



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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, January 11, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE our Righteous Theodosius the Cenobiarch (+529) and Vitalis of Gaza *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 (Plagal of the 2nd Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung 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.

5. Hymn for St. Theodosius the Cenobiarch –(Hymnal-pp.136-139):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: Like warm and gentle rain, your tears of compunction made the desert burst forth in bloom. Your patient endurance made your sufferings bear fruit one hundredfold and your wondrous deeds have filled all the world with light. O holy father Theodosius, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

6. 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.

7. 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 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 (Hebr. 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 (Matthew 4:12-17)

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

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Our culture has a tendency to be an event culture. We are encouraged to go from event to event. There is a whole discipline called “event marketing.” The presidential primary campaigns that will start up in 2015 are set up as a string of events. It seems to be a good way of selling things.

But it is not so great as a way of living. Special events are important. They can mark special times for us. They can help us link the past to the future. They can solidify our memories and focus our thoughts. *But the events that mark our life are not the same as life itself.*

If we live from event to event, we miss the time in between. We go from peak to peak without ever living in the valley or on the plains. Looking forward to the next event, anticipating the next big change... it is a way for us to cope. It gives us a way to put the past aside and to concentrate on the future. It keeps our minds away from our regrets. It keeps our minds on what we wish for.

This week we celebrated Holy Theophany – the origin of each of our baptisms. On this venerable day, the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens. *Baptism is not an event of the past. It is a present fact.* When we remember our Baptism, we say “I was Baptized.” I would like to add, “I am baptized... I am baptized in Christ... I am crucified with Christ,” as St. Paul says. He also witnessed “It is no longer I who live, but Christ.” St. Paul also

preached that we have been united with Christ in His death through baptism and because of this we will be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

What is St. Paul saying? *Our past baptism gives certainty to our future resurrection.* As today's Epistle reading reminds us, ¹⁴*For here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.* ¹⁵*Through Him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess His name.* ¹⁶*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*" (Hebr. 13:14-16)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our baptism marks us permanently and keeps our minds off our failures and reminds us of what we wish for. In response, let us live faithfully and attentively in God's Kingdom, now, and forever and ever. Amen.

And on this 541st 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

Sunday, January 11 (Sunday after Holy Theophany):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Religious Education Classes

11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, January 15:

6:30 pm Choir Practice – please join us!

Sunday, January 18 (12th Sunday of St. Luke):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Luncheon

11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!