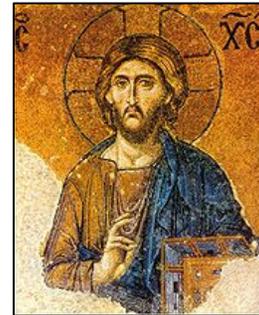




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)  
*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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 28, 2014**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS FOREFATHERS OF GOD, JOSEPH, THE BETROTHED OF THE VIRGIN MARY; JAMES, THE BROTHER OF OUR LORD (IAKOVOS); AND DAVID, THE PROPHET AND KING.** On this day, we also commemorate the 20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia; Holy Martyr Glycerus; and Simon the Myrrhbearer, Founder of Simonopetra, Monastery of Mount Athos. *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. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):**

*On the occasion of the Nativity Feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas, “Save us, O Son of God”: “Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, Who sing to You, Alleluia.*

#### **2./4. Special Hymn for the Feast of the Blessed Birth of our Lord (sung before and after the Small Entrance – (Hymnal-pp.198-201):**

“Your birth, O Christ our God, shines forth on all the world with the light of knowledge. For at Your Birth, those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. O Lord, glory to You.”

#### **3. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

#### **5. Hymn for Saints Joseph, David, and Iakovos – (Hymnal-pp.202-203):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Go, holy Joseph, tell David what the angel said. With the shepherds and the wise men from afar, praise the Son of the Virgin, begging Him to save our souls.

**6. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):**

*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.*

**7. Kontakion of the Blessed Birth of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.244-247):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give Him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to Him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born 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 (John 20:1-10)**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet*

*they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 1:11-19)**

*<sup>11</sup>For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; <sup>12</sup>for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. <sup>15</sup>But when God, Who had set me apart before I was born and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son to me, so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; <sup>19</sup>but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matt. 2:13-23)**

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." Then Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:*

*"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the Child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE** *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

"For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
(Isaiah 9:6)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*[At the beginning of a New Year, we frequently commit to resolutions. The following guidelines challenge us to consider how we interact in our day-to-day life's encounters. May our Lord help us to honor and respect Him, our neighbors, and ourselves always.]*

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

of

**HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE**

1. Keep skid chains on your tongue. Always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice. How you say it often counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully, no matter what the cost.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, offer it gently, never harshly.
4. Be interested in others---their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice, and weep with those who mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him or her as a person of importance.
5. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of burden, often heavier than your own.
6. Keep an open mind. Discuss, but don't argue. It is the mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
7. Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of other's vices. Discourage gossip. It is a waste of valuable time, and can be extremely destructive.

8. Be careful of another's feelings. Wit and humor at another person's expense may do more damage than you will ever know.
9. Pay no attention to disparaging remarks. Remember, the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world, and things become twisted in the retelling. Live so that nobody will believe them.
10. Don't be too eager to get the credit due you. Do your best, and be patient. Forget about yourself, and let others "remember". Success is much sweeter that way.

*(Credited to Ann Landers)*

### **2014 Calendars Available**

The small tri-fold Orthodox wallet calendars for 2014 and the larger wall calendars for 2014 are available. You are welcome to receive one – they are next to the Sunday Liturgical Guides. *Please share with your family also.*



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

And on this *the five hundred and thirty-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**

*(In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, the period from 12/25-1/4 is fast-free.)*

## **Sunday, December 28 (Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

**11:00 am Let's EAT™** Join us at Broadway Diner,  
535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214

## **Wednesday, December 31 (Eve - Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil/New Year's):**

**4:00 pm Great Vespers Service**

**4:45 pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Doxology  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Year & Blessing of the  
Vasilopita**

## **Sunday, January 4 (Sunday Before Holy Theophany):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**

*Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!*

### **Stewardship 2015**

We also thank all families who already have offered their 2015 Stewardship Commitment Cards. If you have not done so, please place your envelope in today's offering tray or in next Sunday's tray. Extra cards/envelopes are available. *Every parish family is asked to support our Stewardship Program!*