



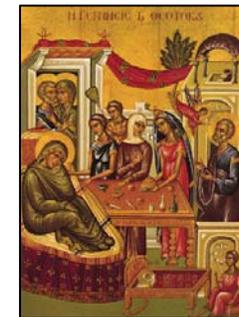
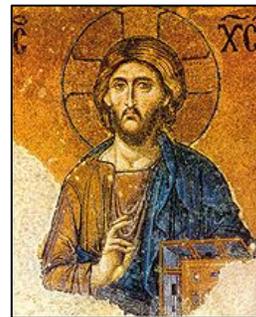
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.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 Monday, September 8, 2014**

**ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** the Nativity of our Most-Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; the Holy Siblings Rufus and Rufianos; St. Severos; St. Artemidoros; and St. Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia. *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. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (pg. 28 of Hymnal):**

*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, among the saints glorified, we sing to You, Alleluia."*

### **2./3. Hymn for the Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.176-177):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. Your birth, O Theotokos, has filled the world with joy, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He destroyed the ancient curse and replaced it with a blessing, thus confounding death by giving us eternal life.*

### **4. Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.228-231):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance. Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus free from the stain of sin, we, your people, honor your birth, crying out to you: A woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our life.*

### **5. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed..." Virginité is alien to motherhood and childbearing foreign to virginité, but in you, O Theotokos, both were made possible. Wherefore, we the races of the earth ceaselessly magnify you.*

### **6. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.324):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "I will lift the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115[116]). Alleluia."*

## **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

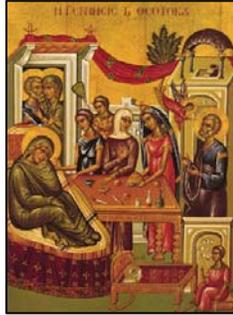
### **Epistle Reading (Philippians 2:5-11)**

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

### **Gospel Reading (Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28)**

*Now as they went on their way, He entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what He was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to Him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." While He was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts that nursed You!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it!"*

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



### **The Nativity of our Most-Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, we remember the Nativity of Mary, the *Theotokos* – the Mother of God. According to the ancient tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was born of barren and aged parents, Joachim and Anna, about the year 16 or 17 before the birth of Christ. Joachim was descended from the royal line of David, of the tribe of Judah. Anna was of the priestly tribe of Levi, a daughter of the priest Matthan and Mary, his wife.

### **The Holy & Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the day following the Nativity of the most holy Theotokos, we celebrate the *Synaxis* (*Gathering*) of Saints Joachim and Anna, honoring them as her parents.



#### **Festal Hymn for the Synaxis of Saints Joachim & Anna:**

As we celebrate the memory of Thy righteous ancestors, O Lord, through them we beseech Thee to save our souls.

#### **Kontakion for the Synaxis of Saints Joachim & Anna:**

Now Anna is glad, for from the bonds of barrenness hath she been released; and nourishing the all-pure one, she doth summon all together, that they might praise Him Who from her womb hath bestowed upon mortal men the only pure Mother who hath not known man.

On this the *eleventh* celebration of the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos 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**

#### **Monday, September 8 (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos):**

**5:00 pm** Great Vespers Service (Evening Service)

**5:45 pm** Divine Liturgy (Evening Service), followed by  
Community Dinner (*everyone welcome to join us*)

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