



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

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Chancellor

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, March 10, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD WHICH WE REFER TO AS MEAT FARE SUNDAY, WE CALL TO MIND THE SECOND, THE INESCAPABLE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Martyr Quadratus of Corinth and his five Companions Martyred with him (+251); Righteous Mother Anastasia of Alexandria (+563); St. Marcian; and New-Martyr St. Michael (+1544). *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 THE SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. 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.

4. Kontakion for Meat Fare Sunday – (New Hymnal-pp.260-263):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: When You come to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all creation will tremble and a river of fire will flow before Your throne of judgment. The books will be opened and the secrets of all will be revealed. On that day, O just Judge, deliver me from eternal flames and make me worthy to stand at Your right.

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 During Divine Liturgy (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 25:31-46)

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will put the sheep at His right hand and the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you gave Me clothing, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink? And when was it that we saw You a stranger and welcomed You, or naked and gave You clothing? And when was it that we saw You sick or in prison and visited You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of

these who are members of My family, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at His left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from Me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not give Me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

“Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.”

(Ps. 25:17-18)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

(Excerpt from the Canon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment)



Seventh Ode: WE HAVE SINNED, TRANSGRESSED, DONE WRONG BEFORE YOU. WE HAVE NOT WATCHED OR DONE AS YOU HAVE COMMANDED US, BUT DO NOT GIVE US UP UTTERLY, O GOD OF OUR FATHERS.

HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME.

Let us, faithful, fall down and lament before that day of judgment comes, when the heavens shall be destroyed, the stars fall and all the earth shall be shaken, that at the end we may receive mercy from the God of our fathers.

The trial is without respect of persons, and fearful is the judgment on that day; nothing escapes the Judge, no favor can be won with bribes. But spare me, Master, and deliver me from all Your fearful wrath.

The Lord comes to judge: who can endure the sight of Him? Tremble, my wretched soul! Tremble and prepare for your wretched departure, that you may gain mercy and compassion from the God of your fathers. Terror seizes me when I think of the unquenchable fire, of the bitter worm, the gnashing of teeth, and soul-destroying hell; yet I do not turn to true compunction. Lord, Lord, before the end, strengthen Your fear within me.

I fall down before You and offer You my words as tears: I have sinned as the Harlot never sinned, and I have transgressed as no other man on earth. But take pity on Your creature, O Master, and call me back.

Turn back, repent, uncover all that you have hidden! Say to God, to whom all things are known: You alone know all my secrets, Savior; have mercy on me, as David says, according to Your mercy.

Doxastikon: I sing the praises of the Three that are one in Essence, of the One that is three in Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one power, one will, one energy, one thrice holy God, one sovereign Kingdom.

Theotokion: Virgin, God comes forth in beauty from the chamber of your womb; He is clothed as a King in the divinely-woven robe dyed mystically in your all-pure blood, and He reigns over all the earth.

Katavasia WE HAVE SINNED, TRANSGRESSED, DONE WRONG BEFORE YOU. WE HAVE NOT WATCHED OR DONE AS YOU HAVE COMMANDED US, BUT DO NOT GIVE US UP UTTERLY, O GOD OF OUR FATHERS.

ANOTHER REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

He's The Clumsy One

Perhaps you have heard about the father who introduced his children in this manner:

“This is Pete. He’s the clumsy one of the lot.”

“That's Kathy coming in with mud on her shoes. She’s the sloppy one.”

“As always, Mike's last. He’ll be late for his own funeral, I promise you.”

That father did a thorough job of labeling his children with their faults and mistakes.

People do it to us and to those we love all the time. They remind us of our failures, our errors, our sins, and they won't let us live them down. Try as you may to free yourself from the past, there are people who will continue to remind you of it.

Next Sunday, you are invited to participate in our annual *Forgiveness Service* – a special tradition in our Holy Orthodox Church. Through this reconciliation to our brothers in sisters in Christ, and further, by exercising it with all our family and friends, our Lord enables us to have a chance to begin again.

When we don't let people forget their past, when we don't forgive, we label people with those mistakes. We refuse to see them as more than the sum total of their errors. On the other hand, when we forgive, we gently pry the doer of the hurtful deed away from the deed itself, and we say that the past is just that – it's in the past . . . it's over and done with. *I hope you will join us!*



Helping Hands of Love TODAY

for ***One Roof Outreach Ministry***

We will collect personal hygiene items and cleansing products: toilet tissue, paper towels, bar soap, toothpaste, disposable razors, lotion, shampoo, feminine products, disposable diapers for children and adults, liquid dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent.

One Roof is an alliance of churches of many different denominations, as well as community organizations and businesses. Through their joint effort they hope to improve the goodwill of the Coweta County community. Through donations from churches, organizations and individuals, One Roof offers help in emergency financial situations by paying rent, placing evicted or fire victim families in motels, and paying utility bills, among other situations.

For more information, please look at: <http://www.oneroofoutreach.org/index.htm>

And on this the four hundred and fifty-forth 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!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 3rd Sunday of the Trodion period – *Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 18th*

Sunday, March 10 (Judgment Sunday – Meatfare Sunday – no meat after today for those seeking strict fast during Lent; dairy allowed this week):

Note: No Orthros Service Today

10:00 am Divine Liturgy (*Note later starting time*)

11:45 am Parish Council Meeting/Philoptochos Membership Drive

11:45 am Hellenic Language Class

Graduation Spring Sale baking - make filling - *times to be announced*

Monday, March 11:

Graduation Spring Sale baking - rolling - *times to be announced*

Thursday, March 14:

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Graduation Spring Sale baking - rolling - *times to be announced*

Saturday, March 16 (2nd Saturday of the Souls – bring Kolyva):

8:00 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service

Graduation Spring Sale baking - rolling - *times to be announced*

Sunday, March 17 (Forgiveness Sunday – Cheesefare Sunday – no cheese and dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Lent):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Vespers of Forgiveness

11:00 am Religious Education Classes

11:45 am GOYA Meeting

11:45 am Hellenic Dance Practice

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!