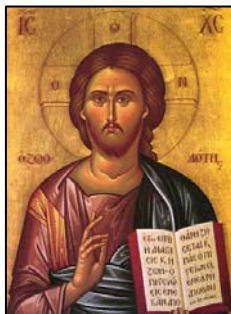




**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA**

*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 Sunday, January 4, 2009**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**, we commemorate the Synaxis (collective celebration) of the Holy Glorious 70 Apostles; the Righteous Theoktistos (+800); Righteous Appolinaria of the Assembly (+502); Holy Six Martyrs; Holy Martyrs Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios Komentarisios; Dorotheos the Monk; Holy Martyrs Chrysanthos and Efymia (who were by the side of the Martyr Akakios); and Righteous Onouphrios the Younger, the New Priest-Martyr (+1818). *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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

### **3. Hymn for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (Hymnal-pp.204-207):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Make ready, Zebulon; prepare, O Nephthali. O Jordan, stop your flow, and with rejoicing receive the Master as He comes to be baptized. You too, O Adam, exalt with our mother Eve. Do not hide yourselves as you did, of old, in Paradise. At the sight of your nakedness Christ has come forth, clothing you in innocence and renewing all creation.

### **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 for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: In the waters today of the Jordan, the Lord cried out with loud voice to John, “Be not dismayed to baptize Me; truly I save the house of Adam the first-created man.”*

## **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 20:1-10)**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 4:5-8)**

*<sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. <sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will*

*give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for His appearing.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 1:1-8)**

*The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

#### **TODAY’S MEMORY VERSE** (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

*“...prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight...”*  
(Mark 1:3)

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

*As we begin our new year of 2009 in the Lord, I offer St. Paul’s prayer for the Greek Christians of 2000+ years ago living in Thessalonica in your behalf and for those we will encounter: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess. 5:23)*



# PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009  
(DAY OF STRICT FAST)

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

MONDAY EVENING VIGIL,  
5:00 PM, SERVICE OF GREAT  
HOURS

A beautiful and meaningful prayer service consisting of the reading of prayers for the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours consecutively. Old Testament psalms and prophecies are read, as well as selected New Testament Epistles, the Acts of the Apostles, and Gospels related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Readers of all ages are encouraged to attend and assist with the readings.

**MONDAY EVENING VIGIL, 6:00 PM, VESPERAL LITURGY**

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil commemorating the Holy Theophany of our Lord will be celebrated. It includes many beautiful Scriptural readings.

## MONDAY EVENING VIGIL, 7:30 PM, THE FIRST BLESSING OF THE WATERS

This service is the first blessing of the waters. Please note that there is no difference between this blessing service and that of the second blessing of the waters tomorrow morning. The water that is blessed is considered holy and can be used throughout the year for the prayerful needs of parishioners.

(8:00 pm - Fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)



## THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 6, 2009

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

TUESDAY EVENING, 5:00 PM,  
ORTHROS

This service is in preparation for the Divine Liturgy to follow. It contains beautiful hymns and canons of our Church related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord.

## TUESDAY EVENING, 6:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in commemoration of the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## TUESDAY EVENING, 7:15 PM, THE SECOND BLESSING OF THE WATERS

This service is the second blessing of the waters. Please note that there is no difference between this blessing service and that of the first blessing of the waters yesterday evening. The water that is blessed is considered holy and can be used throughout the year for the prayerful needs of parishioners.

(8:00 pm - Non-fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)



## WEDNESDAY EVENING

JANUARY 7, 2009

FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE PROPHET,  
FORERUNNER, AND BAPTIST

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS  
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7,  
2009, 6:00 PM, ORTHROS

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7, 2009,

7:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated in commemoration of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On this day, St. John the Baptist is honored for the part he has played in the events celebrated on the day before. This Synaxis, or Gathering, is an occasion for the people of God to come together and hear the voice of the Forerunner preaching penance for the remission of sins.

(8:00 pm - Fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)

### **St. Christopher's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Vasilopita & Covered Dish Dinner**

Good Will Offering to Benefit the Academy of Saint Basil  
Sponsored by the Philoptochos Chapter  
of St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

Food • Live Auction • Entertainment for All Ages

**Saturday, January 10, 2009**

**6:00 pm to 10:30 pm**

**Fayette Family YMCA, 215 Huiet Road  
Fayetteville GA**

If your last name begins with, please bring:

A - G: Desserts

H - M: Salads of all varieties, including fruit

N - S: Vegetables or vegetable casseroles

T - Z: Pasta, rice or potato dish

Bring enough to feed your family and at least six others. Please come early (5:00 pm) to help set up or stay after to help clean up.

And on this the two hundred and fifty-third 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 4 (Sunday before Holy Theophany):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Oath of Office – Parish Council
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Language Class
- 12:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

### Monday, January 5 (Preparation for Theophany – Strict Fast):

- 5:00 p.m. Service of Great Hours
- 6:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil
- 7:30 p.m. First Blessing of the Waters
- 8:00 p.m. Fasting Dinner (please bring food)

### Tuesday, January 6 (Holy Theophany – Important Feast Day):

- 5:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Theophany
- 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy for Holy Theophany
- 7:15 p.m. Second Blessing of the Waters
- 8:00 p.m. Non-Fasting Dinner (please bring food)

### Wednesday, January 7 (Feast of St. John the Baptist):

- 6:00 p.m. Orthros
- 7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
- 8:00 p.m. Fasting Dinner (please bring food)

### Saturday, January 10 (Fayette Family YMCA):

- 6:00 p.m. Annual Vasilopita Sponsored by Philoptochos

### 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

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