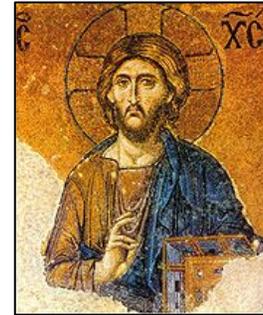




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
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 3, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Acepimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, & Aeithalas the Deacon, Martyrs of Persia (4th cent.); Dedication of the Temple of the Holy Great Martyr George in Lydda (+284-305); Holy Father and New Hieromartyr Gregory of Neapolis; Theodore the Confessor, Bishop of Ancyra; and George of Neapolis the New Martyr (+1797). *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our 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 (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn for Ss. Aceptsimas, Joseph, & Aeithalas – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: For their struggle, O Lord, Your Martyrs received the crown of immortality from You our God. Armed with Your might they defeated the tyrants. They also crushed the arrogance of demons. By their intercessions, O Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn for St. George – (Not found in Hymnal):

Sung after the Small Entrance: As the liberator of captives, and the protector of the poor. A physician for the ill, the defender of rulers, a great martyr, O Saint George victorious. Pray for us to Christ our God to save our souls.

5. 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.

6. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor 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 (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 (II Cor. 11:31-12:9)

³¹*The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be He forever!) knows that I do not lie.* ³²*In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me,* ³³*but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.*

12It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 16:19-31)

Luke 16:19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24 He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ 27 He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house — 28 for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of

torment.’ 29 Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ 30 He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret — it leads only to evil.” *(Psalm 37:8)*

REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP:

We Praise, Bless and Thank You

In the Gospel we read that Jesus told a rich young man that though he has kept the commandments, the one thing he must do to inherit eternal life is to sell all that he owns, distribute the money to the poor, and then come, and follow Him. St. Luke writes, “But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 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.’”

It would be easy to misunderstand Jesus here and to assume that it’s impossible for a rich person to get into heaven. But Jesus was most likely making an example of this self-righteous young ruler. He is a sad example of a person who is convinced he is religious, but misses the whole point. He followed the letter of the law, yet he did not carry love in his heart.

St. Clement warns us not to interpret this passage to mean that wealth will keep us from the kingdom of heaven. He writes that it is the attitude of the soul that is important. It is the passion for wealth, not the wealth itself, that condemns a man.

Our attitude toward possessions reveals our true god and master. This may be troubling to us when we feel that we have made God our master and have kept all the commandments – as did the rich young ruler. Christian stewardship of our souls and bodies is the offering of our entire self to God, attaching our desire to Him rather than to the world.

And Jesus' reference to "the eye of the needle" seems to imply that it is impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. One interpretation of this troubling verse is that a well-known gate to the city of Jerusalem was referred to as the "eye of the needle". This gate was very low and difficult to enter, and, according to legend, a camel was required to unload all of its pack and enter on its knees. One could conclude from this that it is extremely difficult – though not impossible – for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shows us that the only lasting wealth is spiritual wealth which comes from God.

When we were baptized, we were given the light of Christ, symbolized by the baptismal candle. God lit His flame in our souls. The purpose of baptism is to make us lights to the world for Jesus.

Jesus instructs us to... let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father Who is in heaven.

As baptized Orthodox Christians, we are all called to witness “through the quality of our lives to the experience of the risen Christ.”

We witness to Christ by the way we set our priorities in life. This is a time to re-examine those priorities – the way in which we share our time, our talents and our possessions.

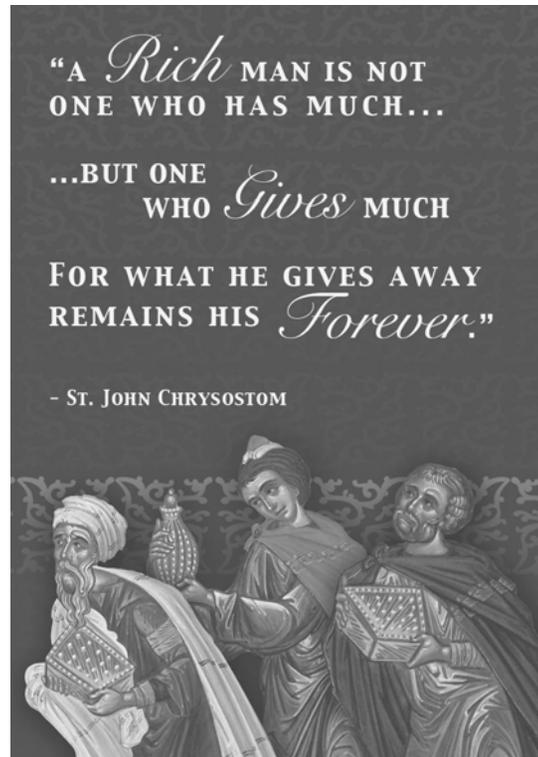
We are challenged to take a look at our checkbooks and see exactly what our true priorities are. Do we commit more to the cable television service than we do to our Church? Do we pay more for our daily newspaper or to the cable company than we do to support the spreading of the Good News of Christ?

As Jesus told us, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

You may have seen the moon as it rose in the east. It was huge and it lit up the night. But if you think about it, the moon has no light of its own, but only the light which it receives from the sun. The light we see when the moon lights up the night is the REFLECTED light of the sun.

Just like the moon, we have no light of our own, only the light of Christ, who told us that He is the “light of the world.” We received His light at our baptism, and we are called to reflect that light to all of the world. What better way to begin to do that than by returning to Him – through the work of the Church – some portion of that with which He has blessed us.

We are responsible – and are held responsible by God – for the light – His light – that we are reflecting in the world.



Psalm 116 asks: “*What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits toward me?*”

The answer comes in the Divine Liturgy when we are invited to “offer ourselves and our whole life to Christ our God.”

Consider the following story:

A pig and a chicken were walking through the barnyard one day, planning a birthday party for Farmer Brown. “And what do you suggest that we do for Farmer Brown?” asked the pig. The

chicken replied, “I was thinking of making him a ham & egg breakfast.”

The pig, troubled by this idea, quietly said to the chicken, “For you this is a contribution, but for me it’s a total commitment.”

God does not ask us for a contribution, because His Church is not a club to which we pay dues. He is asking for a total commitment – OUR LIFE!

May He continue to bless us all. Amen.

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Feast of the Holy Unmercenaries - November 1, 2013

Protocol 165/13

November 1, 2013

Feast of the Holy Unmercenaries Saints Cosmas and Damian

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Feast of the Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian is the occasion of our annual offering for the philanthropic ministries of our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate. Led by our Ladies Philoptochos Society through the local chapters in our parishes, we are asked to contribute generously to services and programs for orphans, the elderly, the sick and the poor. Certainly, we respond to this appeal out of our love and support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We also respond through our love for the faithful Orthodox Christians in Turkey and in our commitment to offer the witness of Christ and the Gospel through compassionate service to anyone in need.

This commemoration of Saint Cosmas and Saint Damian and our offering of support to the philanthropic ministries of our Patriarchate represent the very meaning of philanthropy. In response to God's grace in their lives, Cosmas and Damian used their skills to offer compassionate service to all. Their motivation to respond was not based on the worthiness of a person, nor was it dependent on the social or economic status of the one in need. Freely they had received the power of healing through the grace of God, and freely they gave as a witness of the true life that is found in Christ.

As Orthodox Christians our philanthropic ministry is twofold. First, we are called to care for those within our community of faith. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, and together we share both the joys

and the burdens of those in our parishes, in our Church in America, and among our beloved faithful throughout the world. Knowing the needs and challenges of our Ecumenical Patriarchate should also lead us to give faithfully and generously.

Second, we are called to offer ministry and healing to any person in need. Our Lord who had compassion on the sick and the poor, who gave His disciples the power to preach and to heal, who blessed Cosmas and Damian and many other Saints with the ability to bring comfort and restoration, He sends us into our communities to seek and to save those who are lost in poverty, homelessness, hunger, and infirmity. He also calls us to support vital ministries that are accomplishing this mission around the world.

This is why we are asked by our Ladies Philoptochos Society to support the philanthropic ministries of our Ecumenical Patriarchate. On Sunday, November 3, our parishes are asked to have a special collection for this purpose, and I ask our faithful throughout the Holy Archdiocese to give generously. By supporting these ministries we not only bring encouragement and hope to many of our brothers and sisters in need, but we also strengthen the witness of Christ through the work of the hierarchs, clergy, and laity under the Archdiocese of Constantinople and the Metropolitanates in Turkey.

May we ask for the continued blessings of the Lord upon these sacred ministries and for His guidance in offering our resources and our lives so that others in need will find solace, hope, and salvation in Him.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America



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Before we enjoy today's Coffee Fellowship/Ice Cream Sundae Sunday, Fr. George invites our parishioners to join him in welcoming a "special representative and his assistant from the Outreach Committee..."!

Hands of Love Collection for November, 2013



We are collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit Fayette Samaritans.

Items included in Fayette Samaritans' wish list:

pancake mix, syrup, packaged mashed potatoes, oatmeal, grits, juice, powdered milk, cereal, mac and cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, canned meats, canned tuna fish, chicken, beef stew, canned ravioli, canned fruit, canned vegetables.

Fayette Samaritans is a Christian ministry serving those in need in Fayette County. They provide food from their food pantry, clothing and financial assistance for selected emergency needs to residents in Fayette County. At this moment, the ministry is primarily supported by over 65 member churches, including Saint Christopher HOC.

For further information, please see: <http://www.fayettesamaritans.org/>

*****From now to November 24th – large canned food and monetary donations will be matched by Philoptochos!**

And on this the four hundred and eighty-fourth 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

Sunday, November 3rd (5th Sunday of St. Luke – Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am):

7:45 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Trisagion – Kyriakos Aslanidis/Ice Cream Sundae Sun.

10:45 am Religious Education Classes

11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

Friday, November 8:

5:00 pm Greek Appetizer & Dessert Sale Order Deadline

Saturday, November 9:

10:00 am Presidents Meeting at Annunciation Cathedral for P.C. Members

6:00 pm Archangel Michael Feast/Honors Banquet – Annunciation Cathedral

Sunday, November 10 (8th Sunday of St. Luke/No Services in PTC Today):

8:15 am Orthros Service at Annunciation Cathedral with Metropolitan Alexios

9:00 am Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral with Metropolitan Alexios

Join us at Annunciation Cathedral, 2500 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Feel welcome to join our Adult Religious Education Class today...

Today's Lesson – Unusual Words from a Greek Orthodox Bishop

Review of Previous Lesson – Byzantine Zombies & Female Vampires
