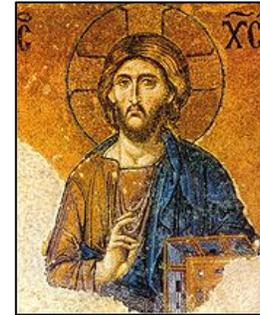




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 Saturday, December 21, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Forefeast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We also remember Juliana of Nicomedia and her 630 Companion Martyrs; Themistocles the Martyr of Myra; and St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow. *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. Hymn for Preparation of the Nativity – (Hymnal-pp.190-193):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Make ready, Bethlehem; O Eden, open to all. O Ephratha, prepare, for soon the Tree of Life will be brought forth from the Virgin in a cave. Like paradise itself, she will bear the fruit divine, and if we eat of it, we shall never die like Adam. For Christ is born, and by His birth, He will raise that image that fell so long ago.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Juliana – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Your lamb, Jesus, cries out to You with loud voice. I desire to be Your bride, and seek it by my martyrdom, and I am crucified and buried with You by Your baptism, and suffer for You, so that I may reign with You, and I die for You, so that I may live with You. Then as a blameless sacrifice accept her, who with love died for You. Through her intercessions, as One Merciful, Oh save our souls.

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 – Preparation for the Nativity – (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.

6. Special Communion Hymn (Psalm 64[65]) – (not in Hymnal):

Blessed are those You have chosen and taken to dwell within Your courts, O Lord. Their memory will endure from generation to generation. Alleluia.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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

Epistle Reading (Galatians 3:8-12)

⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” ⁹For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. ¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.” ¹¹Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for “The one who is righteous will live by faith.” ¹²But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, “Whoever does the works of the law will live by them.”

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 13:19-29)

¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as

for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’²⁹ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.’



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And on this the eleventh celebration of the Feast of St. Juliana at 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

Tuesday, November 15 – Saturday, December 24 – Nativity Fast

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!