



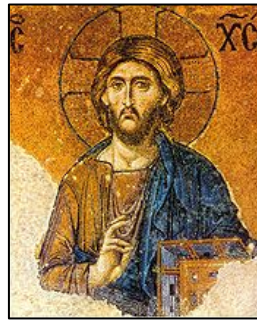
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, November 22, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE NINTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Archippus the Apostle and Philemon the Apostle and his wife, Apphia, and Onesimos the Disciple of Paul; Holy Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, and Tibertius; Holy Martyrs Mark, Stephen, and another Mark; Holy Martyr Procopius in Palestine; Holy Martyr Menignus the Fuller; Righteous Abba; Saints Christopher and Efimia; Thallelaios and Anthimos; Righteous Kallistos; Saint Thaddeus; and Holy Martyrs Agapion, Sisinius the Priest-Martyr, and Agapios. *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 SMALL ENTRANCE

1./3. Hymn for the Feast of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.182-185):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Today is the prelude of God's generosity, the herald of the coming of salvation for all mankind. In the temple of God the Virgin is revealed to all, her presence foretelling the coming of Christ. With all our hearts let us, therefore, cry out to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's plan.

2. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):

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 Feast of the Theotokos (11/21) – (Hymnal-pp.236-239):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Behold the temple of the Savior, His precious bridal chamber. Behold the virginal and sacred vessel of God's glory. Today she enters into the house of the Lord, bearing within her the

grace of the Holy Spirit. For this, the angels exclaim: She is indeed the heavenly tabernacle.

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 (Ephesians 2:14-22)

¹⁴*For He is our peace; in His flesh He has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So He came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through Him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and*

prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 12:16-21)

¹⁶Then He told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“For, ‘Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.’” *(Romans 10:13)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for Thanksgiving Day

November 26, 2009, Thanksgiving Day

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gather together again with family and friends on this day of Thanksgiving, we offer our gratitude to God for His abundant grace and assuring presence which fill our hearts with joy and bring meaning and salvation to our lives.

This holiday, a traditional American day of thanksgiving to God, has been celebrated for generations, through times of peace and security and in times of great crisis and tragedy. Under all circumstances of life and at all times, it has been a day that offers an enduring *witness to the power of thankfulness*.

This day originated with a call to prayer and expressions of gratitude to God in the midst of tremendous challenges. When President Abraham Lincoln inaugurated the national observance of Thanksgiving Day in 1863, this nation was embroiled in a terrible civil war. In the midst of conflict and loss, his proclamation was a call to bear witness to the One who could bring healing and restore peace to the nation.

Further, for over a century this day has been a time for the people of this country to pause from the labors of their hands and minds, to gather with loved ones, and to reflect on the blessings of life, family, relationship, community, and sharing. This gathering and reflection is another witness to the power of thankfulness, as we contemplate the aspects of our lives that are the most significant to our well-being, our nation, and the world. In the moments we share with one another or in service to those in need, we move beyond the thoughts of material things and personal ambitions to ponder the deeper and more enduring qualities of life and relationship.

It is also on this day, that we as Orthodox Christians affirm the power of thankfulness through the association of this holiday with our faith. At the very center of our life of faith is our spiritual and physical participation in a sacrament of thanksgiving. The very name of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist means “to give thanks;” and in our reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are called to give thanks to our Lord for what He has done for us. We give thanks for His gift of life and sustenance. We give

thanks for His love and sacrifice for our salvation. We give thanks for His mercy and for the hope and peace engendered in our hearts through His divine presence. Through this communion with Christ and our expression of gratitude to Him, we offer a powerful witness to the world of all that is genuine, true, and eternal. In the greatest act of thanksgiving through the Holy Eucharist, we call all people to a more blessed state of life and relationship that can lead them through and above the challenges of this world and into the kingdom of God.

On this day of Thanksgiving, may our hearts be filled with gratefulness to our Creator and Giver of Life. May we bring honor and glory to God through our words of praise and thanksgiving, and may our lives be beautiful and constant witnesses of the power of thankfulness so that others may find peace and salvation in Christ and in the love that we share as the family of God.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

St. Christopher Philoptochos Society's Prayer Shawl Ministry:


With Christmas coming soon, Susan Kleto, our Philoptochos Society Prayer Shawl Chairman would like to encourage our parish's Prayer Shawl makers and their friends to participate in a Christmas distribution of shawls. These shawls will be directed to women's shelters in Coweta and Fayette counties. Shawls will be collected before and no later than December 13th, and they will be distributed to the shelter(s) on December 20th. In Coweta County, the women's shelter is sponsored by the Community Welcome House. The following was taken from their website:

"The Community Welcome House is Coweta County's Counsel on Domestic Violence. We serve a diverse population. We acknowledge our residents are the experts on their life. We acknowledge that healing the scars of domestic violence may take a life time. The Community Welcome House is a non-profit


501 (C)3 program. Our program is sustained by financial and in-kind donations from those that understand and want to stop the violence. Our purpose is to stop the violence. We do this by education to the societal crime of domestic violence. It reaches out into the community. It effects the victim, the family, and the job place. It is a shameful silent crime. Our dating teens experience it. By education to the signs of an abusive personality, awareness is raised."

Fr. George thanks those already involved with this ministry and encourages those who may be interested to email Susan Kleto at sbkleto@aol.com.

*Let us not
love in word
or in tongue,
but in deed
and in truth.*
— (1 JOHN 3: 18)



NOVEMBER 22, 2009
iocc.org/dayofsharing • 1-877-803-IOCC (4622)

 **IOCC**
Sunday
A DAY OF SHARING!

International Orthodox Christian Charities

Adult Religious Education Class taught by Fr. George Tsahakis

*for Sunday,
November 22, 2009*

For today's lesson, Fr. George will highlight the efforts of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) on the occasion of IOCC Sunday TODAY!

*Please feel welcome to join
us for our adult class!*

On this the two hundred and ninety-fifth 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

Nativity Fast – continues through December 24

Sunday, November 22 (9th Sunday of St. Luke/IOCC Sunday):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Fellowship Reception
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class

Tuesday, November 24 (Eve of Feast of St. Katherine the Great Martyr & Leave-taking of the Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple – our church services will be offered on the Eve of the Feast – Tuesday, 11/24):

- 6:00 p.m. Evening Orthros Service
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Divine Liturgy/Community Dinner (lenten)

Wednesday, November 25 (Feast of St. Katherine the Great Martyr):

Feast of St. Katherine the Great Martyr & Leave-taking of the Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple – our church services will be offered on the Eve of the Feast – Tuesday, 11/24):

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

Thanksgiving Day - "But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15.57)

Sunday, November 29 (13th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Fellowship Reception
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class

Tuesday, November 30 (Feast of St. Andrew, the First-Called Apostle):

- 6:00 p.m. Evening Orthros Service
- 7:00 p.m. Evening Divine Liturgy/Community Dinner (lenten)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!