



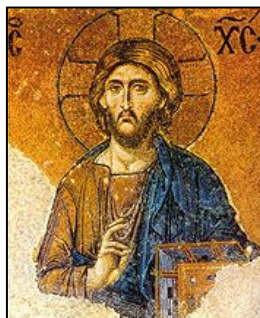
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.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, January 10, 2010**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE** Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (+394); Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa; Presbyter Markianos of Constantinople (+471); Righteous Father Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (+602); and Righteous Ammonios, ascetic in Nitria. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

### **Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission 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./3. Hymn of the Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.208-211):**

This hymn is sung *before and after* the Small Entrance: “At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the Father’s voice bore You witness, by calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truth of the Father’s Word. O Christ our God, You have appeared to us and enlightened the world. Glory to You.”

### **2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### **4. 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.

### **5. Kontakion of the Holy Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-p.-248-249):**

This hymn is sung *after* the Small Entrance: “You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your light shines forth on us, who sing Your praise with full knowledge: You have come to us, O Lord; You are made manifest, O inaccessible Light.

## **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 20:19-31)**

*“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.’ A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.”*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Eph. 4:7-13)**

<sup>7</sup>*But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.*

<sup>8</sup>*Therefore it is said, “When He ascended on high He made captivity itself a*

*captive; He gave gifts to His people.”<sup>9</sup> (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?<sup>10</sup> He Who descended is the same one Who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)<sup>11</sup> The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,<sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 4:12-17)**

*<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made His home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*

#### **TODAY’S MEMORY VERSE** (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”  
(Hebrews 13:8)

### **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Back when the telegraph was the fastest means of long-distance communication, there was a story, perhaps just a legend, about a young man who applied for a job as a Morse code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a

large, noisy office. In the background a telegraph clacked away. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office. The young man completed his form and sat down with seven other waiting applicants. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. Why had this man been so bold? They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They took more than a little satisfaction in assuming the young man who went into the office would be reprimanded for his presumption and summarily disqualified for the job.

Within a few minutes the young man emerged from the inner office escorted by the interviewer, who announced to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has been filled by this young man."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and then one spoke up, "Wait a minute – I don't understand. He was the last one to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair."

The employer responded, "All the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. So the job is his."

This past week we observed a three-day vigil and commemoration for Holy Theophany, one of the three

greatest Feast Days of the Orthodox Church. Each day, we heard the words of our Heavenly Father proclaim at Jesus Christ's baptism (Mark 1:11): *"You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased."*

*My brothers and sisters in Christ, our livelihood, indeed our life, depends upon our ability to discern the meaning of these words directed continually to us from our Heavenly Father: "You are My child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."*

And on this the three hundred and second 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!

## **COMMUNITY SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, January 10 (Sunday after Holy Theophany):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Parish Council Oath of Office/  
Coffee Fellowship**

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes**

**11:45 am Parish Council Meeting**

### **Thursday, January 14:**

**7:00 pm Choir Practice – please join us!**

### **Sunday, January 17 (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

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

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes**

**11:30 am GOYA Meeting**

**11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting**

**12:30 pm Hellenic Language Class**

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