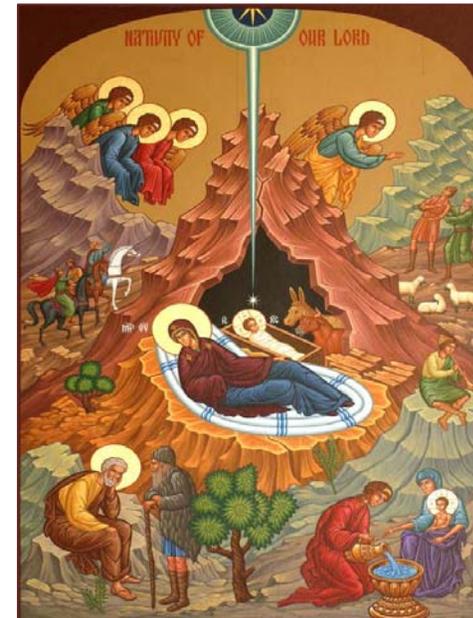
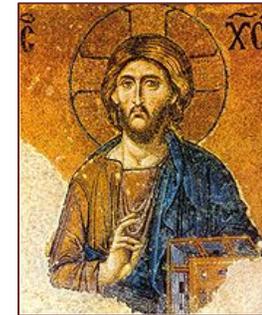




Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Liturgical Guide for the Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ



Christ is Born, Glorify Him!
Thursday, December 25, 2014

ON THIS DAY THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. We also remember the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; and the commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord. *To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors & 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./3./5./10. Special Hymn for the Feast of the Blessed Birth of our Lord (sung after the Great Doxology, before and after the Small Entrance, and instead of Ithomen to fos, "We have seen the true light" after the distribution of Holy Communion) – (Hymnal-pp.198-201): "Your birth, O Christ our God, shines forth on all the world with the light of knowledge. For at Your Birth, those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. O Lord, glory to You."

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):

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, Who was born of the Virgin, Who sing to You, Alleluia.

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Before the morning star, from the womb, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

6. Kontakion of the Blessed Birth of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.244-247):

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give Him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to Him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born as a little child.

7. Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.292-293):

On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)"

8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.312-315):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": "Magnify, O my soul, the woman more honorable and more glorious than the powers of heaven. I see a mystery, strange and most wondrous: the cave has become heaven, the Virgin, the throne of the cherubim. The manger holds Him who cannot be held or contained, Christ our God, Whom we praise and magnify."

9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p.326):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (3) Alleluia."

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES
FROM 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 – ORTHROS SERVICE (Matthew 1:18-25)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and He named Him Jesus.

Epistle Reading (Galatians 4:4-7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been

written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children." (Gal. 4:4-5)



Commemoration of Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

After the dismissal of the Liturgy, Fr. George, joined by our Chantors and Choir Members go to the middle of the Solea [in front and on the sides of the Festal Icon of the Holy Nativity of our Lord], and lead our congregation in singing the following two Hymns in Greek and English:

1. The Troparion of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English). This can be found on page 198 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου, Χριστέ ὁ
Θεός ἡμῶν,
Ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς
τὸ τῆς γνωσεως,
Ἐν αὐτῇ γάρ, οἱ τοῖς ἀστροῖς
αἰτρεύοντες
Ἵπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο
Σέ προσκυνεῖν τὸν ἡλιον τῆς
δικαιωσύνης
Καί σέ γινώσκειν ἐς ὕψους
ἀνάτολήν. Κύριε, δόξα σοι.
*Glory to the Father, and to
the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit.*
Your birth, O Christ our
God, shines forth on all the
world with the light of
knowledge,
for at your birth those who
had adored the stars
were taught by a star to
worship You, to worship
You, the Sun of justice, and
to know You, the Dawn
from on high. O Lord, glory
to You.

2. The Kontakion of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English). This can be found on page 244 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.

*Both now and forever, and
unto the ages of ages.
Amen.*

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον τὸν
ὑπερούσιον τίκτει
Καί ἡ γῆ τὸ σπήλαιον τῷ
ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει
Ἀγγελοι μετὰ ποιμένων
δοξολογοῦσι
Μάγοι δέ μετὰ ἀστέρος
ὁδοιποροῦσι
Δι ἡμᾶς γάρ ἐγεννήθη
παιδίον νέον Ὁ πρόαιώνων
Θεός

Today the Virgin gives birth
to the Transcendent One,
And the earth presents a
cave to the Unapproachable
One. Angels with shepherds
give Him glory; *Wise men
follow a star as they journey
to Him who is God from all
ages, yet for our sake is
born as a little child.*

Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!

On this our twelfth Feast of the Holy Nativity of our Lord at our St. Christopher 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

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Morning:

8:00 a.m.: Orthros of the Holy Nativity

**9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
for the Holy Nativity of our Lord**

**11:30 am Feed the Homeless at St. John the
Wonderworker in Atlanta**

*(In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, the period from
12/25-1/4 is fast free.)*

Sunday, December 28 (Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

11:00 am Let's EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner,
535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214

Wednesday, December 31 (Eve - Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil/New Year's):

4:00 pm Great Vespers Service

**4:45 pm Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Doxology
on the 1st of the Year & Blessing of the
Vasilopita**

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

*"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command
you to do this word which says, 'You shall surely open your hands to
your brother, to your poor and needy in your land.'"
(Deuteronomy 15: 11)*

Feed the Homeless Today...

December 25, 2014, 11:30 a.m.

**Christmas at St. John the
Wonderworker Church**

We will be helping St. John the Wonderworker's Loaves and Fishes Program distribute food, hats, scarves, and gloves for adults on Christmas Day, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please join us!

For location information, go to: www.saintjohnwonderworker.org.

Stewardship 2015

We thank everyone who has offered your family's 2015 Stewardship Commitment Card. If you have not done so already, please place your envelope in today's offering tray. Extra cards/envelopes are on the entrance table. *Every parishioner is asked to support our Stewardship Program!*



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. *Be sure to
check our status for updates and photos.*