



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

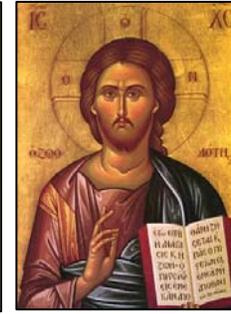
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlantagoarch.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 4, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, we commemorate the Synaxis (collective celebration) of the Holy Glorious 70 Apostles; the Righteous Theoktistos (+800); Righteous Appolinaria of the Assembly (+502); Holy Six Martyrs; Holy Martyrs Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios Komentarisios; Dorotheos the Monk; Holy Martyrs Chrysanthos and Efyimia (who were by the side of the Martyr Akakios); Righteous Euthymios the Younger; Righteous John Scholarios; Eustathios, Archbishop of Serbia; and Righteous Onouphrios the Younger, the New Priest-Martyr (+1818). *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 (Plagal of the First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

3. Hymn for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (Hymnal-pp.204-207):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Make ready, Zebulon; prepare, O Nephthali. O Jordan, stop your flow, and with rejoicing receive the Master as He comes to be baptized. You too, O Adam, exalt with our mother Eve. Do not hide yourselves as you did, of old, in Paradise. At the sight of your nakedness Christ has come forth, clothing you in innocence and renewing all creation.

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 for the Preparation for Holy Theophany – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: In the waters today of the Jordan, the Lord cried out with loud voice to John, “Be not dismayed to baptize Me; truly I save the house of Adam the first-created man.”

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 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 4:5-8)

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. ⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved

for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for His appearing.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight,’” ⁴John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

“...prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight...”
(Mark 1:3)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

As we begin our new year of 2015 in the Lord, I offer St. Paul’s prayer for the Greek Christians of 2000+ years ago living in Thessalonica in your behalf and for those we will encounter: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may

your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess. 5:23)

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

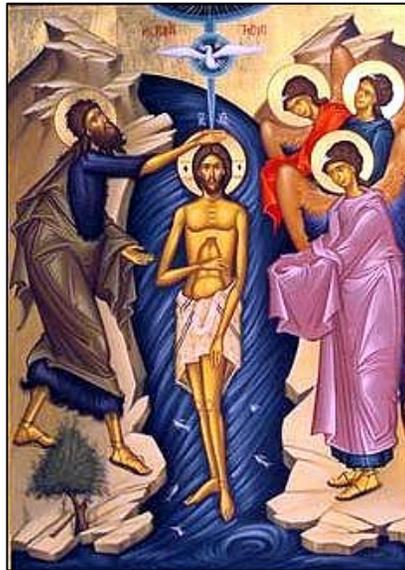
celebrated on the Eve of the Feast

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015

(DAY OF STRICT FAST)

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

**MONDAY AFTERNOON VIGIL,
4:00 PM, SERVICE OF GREAT HOURS**



A beautiful and meaningful prayer service consisting of the reading of prayers for the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours consecutively. Old Testament psalms and prophecies are read, as well as selected New Testament Epistles, the Acts of the Apostles, and Gospels related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. Readers of all ages are encouraged to attend and assist with the readings.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, 5:00 PM, ORTHROS

This service is in preparation for the Divine Liturgy to follow. It contains beautiful hymns and canons of our Church related to the Holy Theophany of our Lord.

MONDAY EVENING, 6:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in commemoration of the Holy Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MONDAY EVENING, 7:15 PM, BLESSING OF THE WATERS

This service is the Great Blessing of the waters. The water that is blessed is considered holy and can be used throughout the year for the prayerful needs of parishioners.

(7:30 pm - Non-fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)



FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE PROPHET, FORERUNNER, & BAPTIST

celebrated on the Eve of the Feast

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015

(DAY OF STRICT FAST)

(EVERYONE OF ALL AGES IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)

TUESDAY EVENING, 5:00 PM, ORTHROS

This service is in preparation for the Divine Liturgy to follow. It contains beautiful hymns and canons of our Church related to the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

TUESDAY EVENING, 6:00 PM, DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated in commemoration of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On this day, St. John the Baptist is honored for the part he has played in the events celebrated on the day before. This Synaxis, or Gathering, is an occasion for the people of God to come together and hear the voice of the Forerunner preaching penance for the remission of sins.

(7:00 pm - Non-fasting dinner to follow - please bring food to share.)

And on this 540th 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!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fast Free	Day of Strict Fast	Holy Theophany (services celebrated on Eve of Feast - 1/5/15)	Feast of St. John the Baptist (services celebrated on Eve of Feast - 1/6/15)	Choir Practice 6:30pm		Hands of Love - Community Vasilopita (St. Basil's Bread) Dinner - NEW Location - Dixie Wing Commemorative Air Force hangar 6:30pm
Sunday Before Holy Theophany	Eve/Vigil for the Feast of the Holy Theophany - Day of Strict Fast (until after evening services)	Orthros Service 5:00pm				
Orthros 7:45am - 9:00am	Service of Great Hours of Holy Theophany 4:00pm	Divine Liturgy 6:00pm				
Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 10:15am	Orthros Service 5:00pm	Community Dinner (fasting food; fish allowed) 7:00pm				
Doxology on the First of the Year 10:15am	Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Water (Evening Service) 6:00pm					
Religious Education Classes (for all ages) 10:45am - 11:30am	Community Dinner (non-fasting) 7:30pm					

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated



St. Christopher's Twelfth Annual Vasilopita and Covered Dish Dinner

Sponsored by Philoptochos

Your Good Will Offering Benefits



Food + Live Auction + Entertainment for all ages = FUN!

Saturday, January 10, 2015

6:30pm

Dixie Wing Commemorative Air Force Hangar

Please bring the following according to your **last name**:

A-G: desserts

H-M: salads

N-S: vegetables or vegetable casseroles

T-Z: pasta, rice or potato dish

Philoptochos will provide pot roast, ham and pastitsio.

Bring enough to feed your family and 6 others.

Please come early (5:30pm) to help set up or stay after to help clean up.