



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
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St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 17, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE Great Martyr Theodore of Tyre (+306); Pious Kings Marclanos and Pulcherias; Holy New Martyr of Byzantium Theodore of Mytilene (+1795), and Michael; Holy Mariamne, Equal-to-the-Apostles (Sister of the Apostle Philip – 1st cent.); Righteous Auxentios; Hermogenes (Germogen), Patriarch of Moscow; and Righteous Father Theosteriktos. *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 (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.

3. Hymn for St. Theodore of Tyre – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p>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</p>

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 5:14-19)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the

ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸and I will be your father, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” ⁷Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 15:21-28)

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But He did not answer her at all. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever.” (1 Chronicles 16.34)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

When I was in junior and senior high school, my friends would say, “We don’t do Lent.” I suspect that it was an anti-Catholic thing and happily, I no longer hear it. Notwithstanding, I still recall their old argument, “whatever they do, we don’t!” – a curiously convoluted, twisted and unhealthy way to decide on one’s religious practices.

Whatever the reason for "not doing Lent," I think it is a great loss for any Christian not to renew ourselves spiritually and reconcile ourselves with God and one another. Every spring, baseball players prepare for the season with spring training; every spring, ordinary people prepare for summer by doing “spring cleaning.” So why shouldn’t Christians prepare and stay fit for the Lord’s Second and Glorious Coming while at the same time remembering the most important events in His ministry, and what He did for each of us to ensure we would be with Him always.

If it helps you, think of Great Lent as a kind of Christian spring training and spring cleaning. To our Christian brothers and sisters who began their lenten journey this week, let us pray for their strength and spiritual growth. We will join them on Monday, March 18th. Although our Pascha/Easter comes after theirs this year – Sunday, May 5th (as opposed to Western Easter on March 31st), let us seek to restore, renew, and reconcile with God and one another and grow in spirit and love with our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, during Great Lent . . . and always!

And on this *the four hundred and fifty-first* 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, February 17 (Sunday of the Canaanite):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/40-Day Churching – Emilia & Baby Boy Moraitis

10:45 am Religious Education Classes

11:30 am Hellenic Dance Practice

11:30am GOYA Meeting

Remember to visit our website, saintchristopheroc.org for calendar updates.

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!