



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

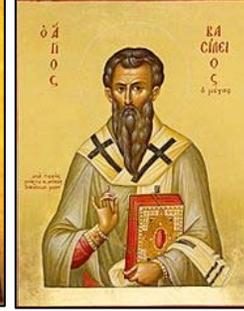
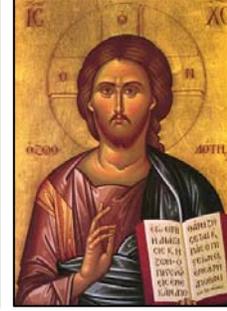
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

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 Monday, December 31st, 2013

Eve of the Feast of January 1, 2014

ON THIS DAY, THE EVE OF THE FEAST, WE COMMEMORATE THE CIRCUMCISION IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, ST. BASIL THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA (+379); BASIL THE MARTYR OF ANKYRA (+361-363); ST. GREGORY, FATHER OF SAINT GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN (+380); EMMELIA, MOTHER OF BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY OF NYSSA, MAKRINA, AND PETER OF SEBASTE; PETER THE NEW MARTYR OF THE PELOPONNESUS; THEODOTOS THE MARTYR; RIGHTEOUS THEODOSIOS OF TRIGLIA; TELEMACHOS THE MARTYR; AND FULGENTIUS, BISHOP OF RUSPE. *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 THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Liturgy of St. Basil Used TODAY

1./3./5./11. Hymn for the Commemoration of our Lord's Circumcision (sung at the end of Great Vespers, before and after the Small Entrance, and instead of Ithomen to fos, "We have seen the true light" after the distribution of Holy Communion) – (not in Hymnal):

O Lord most compassionate, by Nature being God, without change You took upon Yourself the form of man, and to fulfill the law You willingly submit to circumcision in the flesh. So that You might end the darkness, and roll away the veil of our sufferings. Glory to Your righteousness, Glory to Your Compassion, Glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):

On the occasion of today's 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 were circumcised in the flesh. We sing to You: Alleluia.

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Save us, O Son of God, Who were circumcised in the flesh. We sing to You: Alleluia.

6. Hymn Commemorating St. Basil the Great – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. The sound of your words has gone out into all lands, by the acceptance of your teachings. By these you explained divine doctrine. You unveiled the mysteries of nature. You taught to the world human ethics. Then, by your Priesthood from Christ our King, Holy Father, O Saint Basil, pray to Christ our God, to grant to us, the great mercy.

7. 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.

8. Kontakion Commemorating our Lord's Circumcision – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: The Lord of all, circumcision endures, and by His righteousness the sins of man circumcises, giving today to the world, salvation. And Basil, the Priest and light-bearer of the Creator, the Divine minister of Christ, rejoices in the Highest.

9. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301):

Today, instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...", we sing: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you

10. Special Hymn for St. Basil at the Diptychs – (not in Hymnal):

Following the Megalynarion, we sing: Let us all extol the great Basil, revealer of heavenly things, initiate of the Master, the star shining from Caesarea and the town of Cappadocia, honoring and magnifying him.

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 During Divine Liturgy (Col. 2:8-12)

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in Him, Who is the head of every ruler and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 2:20-21 & 40-52)

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents did not know it. Assuming that He was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for Him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the

teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, Your father and I have been searching for You in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?” But they did not understand what He said to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the Feast of Saint Basil and the New Year

Protocol Number 01/14

January 1, 2014

Feast of Saint Basil and New Year

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

(Romans 15:13)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the beginning of a new year the thoughts and expressions of many are filled with anticipation of what may come as the calendar changes from one year to the next. These hopes may be that the new year will bring new experiences, exciting opportunities, and blessings of health, happiness and security. For some, following a “good” year, are the hopes that the new year will be even better. For others who faced significant challenges, uncertainties, and even loss, the hopes are for peace and tranquility.

As Orthodox Christians we are guided by the words of the great Apostle Paul to know the true source of the hope that should fill our hearts and minds. Enduring hope that is fulfilled by the blessings of joy and peace comes from God. In the conclusion of his letter to the Romans the Apostle writes, *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope”* (Romans 15:13). In his exhortation he also affirms that the hope that comes from God is the result of faith. We are filled with joy and peace, and we abound in hope in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit because we believe. Through our faith in the grace of God as revealed through Christ, we have hope in salvation from sin and death. As we receive by faith the Gospel of truth and believe in Christ, we have hope for today and tomorrow.

Thus, at the beginning of this new year and the beginning of each and every day, our hope must rest securely in Christ. We might anticipate what may come in the months ahead, but our anticipation should come from a foundation of hope in the will and power of God. This is a hope that cannot be quenched or extinguished. It is a hope that can withstand any struggle or challenge that may come. It is a hope that can carry our souls to

great spiritual heights when the wondrous and marvelous work of God is revealed.

But this is not only *our* hope. It is hope that is offered to each and every person, a hope that should be shared. We are challenged at the beginning of the new year to think not only of ourselves but to consider the needs of others. As we are able to stand secure in the promises and power of God, we are able to offer a ministry of hope to others. We are equipped to go to those who are searching for hope and guide them to Jesus, the Lord of hope.

This emphasis on the hope that comes through faith is fitting on this day when we commemorate Saint Basil the Great and offer our support for our beloved Saint Basil Academy. Through his words and deeds, Saint Basil was a superb example of a person who dedicated his life to engendering hope. His sermons, letters, and theological writings are imbued with hope in the glorious fulfillment of the promises of God. His ministry in the name of Christ was constantly focused on bringing hope into the lives of the sick and suffering, the poor, orphans, and outcasts. Saint Basil Academy has honored this legacy of this great Saint, by building a ministry of hope to youth and children. For decades, many young people have experienced peace and joy at the Academy because they have come to this sacred place and experienced the love of God, the strength of faith, and the renewal of hope. They have seen that even in the most difficult circumstances of life, true hope can be found, and this hope can empower and nurture them in the life of faith, healing, and grace.

In the month of January each year, we are led by our Ladies Philoptochos Society and parish Philoptochos chapters in collecting special offerings for Saint Basil Academy. As you do this in your parishes and in the cutting of the Vasilopeta, I encourage you to

give generously and to reflect on your support for this ministry of hope. I also ask you to prayerfully consider the source and focus of your hope in the new year. May the God of hope bring you peace and joy, and may you be blessed with His power as you share with all this blessed hope from above.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

On this the eleventh New Year's Day we celebrate together at St. Christopher's, 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!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, 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 1st of the Year
& Blessing of the Vasilopita**

Thursday, January 2, 6:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

Sunday, January 5 (Eve/Vigil-Theophany of our Lord and Savior/Strict Fast):

7:45 am Orthros Service

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Blessing of the Water/Oath of Office for 2014 Parish
Council Members/Coffee Fellowship**

11:30 am Parish Council Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!