



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

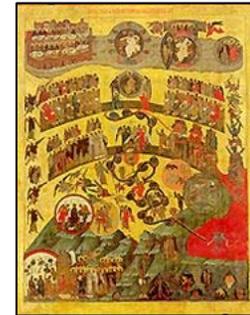
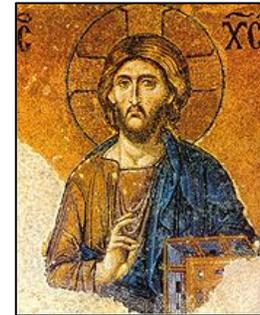
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

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

*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

## **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**



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

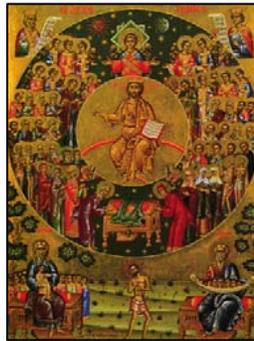
### **Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 23, 2014**

ON THIS DAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD WHICH WE REFER TO AS MEAT FARE SUNDAY, WE CALL TO MIND THE SECOND AND INESCAPABLE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna (+166); Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria (+457); Gorgonia the Righteous, sister of Gregory the Theologian (+4<sup>th</sup> cent.); and Damian the New Martyr of Mt. Athos (+1280). *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.*



**Please join us here this coming Saturday,  
March 1<sup>st</sup>,  
as we commemorate  
*the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Souls . . .*  
Orthros, 8:00 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.,  
followed by Memorial Service for our departed  
brethren. *For those who are able, please bring  
Kolyva.***

## **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER THE SMALL ENTRANCE**

### **1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

### **3. 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.

#### **4. Kontakion for Meat Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp.260-263):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: When You come to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all creation will tremble and a river of fire will flow before Your throne of judgment. The books will be opened and the secrets of all will be revealed. On that day, O just Judge, deliver me from eternal flames and make me worthy to stand at Your right.*

### **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES** **FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

<p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">– St. John Chrysostom</p>
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#### **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)**

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)**

*"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to*

*idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

**Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 25:31-46)**

*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will put the sheep at His right hand and the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you gave Me clothing, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink? And when was it that we saw You a stranger and welcomed You, or naked and gave You clothing? And when was it that we saw You sick or in prison and visited You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at His left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from Me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not give Me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

**MEMORY VERSE** *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” *(Matthew 11:29-30)*

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*Now that Valentine’s Day is over for 2014, I am wondering if any of us seem to sparkle more than we did before February 14<sup>th</sup> . . . !*

How many of us celebrated Valentine’s Day with a little bit of “bling!?” The holiday that elevates the warmth of our love and the softness of our hearts also pushes us to give a gift of something cold and hard — a diamond.

Diamonds, we are continually reminded, are forever. That’s why they are worthy of a significant financial investment. Diamonds are expensive because they are rare, elusive, and found only in tiny bits and pieces. Yet if you could travel 50 light years away from Earth, to star BPM 37093, located in the Centaurus constellation, you would arrive at “Lucy” — a burned out sun, a “white dwarf,” whose entire central core is a planet-sized chunk of crystallized carbon — a diamond — 10 billion-trillion-trillion carats worth, to be precise.

This “space diamond” was named “Lucy” after the Beatle’s hit, “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds.” By comparison, the largest earth-diamond, the Golden Jubilee Diamond, is 545 carats — a sandal toe full of diamond “sand” on one of Lucy’s dunes.

Diamonds are a chosen and cherished gem because of their sparkle and glow. They ignite with a kind of inner fire when the light hits them. Unfortunately for “Lucy,” that means that the solid diamond core of that dwarf star is as unremarkable and unassuming as any other stone. You could take a drawer full of exquisite diamond gemstones and dump them in a drawer and — without the gift of reflective light —you wouldn’t know you had anything different than a box of rocks.

The miracle of reflected light is what our goal in life is all about – to become transfigured in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin Great & Holy Lent in just eight days — Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> — it is my prayer that the miracle of God’s divine light will “transform” and “transfigure” each of our lives so we grow closer in union and harmony with Him. As we travel our 2014 lenten journey together, may the brilliance and purity of the light that illumines Jesus attract our attention.

Transforming our lives in the image and likeness of our Lord is a central part of Orthodox theology. Just as He transfigured Himself and appeared to His disciples in divine glory on Mt. Tabor shortly before His last days leading up to His Crucifixion and Resurrection, I pray that we consider this miraculous event as proof that Jesus Christ is the light and glory coming from God, our Heavenly Father. Through Christ’s voluntary passion for each of us, He assured us of the voluntary nature of His suffering and death for the salvation of the world.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ invites every human being to seek to attain spiritual transfiguration in order to be granted eternal life and everlasting paradise. Today, the Sunday of Judgment when we confront our Lord’s message in Matthew 25:31-46, we confront the opportunity to achieve this aim by considering what kinds of things we can do on a daily basis to show love, compassion, and charity to others so that our Lord judges us worthy of this gift. Fr. George invites each of us to join him for our Adult Religious Education class this morning as we discuss and share how this is possible in our daily lives. *Please join us!*

## **THE TRIODION: A Guide to Prepare for Great Lent**

This Sunday marks the third Sunday of The Triodion – *the time of preparation for our spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity.*

During this period, we have an opportunity to share with our families and friends special themes leading us up to Great and Holy Lent which begins on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Holy Archdiocese offers us instructive resources to learn more about our Lord's teachings and Orthodox faith.

The following is a summary of today's designation as *the Sunday of the Last Judgment*.

### **Third Sunday: Sunday of the Last Judgment**

<http://lent.goarch.org/judgement/learn/>

The third Sunday of Lent, known as Sunday of the Last Judgment Christ offers us a very strong and clear message about how we will be judged when He returns. The Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46 teaches us that we are expected to give, to sacrifice, to care for, and to love even the least of our brethren. In a "me first" society, this can be a daunting task. We are bombarded with messages that tell us the opposite. To borrow the quotation from President John F. Kennedy, we should ask not what our neighbor can do for us... rather we should ask what we can do for our neighbor!

*DISCUSS: Read Matthew 25:31-46. What kinds of things can we do on a daily basis to show love, compassion, and charity to others? Have you participated in any charity or philanthropic activities? If so, what did you learn from those experiences?*



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And on this the four hundred and ninety-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**

Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Triodion period – *Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

### **Sunday, February 23 (Judgment Sunday - Meatfare):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

**10:15 am General Parish Assembly & GOYA Fundraising Luncheon**

You are encouraged to follow our Orthodox Fasting Tradition by abstaining from meat after today until Pascha/Easter – April 20<sup>th</sup>; *Diary Allowed Monday, 2/24- Sunday, 3/2*

### **Thursday, February 27:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

### **Friday, February 28:**

**6:00 pm Philoptochos Spring Bake Sale – Mixing Batter**

### **Saturday, March 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Souls – bring Kolyva):**

**8:00 am Orthros (*note later time*)**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service**

**10:30 am Philoptochos Spring Bake Sale – Folding Pites**

### **Sunday, March 2 (Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday –no dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Great Lent/ OCMC Mission Sunday):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

**10:15 am Vespers of Forgiveness/Coffee Fellowship Reception**

**11:30 am Hellenic Language Class**

*Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>*

### **Monday, March 3 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera” – Strict Fast):**

**5:00 p.m. Great Compline Service (*note earlier start time*)**

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