



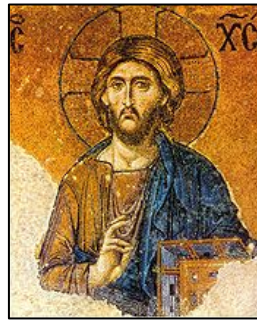
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Chancellor

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, November 29, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE 13TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Holy Martyr Paramonos of Balsatia and the 370 who were martyred with him (+251); Holy Martyr Philoumenos; Holy Martyr Dionysios, Bishop of Corinth (+182); Holy Urban, Bishop of Macedonia; Righteous Father Nicholas, Archbishop of Thessalonika, and the Holy Priest-Martyr John in Persia; and the Holy Six Martyrs; Holy Martyr Phaedros; Righteous Pankosmios; Righteous Pituron; and Holy Martyr Valerian. *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./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp. 126-7):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

3. 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.

4. Kontakion – Preparation for the Nativity (11/26-12/24) – (Hymnal-pp.240-243):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Today the Virgin goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds, let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.

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 16:9-20)

Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 4:1-7)

4I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, Who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:18-27)

Luke 18:18 A certain ruler asked Him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. 20 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.’” 21 He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” 22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me.” 23 But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” 27 He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

<u>THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):</u>
“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His Name. ” (Ps. 100:4)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Phil. 2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a

slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

As we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the Feast of His Holy Nativity, let us remember in our personal prayers as well as our efforts to prepare ourselves leading up to this blessed celebration:

- that we are blessed to serve as parents, religious educators, youth workers, ministry leaders, and instructors
- that through our One God in Three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), we are God's One Holy People
- that we should never be a party to any division within the Body of Christ. Rather, our goal is to be perfectly united in mind and heart with all others who follow our Incarnate Lord.
- that we should always strive not to misplace our loyalties with this person or that one
- that Christ, of whom we are a part, is not divided. He is of one mind. So let us and all His people be together and in agreement.
- that we should seek to be like-minded, having the same love, one in spirit and purpose.

- And through the Name of Jesus Christ, the source of our unity and salvation, we can easily accomplish these things and more *for His Glory and not ours.*

May the loyalty of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always. Amen.

On this the two hundred and ninety-sixth 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

<i>Nativity Fast – continues through December 24</i>
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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

Monday, 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)

Friday, December 4:

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	<i>GOYA Babysitting for Parents with Children</i>
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Saturday, December 5:

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Parish Council Candidate Training - Transfiguration Church, Marietta, GA - Parish Candidates for Parish Council Elections are required to attend this Metropolis Regional Training Workshop offered at Transfiguration Church*

Sunday, December 6 (10th Sunday of St. Luke/St. Nicholas the Wonderworker)

7:45 a.m.	Orthros Service
9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
10:15 a.m.	Stewardship Presentation & Community Lenten Luncheon
11:15 a.m.	Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
11:30 a.m.	Decoration of Community Christmas Tree
12:30 p.m.	Christmas Program Rehearsal for "A Christmas Box"

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!