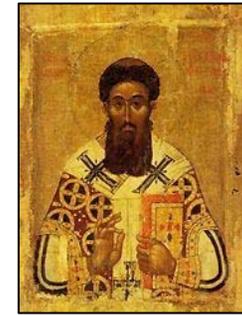
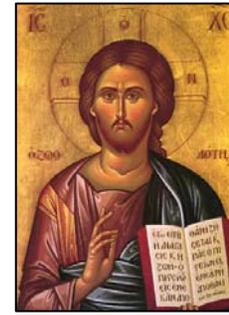
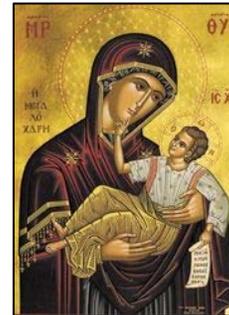




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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, March 31, 2013**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT AND HOLY LENT, WE CALL TO MIND OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKI (+1360). (SEE TRIODION INSERT INSIDE.)** WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Priest-Martyr Hypatios, Bishop of Gangra (+326); Righteous Father Akakios the Confessor, Bishop of Melitini (+285-300); Holy Martyrs Avda the Bishop, Benjamin the Deacon, and their Nine Companions, martyred in Persia with many other Saints; Holy Martyr Menander; Holy 38 Martyrs who died by the sword; Righteous Father Vlasios of Amoria; and Righteous Father Stefanos the Wonder Worker. *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.*

**TODAY'S Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:**

Since 1268, the *Second Sunday of Lent* is dedicated to the memory of *St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki* (1296-1359). This commemoration forms a continuation of last Sunday's celebration: Gregory's victory over the *heretics* of his time is seen by the Church as a renewed triumph of Orthodoxy.

**SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER 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. Gregory Palamas – (Hymnal-pp.132-135):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* O light of Orthodoxy, O pillar of strength and teacher of the Church! Glory of monks and nuns, and of theologians the protector invincible! O wonderworker Gregory, pride of Thessalonika and preacher of grace, intercede without ceasing for the salvation of 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 sung for Lenten Sundays – (Hymnal-pp. 268-271):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.*

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

*On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”:* 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.

**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 21:1-14)**

*After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to*

*haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.*

**Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)**

*And, "In the beginning, Lord, You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak You will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will never end." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him,*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 2:1-12)**

*When He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and He was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in His spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and He said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

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

*"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"* (Mark 2:5)

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

*(Excerpt from Orthros for Today's Feast of St. Gregory Palamas)*

You appeared as an angelic messenger on earth, proclaiming the mysteries of God to mortal men. Endowed with a human mind and flesh, you spoke with the voice of the bodiless powers, filling us with wonder, saint inspired by God, so that we cry out to you:

Rejoice, for through you the darkness is dispelled;

Rejoice, for through you the light has returned!

Rejoice, messenger of the uncreated Godhead;

Rejoice, reprover of created folly!

Rejoice, unscaleable height, telling of God's nature;

Rejoice, unfathomable depth which speaks of His power!

Rejoice, for you rightly proclaimed the glory of God;

Rejoice, for you denounced the opinions of evildoers.

Rejoice, torch that shows us the Sun,

Rejoice, cup flowing with nectar!

Rejoice, for the truth has shown forth from you;

Rejoice, for error has been plunged into darkness through you!

*REJOICE, O PREACHER OF GRACE!*

And on this the four hundred and fifty-seventh 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**

Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.

### **Sunday, March 31 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – St. Gregory Palamas):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes**

### **Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Great Lent):**

- 5:00 p.m. Service of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy**
- 6:15 p.m. Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program** (*Please Bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series that concludes each Wednesday by 7:30 p.m. We will focus on the book, “Turning the Heart to God.” You & your family are encouraged to attend.*)

### **Thursday, April 4:**

- 6:30 p.m. – Choir Practice**

### **Friday, April 5 (NO Services in PTC Tonight):**

**7:00 p.m. – No Salutations Service in PTC tonight. Join us at Annunciation Cathedral, 2500 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329**

### **Sunday, April 7 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of the Holy Cross**

#### **Church Services at Annunciation Cathedral Today):**

- 8:15 a.m. Orthros Service (Cathedral)**
- 9:30 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & Veneration of the Cross (Cathedral)**

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

**Thank You for your overwhelming support and generosity for our local efforts to support Bishop Alexios' Greece Relief Fund.**

*If you haven't had a chance to contribute and wish to, please make your check payable to our church and we'll combine your check/cash donation to the Metropolis. Today is our final collection day.*

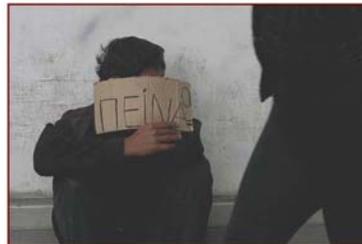
**Metropolitan Alexios' Greece Relief – Help Us Support Those Living in Misery in Greece**



**Searching for Olive Oil in Greek port city of Thessaloniki**



**People queuing for free food outside the main meat market of central Athens on Tsiknopemti, or "Burnt Thursday", a day when people barbecue meat ahead of the coming period of Lent. Lines were longer this year due to the economic crisis in the country.**



**Poverty in Greece - Beggar's sign says "PEINO- I'M HUNGRY"**

**Misery in Athens: New Poor Grows from Greek Middle Class**



**Join** our support for the Greece Relief Fund established by Bishop Alexios. Help us to help our brothers & sisters in Greece who are suffering. All donations will go to Greece for specific projects, like retirement homes where there is no money to pay the staff, or orphanages where the buildings are unfurnished, or for people who cannot afford medicine.