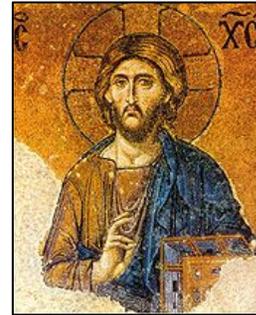




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, January 10, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (+394); Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa; Presbyter Markianos of Constantinople (+471); Righteous Father Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (+602); and Righteous Ammonios, ascetic in Nitria. *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 SMALL ENTRANCE

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

On the occasion of Theophany 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 baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

2./4. 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."

3. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung 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.

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 21:1-14)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Eph. 4:7-13)

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.
⁸Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He made captivity itself a captive; He gave gifts to His people."⁹ (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?¹⁰ He Who descended is the same one Who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)¹¹ The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

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

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew to Galilee.¹³ He left Nazareth and made His home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,¹⁴ so 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—¹⁶ the 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."¹⁷ From 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)

Welcome to Metropolitan Alexios Today!



We feel very blessed to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at St. Christopher Church this morning. Indeed, His Eminence visits us amidst a very demanding week during which He celebrated the Feast of Holy Theophany with Archbishop Demetrios and Bishop Sevastianos and many clergy from throughout the U.S. (including the Blessing of the waters in Tarpon Springs, FL), the Feast of St. John the Baptist in Tampa, FL, and another Blessing of the Waters in West Palm Beach yesterday. After worshipping with us, He travels to the Atlanta airport to begin His travels to Constantinople, Turkey, this afternoon to visit the Ecumenical Patriarch and be part of the Patriarchal Synod for the next week.

As we welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, let us remember to keep Him in our prayers... *as our Shepherd and Spiritual Father*, and as one who constantly seeks to bring us closer to God through active and diverse ministries and new initiatives. We're excited for Him to share news of the Diakonia Retreat Center, and the new Chapel being built there. ***May our Lord grant Him many more years!***

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 past week we observed a vigil and commemoration for Holy Theophany, one of the three greatest Feast Days of the Orthodox Church. The next day we remembered St. John the Baptist. 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.”



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Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

And on this 590th 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!



ON BEHALF OF OUR ST. CHRISTOPHER FAMILY, WE
WELCOME YOUR EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 10 (Sunday after the Holy Theophany of our Lord):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – 40 Days – Helen Demopoulos
& 20 Years – Theodore Lamas/Parish Council Oath of Office
Memorial Luncheon hosted by Cynthia & Mahany Cromartie**
- 12:00 pm Parish Council Meeting, followed by Peachtree City Greek Fest Chairs
Meeting**

Tuesday, January 12:

- 6:30 pm Building Fundraising Meeting**

Thursday, January 14:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice – *please join us!***

Saturday, January 16:

- 9:00 am Fr. George will offer Divine Liturgy at Paracletos Monastery in Abbeville,
SC today. Please join him and other parishioners traveling there.**

Sunday, January 17 (12th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service - Tzvetan Andreev**
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)**
- 11:30 am Hellenic Dance Practice**

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!