



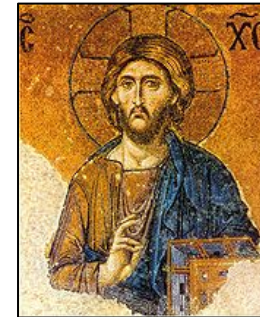
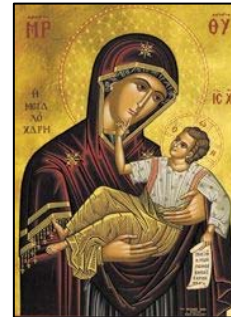
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, December 15, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE 11TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ; the Holy Priest-Martyr Eleftherios and his mother, Anthia the Martyr (+120); and Susannah the Deaconess. *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 (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):

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 for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.186-189):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By their faith You justified Your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old You betrothed to Yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave You birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

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

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Adorned with flowing priestly vesture and with dripping streams of blood you at once went to your Lord Christ, O blessed wise Eleftherios, annihilator of Satan. Wherefore, do not cease to intercede for those who honor your blessed struggles in faith.

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 – 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 (2 Timothy 1:8-18)

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of

God,⁹ Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher,¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the One in Whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to Him.¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.¹⁴ Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain;¹⁷ when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me¹⁸—may the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24; Matt. 22:14)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." *(Ephesians 4:32)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Today's Special Commemoration: *The Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ*

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.



Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning

circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

Stewardship 2014

We thank Tom Farmakis for offering the Stewardship Presentation a few weeks ago and overseeing our Stewardship Ministry. We also thank all families who have offered their 2014 Stewardship Commitment Card in response. If you have not done so already, please place your envelope in the basket in the entrance area. Extra cards/envelopes are available. *Every parish family is asked to support our Stewardship Program!*

Everyone is invited to join us for our

Annual Community Christmas Program & Lenten Luncheon

immediately following Next Sunday's church services
at 10:30 a.m. on December 22nd.

*Please bring a Lenten dish to share
with your family and five others!*



"Follow" & "Like" our new Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this *the four hundred and eighty-ninth* 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

Nativity Fast from November 15 – December 24

Sunday, December 15 (11th Sunday of St. Luke):

Thank You for offering Your 2014 Stewardship Pledges!

"Fill the Pew Sunday Today" – we welcome our families, friends, and guests that are filling our pews today! *We hope you will join us often!*

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial - 3 years - Vasilios Bellos
(Pat MacDougall's brother)/Blessing of Prayer Shawls/Coffee Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal

11:45 p.m. Hellenic Language Class/G.O.Y.A. Meeting

11:45 a.m. Deadline to Schedule Sacrament of Confession/
Reconciliation Before Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Tuesday, December 17:

7:00 p.m. Catholic-Orthodox Ecumenical Gathering,
Annunciation Cathedral, 2500 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta 30329
(See flyer inside today's Liturgical Guide)

Thursday, December 19:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 20:

Note: Fr. George will offer Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m., Archangel Michael Chapel, 2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta

Saturday, December 21 (Feast of Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia):

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Lenten Breakfast/Christmas Program Rehearsal (ending at noon)

12:00 p.m. GOYA Luncheon/Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins

Sunday, December 22 (Sunday Before Holy Nativity of our Lord):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Community Christmas Program & Lenten Luncheon (*everyone is welcome to join us*)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Blessing of Prayer Shawls Today

Today, Fr. George will bless the prayer shawls made by our parishioners and their friends as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. Thanks to Susan for her leadership and all those who assisted.

Since 2009, we have partnered with Promise Place in Fayette County and The Community Welcome House in Coweta County to provide hope and prayer shawl hugs to their residents at Christmas. Both of these organizations will be receiving the shawls for women who have come to them to escape domestic violence and to begin rebuilding their confidence and their lives. We are blessed to welcome the Board President from Promise Place, Lynn Vickers, as well as the representative from The Community Welcome House, Candy Shoemaker.

Please contact Susan Kleto at **sbkleto@gmail.com** or 770.253.8469 to become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions.

*St. Christopher's Outreach Committee
Invites You to
"Fill the Pew Sunday"*

Sunday, December 15, 2013

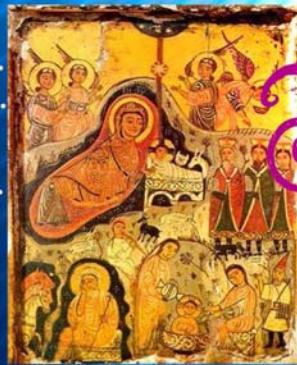


*Everyone has their favorite pew that they sit in—
we invite you to fill "Our Pew's" - all you have
to do is invite, family, friends, neighbors, co-
workers to come and worship with us!*

It's that easy!!

Which pew will be filled??

CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
IN A WORLD IN NEED OF



Faith, Hope and Love

Catholic-Orthodox Ecumenical Gathering

DECEMBER 17, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION



HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND
WILTON D. GREGORY
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF ATLANTA



Officiants



GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION
2500 CLAIRMONT RD N.E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329
(404) 633-5870

PEOPLE ARE KINDLY ASKED TO BRING CANNED FOODS AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO BENEFIT
THE LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY OF
ST. JOHN THE WONDERWORKER ORTHODOX CHURCH
AND
ST. FRANCIS TABLE AT THE CATHOLIC SHRINE OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
TO HELP FEED ATLANTA'S HOMELESS.

www.archatl.com

www.atlmetropolis.org