



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, January 31, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE 15TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE COMMEMORATE Holy Wonderworkers, Cyrus & John the “Anargyroi” (Philanthropists & Unmercenary Physicians), Martyred together in Corinth with Athanasia and her Three Virgin Daughters: Theodote, Theoktiste, and Eudoxia (+311); Holy Martyrs Victorinus, Victor, Nikiforos, Calaudius, Diodoros, Serapinus, and Papias of Corinth (+311); Holy Martyr Trifaini; Holy New-Martyr Elias of Kalamata (+1686); and Righteous Arsenios of Paros. *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 (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn of Holy Wonderworkers, Cyrus & John – (not in Hymnal):

This hymn is sung *after* the Small Entrance: You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an impregnable fortress, O Christ our God. At their entreaties, frustrate the plots of foreign enemies, and strengthen our nation, for You alone are good and love humanity.

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

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

⁹The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. ¹¹These are the things you must insist on and teach. ¹²Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council

of elders. ¹⁵Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 19:1-10)

*19*He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, because He was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome Him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

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

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

When I visit shopping malls or walk along a crowded street in downtown Atlanta, I often see people wearing large silver and gold crosses around their necks. When I ask them what is their significance, they appear confused or surprised. Some actually admit it is just a nice piece of jewelry. Setting that aside, I believe the cross is a sacred symbol, and as Christians, we should be known less for *wearing* crosses than *bearing*

crosses. I don't know about you, but I'm increasingly concerned about our preference for the cross as a decoration, rather than as a means of devotion and a discipline.

When Jesus called His first Disciples, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, He didn't call them to a life of thoughtful contemplation only. Jesus called them into "live-action" missionary service leading up to His Cross and beyond. The Apostles had been making their living by catching fish. Now they would make a new life by catching people, by evangelizing a Gospel (the Good News of our Lord) that is more caught than taught.

That's what it means to lift up or bear one's cross. The cross is not about *death*. The cross is about *life*. The cross is *deliverance* from what is preventing us from being alive, from being a human being *fully alive*.

How can the Kingdom of God "come near" for this twenty-first century? How do we incarnate Christ in this broken, battered world? Waving the cross of Christ before the near-sighted, self-centered eyes of the world just won't cut it. As Disciples, we have to be willing to bear the *sacrificial* cross we have been given, rather than finding ourselves just wearing a cross and assuming that simple behavior defines who we are. No, Jesus called His disciples to *service, to sacrifice, to being the last, the least, and the lowliest*. When Jesus promised to make His first Disciples "fishers of people," it was a mission that came with fishhooks in thumbs, raw and ripped hands, long days of hard work and the possibility of empty nets.

Jesus said, "*If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will find it.*" (Matthew 16:24-25). Life's "crosses" are not barricades blocking our path to the future, but rather *bridges* that take us across.

The hard things of life make it easier, not harder, for us to be the human beings that God made us to be.

I close with a story about the sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), who is most famous for his sculpture “The Thinker.” It seems that one day Rodin noticed a large crucifix that had been discarded in a pile of trash. Although it was terribly marred and defaced, Rodin perceived that it could be restored to its original beauty. Consequently he and some companions carried it to his home.

But the cross was too big for the house. What to do? Rather than return it to the trash heap, Rodin decided to knock out some walls and raise the roof of his house to make room for the cross.

Has the cross of Christ made you knock out some walls and raise the roof of your life? If no, examine your heart, your priorities, and your commitment to Him. It might just change the way you view and live your life! Amen!

Pascha Blessing

Our next blessing of the prayer shawls will be in conjunction with Pascha and the shawls will be blessed on Sunday, May 15th. We will be sending the shawls to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) to be shared with the 2016 Mission Team going to Old



Harbor in Alaska. Please make sure to use wool or wool blend yarn for all shawls. It’s cold in Alaska! Please contact Susan Kleto at (770) 253-8469 or sbkleto@gmail.com to either become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions or suggestions.



Hands of Love: February 2016

"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 7th: Souper Bowl of Caring

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.

In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, we take up a collection, **asking for at least one dollar per family member and one item of canned food per family member** for people in need. 100% of our donation will go directly to **Fayette Samaritans**.

Started by a youth group in 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring has since grown all over the world, collecting more than \$100 million donated back into their own community.

Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator



Visit the St. Christopher's Online Parish Calendar at
www.saintchristopherhoc.org/Calendar.php
for up-to-the-minute details about upcoming events and services!



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

And on this 593rd 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 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**

Monday, February 1 (Eve of The Meeting of our Lord in the Temple):

- 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers**
- 5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening)**
- 7:00 p.m. Community Dinner (*non –fasting food - please join us*)**
- 7:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting**

Thursday, February 4:

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

Sunday, February 7 (16th Sunday of St. Matthew/Souper Bowl of Caring):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Coffee Fellowship**
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)**
- 11:30 pm Choir Meeting for ALL Choir Members**

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