the Master as He comes to be baptized. You too, O Adam, exalt with our mother Eve. Do not hide yourselves as you did, of old, in Paradise. At the sight of your nakedness Christ has come forth, clothing you in innocence and renewing all creation.

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 for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: In the waters today of the Jordan, the Lord cried out with loud voice to John, “Be not dismayed to baptize Me; truly I save the house of Adam the first-created man.”

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 (John 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 4:5-8)

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,’” ⁴John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

TODAY’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“...prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight...”
(Mark 1:3)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

As we begin our new year of 2010 in the Lord, I offer St. Paul's prayer for the Greek Christians of 2000+ years ago living in Thessalonica in your behalf and for those we will encounter: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 5:23)

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4, 2010

EVE OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY THEOPHANY

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

5:00 PM, SERVICE OF GREAT HOURS



A beautiful and meaningful prayer service consisting of the reading of prayers for the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours consecutively. Old Testament psalms and prophecies are read, as well as selected New Testament Epistles, the Acts of the Apostles, and Gospels related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Readers of all ages are encouraged to attend and assist with the readings.

6:15 PM, VESPERS & DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil commemorating the Holy Theophany of our Lord will be celebrated. It includes many beautiful Scriptural readings.

7:15 PM, THE FIRST BLESSING OF THE WATERS

This service is the first blessing of the waters. Please note that there is no difference between this blessing service and that of the second blessing of the waters tomorrow evening. The water that is blessed is considered holy and can be used throughout the year for the prayerful needs of parishioners.

(7:30 pm - Fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 2010

EVE OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD - STRICT FAST DAY

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND)

6:00 PM, ORTHROS

This service is in preparation for the Divine Liturgy to follow. It contains beautiful hymns and canons of our Church related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord.

7:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in commemoration of the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.



8:00 PM, THE SECOND BLESSING OF THE WATERS

This service is the second blessing of the waters. Please note that there is no difference between this blessing service and that of the first blessing of the waters yesterday evening. The water that is blessed is considered holy and can be used throughout the year for the prayerful needs of parishioners.

(8:15 pm - Non-fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)



WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 6,
2010

EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE
PROPHET, FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

6:00 PM, ORTHROS

7:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated in commemoration of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On this day, St. John the Baptist is honored for the part he has played in the events celebrated on the day before. This Synaxis, or Gathering, is an occasion for the people of God to come together and hear the voice of the Forerunner preaching penance for the remission of sins.

(8:00 pm - Non-Fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)

And on this *the three hundred and 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

Sunday, January 3 (Sunday before Holy Theophany):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
9:00 am Divine Liturgy & 40 Day Memorial Service
for Christopher Nastopoulos/Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
(Thanks to our hosts today, George & Helen Psihountas)
10:45 am Religious Education Classes
11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

Monday, January 4 (Eve of Preparation for Holy Theophany of our Lord):

- 5:00 pm Service of the Great Hours of Holy Theophany
6:15 pm Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Blessing of Water
& Community Lenten Dinner (*please join us*)

(Tuesday, January 5th is a Day of Strict Fast. By anticipation, our dinner tonight that occurs the evening of the 4th – the beginning of the liturgical day of the 5th – requires us to fast in observance of the preparation of the feast.)

Tuesday, January 5 (Eve of Feast of Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior):

- 6:00 pm Orthros Service for Holy Theophany
7:00 pm Divine Liturgy for Holy Theophany & Blessing of Water
& Community (Non-Fasting) Dinner (*please join us*)

(Tuesday evening, we celebrate the Feast of Holy Theophany at the beginning of the liturgical day of the 6th. Thus, after church services, we can break the fast.)

Wednesday, January 6 (Eve of Feast of St. John the Baptist):

- 6:00 pm Orthros Service
7:00 pm Divine Liturgy & Community (Non-Fasting) Dinner (*please join us*)

Thursday, January 7:

- 7:00 pm Choir Practice – *please join us!*

Saturday, January 9 (in Banquet Room to the right of our front door of church):

- 6:00 pm 7th Annual Vasilopita & Covered Dish Dinner

This month's Hands of Love collection seeks to support our annual community Vasilopita (St. Basil's Bread) Dinner. We will be collecting monetary donations for the living costs of the children of St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY. For further information, contact Claudia Sliwinski, 770/487-4932. *If you can prepare a Vasilopita(s), please notify Presbytera Marinda, 770/381-1842.*

Sunday, January 10 (Sunday after Holy Theophany):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Parish Council Oath of Office/Coffee Fellowship
10:45 am Religious Education Classes
11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!