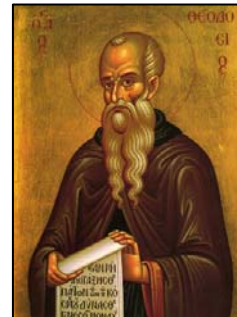
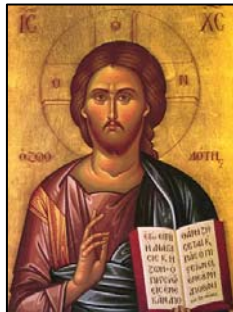




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: 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 11, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, we commemorate our Holy God-bearing Father Theodosios the Cenobiarch (Cenobite), Teacher of the Desert (+529); the Synaxis of the myriad of Holy Angels (Chapel of Martyrdom of Saint Anastasia); St. Stefanos of Plakidiana, Righteous Theodore and Righteous Agapios the Archimandrite; Saint Mairos; Righteous Vitalis of Gaza; Righteous Theodosios, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Philotheou (Mt. Athos) and Bishop of Trebizond; and Righteous Vitalis. *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 THE 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 First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

4. Hymn for the Righteous Theodosios – (Hymnal-pp.136-139):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: Like warm and gentle rain, your tears of compunction made the desert burst forth in bloom. Your patient endurance made your sufferings bear fruit one hundredfold and your wondrous deeds have filled all the world with light. O holy father Theodosios, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

5. 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.

6. 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 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your

God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that He had said these things to her."

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 13:7-16)

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings; for it is well for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by regulations about food, which have not benefited those who observe them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who officiate in the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²Therefore Jesus also suffered outside the city gate in order to sanctify the people by His own blood. ¹³Let us then go to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made His home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the 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." ¹⁷From 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."

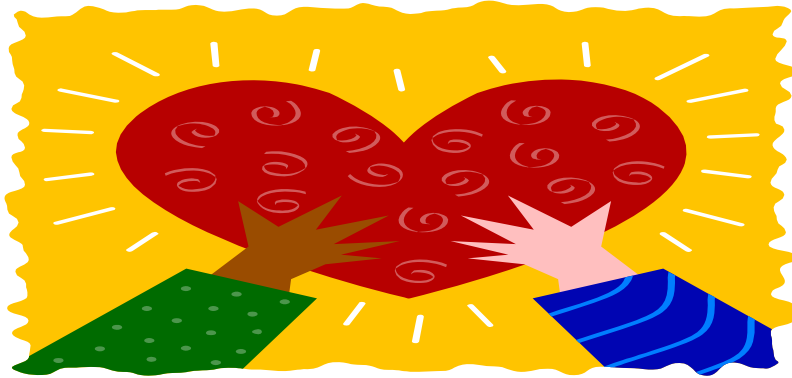
The employer responded, "All the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. So the job is his."

This week we observed a three-day vigil 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."

Introduction to Orthodoxy Classes Begin Sunday, January 18th:

Parishioners, visitors, and newcomers who would like an overview of the Orthodox faith are encouraged to attend this course to be presented on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Fr. George will teach the class and provide a reading list, handouts, and texts to be used. Our first class will be Sunday, January 18, 2009 and meet every first and third Sunday at 12:30 p.m. This series is an excellent resource for anyone contemplating joining the church and also helpful for Orthodox Christians who wish to increase his or her understanding of our faith.



PHILOPTOCHOS HANDS OF LOVE

On Sunday, January 11, 2009

***Our Philoptochos Society will be collecting for
One Roof Outreach Ministry in Newnan, GA.
Diapers – All Sizes, Pull-Ups – All Sizes
Children’s New Underwear***

On Sunday, January 25, 2009

***Our Philoptochos Society will be collecting monetary
donations for our St. Christopher’s Dance Group.***

Thank You for your Hands of Love!

And on this the two hundred and fifty-fourth 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

Sunday, January 11 (Sunday after Holy Theophany):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Oratorical Festival Workshop
- 11:30 a.m. Greek Fest 2008 Wrap-Up/Kick-off 2009 Meeting
- 12:45 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 18 (12th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Assembly Meeting
- 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Orthodoxy Class (see inside for details)

Monday, January 19:

- 7:00 p.m. Religious Education & Youth Workers Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Education, Youth, & Culture Diakonia Meeting

Sunday, January 25 (15th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service
- 10:30 a.m. Memorial Luncheon
- 11:00 a.m. General Parish Assembly Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. GOYA Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!