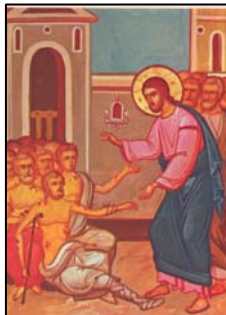
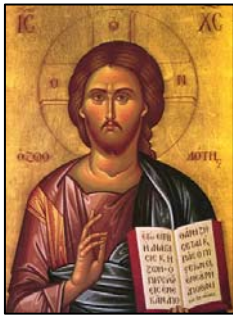




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 18, 2009

ON THIS DAY, we commemorate our Fathers among the Saints, Athanasios (+373) and Cyril (+444), Patriarchs of Alexandria; Holy Martyr Theodoule; and Saint Xena. *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./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

3. Hymn for Ss. Athanasios & Cyril – (not in Hymnal):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: You became radiant by your Orthodox deeds, quelling all heresy and becoming conquering champions. Your piety enriched all, and the Church became greatly beautified. You have worthily found Christ our God Who by your prayers grants all great mercy.

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 in anticipation of the Presentation of the Lord (to be celebrated 2/2) (Hymnal-pp.250-253):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

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 20:19-31)

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.’ A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.”

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 (Luke 17:12-19)

¹²As He entered a village, ten lepers approached Him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then He said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:19)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Two men are sitting next to each other on a long airline flight. One is a scholar who is thinking that the person sitting next to him is so dumb that he could have great fun at his expense. So the scholar asks the person next to him if he would like to play a fun game.

This passenger is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The scholar persists, and says that the game is a lot of fun. "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5. You ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500," he says. This catches the tired passenger's attention, and to keep the scholar quiet, he agrees to play the game.

The scholar asks the first question: "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The passenger next to him ponders, doesn't say a word, reaches in his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the scholar.

Now, it's the unassuming passenger's turn. He asks the scholar, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The scholar uses his laptop computer and searches all references he can find on the Internet. He sends e-mails to all the smart friends he knows, all to no avail. After one hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes up his neighbor, who is now resting peacefully, and hands him \$500. The passenger pockets the \$500 and goes right back to sleep.

The scholar is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the passenger up a second time and asks, "Well? So what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

The fully-awake passenger reaches in his pocket, hands the scholar \$5 and goes back to sleep.

Today, we begin our "Introduction to Orthodoxy" Classes. Society often encourages us to be like the scholar in this humorous illustration, and feel confident we possess all there is to know. But like the scholar, we realize we are merely fooling ourselves. Quite the contrary, the time we spend learning about our faith helps not only us, but supports and encourages those who in their infancy seek the wisdom of God and His Holy Church. Join us if you can. Everyone is welcome!

Introduction to Orthodoxy Classes
Begin Today – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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

Through the end of January, 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***

Next 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-fifth 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 18 (12th Sunday of St. Luke):

[Our Hellenic Dance youth, instructors, and advisors are at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Alexios at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta.]

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service
- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Hellenic Dance Practice

Sunday, February 1 (Sunday of Canaanite Woman/Souper Bowl of Caring):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Agiasmos/Blessing of Water
- 10:45 a.m. Parish's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class
- 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Orthodoxy Class (*see inside for details*)

Monday, February 2 (Presentation of our Lord & Savior into the Temple):

- 6:00 p.m. Orthros (Evening)
- 7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening)
- 8:00 p.m. Community Dinner (Non-fasting – please bring food)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!