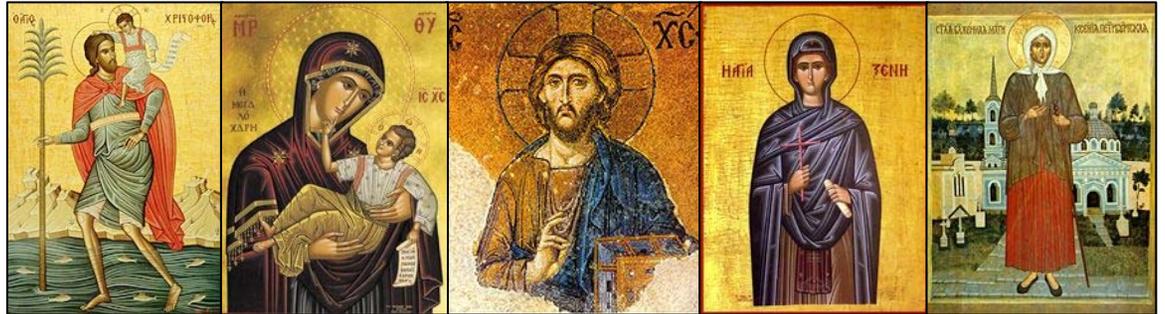




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 24, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE 14TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE COMMEMORATE our Righteous Mother Xenia, Deaconess of Rome and her two servants (+450); St. Xenia of St. Petersburg, Fool-for-Christ; and Holy Priest-Martyr Babylas of Sicily and his two companions, Agapios and Timothy (3rd cent.). *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

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 of the Presentation of the Lord – (Hymnal-pp.250-253):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

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 (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.

Epistle Reading for Today (1 Timothy 1:15-17)

⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in Him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:35-43)

Luke 18:35 As He approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more

loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to Him; and when he came near, He asked him, 41 "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." 42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." 43 Immediately he regained his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!". (Luke 18:13)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

We cannot come to God in honest prayer when we have not forgiven one another's wrongdoings. This week I read the following story that reinforced this approach.

Consider how a young boy saw a pack of cigarettes on the ground and decided to try them. He went to a field near his home and, after several uncomfortable attempts, got one to light up. It didn't taste good to him; indeed, it burned his throat and made him cough. But it made him feel very grown up.

Then he saw his father coming. Quickly, he put the cigarette behind his back and tried to be casual. Desperate to divert his father's attention, the young boy pointed to a nearby billboard advertising the circus. "Can we go, Dad? Please, let's go when it comes to town."

The father quietly and firmly replied, "Son, never make a plea while at the same time trying to hide an obvious disobedience."

How can we dare approach God in honest prayer if do we not forgive one another's wrongdoings? In spite of our hesitation to forgive others or even to seek God's help to forgive others' wrongdoings, I feel the starting point is nonetheless to approach Him... with humility, contrition, and prayer... asking for Him to guide us "how" we can forgive others. He even said this in Luke 11:9-13:

⁹... Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Glory to God in all things! Amen!



PHILOPTOCHOS HANDS OF LOVE

Looking Ahead to Sunday, February 7th

Our Philoptochos Society will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations to help the Fayette Samaritans as part of the National Souper Bowl of Caring effort to be conducted.

Thank You for your Hands of Love!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TODAY

(During class today, Katie Wilson will present a video documenting the life of Agafia Lykova, in follow-up to her lesson about her last week! Likewise, she will present a new article.)



Agafia Lykova: Siberia Hermit Emerges From Wilderness After 70 Years

Siberia's most famous hermit, Agafia Lykova, emerged from the Russian wilderness last Wednesday — for the first time in 70 years. According to reports, the reclusive woman used an emergency satellite phone to call for help, as she was experiencing severe pain in her legs.



Catholic and Orthodox Christians Affirm
Sanctity of Life, Invite People into the Embrace
of Christ

NEW YORK— On the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Orthodox and Catholic Christians will join in prayer and public gathering to express their long-standing belief that all life is sacred.

The following statement was signed by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the USCCB; His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, chairman of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops; Cardinal Dolan; and Metropolitan Savas:

Seeking Life, Mercy, and Healing
A Common Statement by Orthodox and Catholic Bishops
on the 43rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

On January 22, Catholic and Orthodox Christians will once again stand in solidarity on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. As our communities firmly believe in the sanctity of life, the faithful—along with many people of other traditions and good will—lament the legal circumstances that facilitate abortion and the cultural phenomena that present abortion as the only choice for expectant mothers experiencing difficult conditions.

We recognize that the choice to abort an unborn child ultimately reflects the broken condition of humanity.

We remind the world of our common teaching that life begins at the earliest moments of conception and that life, at all stages of its development, is sacred. We denounce the termination of a life as a response to unwanted pregnancies or as a method of overcoming social and economic challenges. We embrace the mothers and the couples who, in spite of difficulties, choose to bring their pregnancy to term. At the same time, however, we invite those who may have undergone or facilitated an abortion to turn to Christ with contrite hearts, seeking to overcome their grief through His forgiveness, mercy and healing.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios
of America, Chairman, Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of the USA

Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh
Chairman, Committee for Church and Society
Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of
the USA

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville , President
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

Archbishop of New York
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page](#) – St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church.
Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

And on this 592nd 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 24 (14th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service**
- 10:30 am GOYA Meeting**
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)**
- 11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting**

Thursday, January 28:

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

Saturday, January 30 (Feast of the Three Hierarchs):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

Sunday, January 31 (15th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – George Tagalos**
- 10:30 am General Parish Assembly & GOYA Gyros Luncheon**
- 3:00 pm Trisagion Service for George Tagalos – Greenwood Cemetery**

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