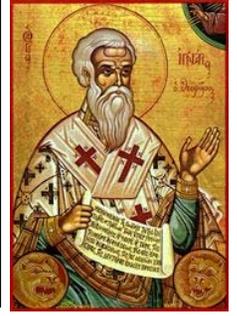
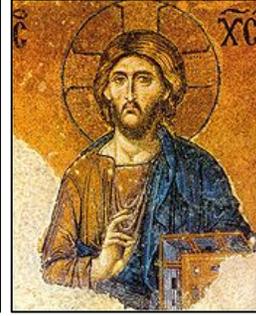




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 29, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF SAINT MATTHEW, WE REMEMBER the Recovery of the Relics of Saint Ignatius the God-Bearer (+107); New Martyr Demetrios of Chios (+1802); Holy Martyrs who died in Samosata: Philotheos, Hyperihos, Avivos, Julian, Romanos, and Iakovos the Comforter (+284-305); Holy Martyrs, Bishop Sylvan, Deacon Luke, and Mokios the Reader; Holy Martyrs, Sarbellus, and his sister Vevaia of Edessa; Holy Priest-Martyr Varsimos, Bishop of Edessa; Righteous Father Afraatos; and Laurence the Recluse of the Kiev Caves. *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./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 for Holy Martyr Ignatius – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Ignatius. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

4. 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.

5. 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
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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 (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1)

¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸and I will be your father, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” ⁷Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and of spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 15:21-28)

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.’ ²³But He did not answer her at all. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.’ ²⁴He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ ²⁵But she came and knelt before Him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’ ²⁶He answered, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’ ²⁷She said, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.’ ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His Name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Worship the LORD in holy splendor;” (1 Chronicles 16.29)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

For centuries people believed that Aristotle was right when he said that the heavier an object, the faster it would fall to earth. Aristotle was regarded as the greatest thinker of all time, and surely he would not be wrong. Anyone, of course, could have taken two objects, one heavy and one light, and dropped them from a great height to see whether or not the heavier object landed first. But no one did until nearly 2,000 years after Aristotle's death. Legend has it that in 1589, Galileo summoned learned professors to the base of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Then he went to the top and pushed off a ten-pound and a one-pound weight. Both landed at the same instant. The power of belief was so strong, however, that the professors denied their eyesight. They continued to say Aristotle was right.

I believe that this illustrates perfectly what is going on in the world today. You could show the terrible ravaging effects of AIDS and people will have promiscuous sex anyway. You can show someone a diseased liver and cancerous lungs and people are going to abuse alcohol and smoke regardless of the facts.

You know what I wish? I wish someone would just climb to the top of the tower and push off a ten-pound argument and a one-pound argument and let's just see if they reach the ground first. That would finally prove who is right and who is wrong. But then I am reminded that when Galileo did that, no one believed him. Even with the authority of obvious visible proof, i.e. the two weights reached the ground at the same time, the professors did not believe. The problem here is obvious. Most people are going to believe what they have always believed regardless of the facts.

But something different occurred in the life of Jesus - *something persuasive*. The Evangelist Mark records in 1:21-28 that when Jesus came to Capernaum, on the Sabbath day, and entered the synagogue and taught, the crowds were astounded. Why? One word: *Authority*. He taught, not as the scribes taught, but as one having authority.

What was it that convinced them? What did they hear and see in the life of Christ that made him stand above all other teachers. Why were they so drawn to Him? I believe it was because our Lord's teachings were new, and that He taught with authority. Indeed, notice in today's Gospel lesson Jesus' authority over evil and sickness after being confronted by the Canaanite Woman. "Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly." (Mt. 15:28)

What about us . . . do we acknowledge and seek God's authority over us? After hearing or reading His teachings, do we choose to believe them . . . to follow them?



Hands of Love: February

"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." (Deut. 15:11)



Sunday, February 5th

Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to **fight hunger and poverty** in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, (and continuing throughout February), we will take up a collection, **asking for one dollar and/or one item of canned food from each family member**. 100% of our donation will go directly to **Fayette Samaritans**.

Started by a youth group in 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring now occurs all over the world and has collected more than \$100 million, which has been donated back into the communities where the food and funds were raised.

Kim Poolos, Hands of Love Coordinator

TACKLE



HUNGER

Parish Council News

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Galatians 6:9

*****IT'S COMPLETE!!!!*****

**Everyone is Invited to Hear About It!!! What, You Ask, "is Complete"????
The St. Christopher's Planning Study!!!**

Join us **Sunday, February 5th**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Jerry Minetos from the Office of Parish Development with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America will be joining us to explain the findings of our Planning Study and what that means for our parish. This is an important and pivotal time in our parish, and we pray that every parishioner will be able to attend this meeting.

2017 Parish Council Members & Officers

Very Reverend Father George Tsahakis
President - Tammy Soulakos
V. President - Julie Skouteris
Secretary - Dina Tagalos Kearns
Treasurer - George Psihountas
Asst. Treasurer - Steve Sarantis
Stephen Butler
Tom Farmakis
Kirk Panayis
Steve Theodorakis

Please Join Us - February 12th Parish General Assembly

At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to:
Hear our Stewardship Report, Approve the 2017 Budget, Hear reports from Ministry Leaders, and Help select a delegate to attend the 2017 Clergy-Laity Conference.

Sunday Scheduling Protocol

Our parish seeks to honor Sunday, 'the day of the Lord' with worship, coffee fellowship, seeking to learn and grow closer to Him through religious education for all age groups, and engaging in service and fellowship opportunities as they arise (e.g. ministry meetings, group outings, special speakers, etc.).

Toward that end, please know that our routine Sunday schedule is as follows: Orthros at 7:45 am, Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am, coffee fellowship at 10:15 am or 10:30 am (adjusted for adding Trisagion and Memorial services and Prayer Shawl blessings), and religious education at 10:45 am. If a family wishes to honor a person or event with a luncheon, it can be scheduled beginning at 11:30 am, unless there is an already established meeting (e.g., Philoptochos, General Assembly, etc.) and it would need to be scheduled later or on another Sunday when 11:30 am is possible.

Of course, as special needs arise for services or meetings, Fr. George will adjust as needed, such as the two general assembly meetings already planned in February. These will stay at their posted time after the services. In closing, always remember that the web calendar is the most up-to-date schedule. If you are planning a meeting or an event/luncheon and it is not listed, you need to contact Fr. George Tsahakis to ensure no conflicts exist and it is posted.

Thank you all for your support of St. Christopher's!

Faithfully,
Julie Skouteris
Parish Council Vice President



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

And on this 642nd 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 29 (Sunday of the Canaanite):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – George TagalosP

10:45 am Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

11:45 am Let's EAT! Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214. It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all...!

Monday, January 30:

5:30 pm Fr. George & Parish Council Officers Annual Meeting with Ministry Heads – Session 1 (those meeting have been notified)

Wednesday, February 1 (Eve of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple):

5:00 pm Great Vespers Service

5:45 pm Divine Liturgy, followed by Community Dinner (please bring non-fasting food and join us!)

Thursday, February 2:

6:30 pm Choir Practice – please join us!

Friday, February 3:

8:00 am Parish Software Installation Meeting – Day 1

Saturday, February 4:

9:00 am Parish Software Installation Meeting – Day 2

Sunday, February 5 (Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee: Triodion Begins):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Souper Bowl of Caring

10:30 am General Parish Assembly (see update inside)

12:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!