



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

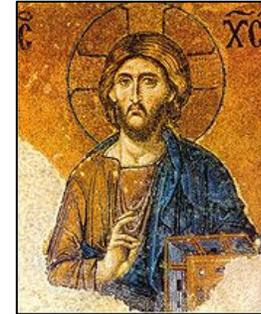
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 8, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE Holy Martyr George the Chozevite (7th cent.); Holy Martyrs Julian and Vassilissa, and Celsus and Anthony; Righteous Agathon, Domenike (+484), and Makarios; Martyr Theophilus; Righteous Kyros (+712) and Attikos (+425), Patriarchs of Constantinople; Kyranna, New-Martyr; New-Martyr Parthena of Edessa (+1373); Prophet Sameas the Elamite; Righteous Karterios, Martyr (+295); Emilianos the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzikos; St. Agathos; Martyred Saints of Christ, Theophilus the Deacon and Helladios the Layman; Gregory of the Kiev Caves; Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople; and Pega the Virgin, Hermitess of Peakirk. *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 today's 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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

5. 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.

6. 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 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Eph. 4:7-13)

⁷*But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, “When He ascended on high He made captivity itself a captive; He gave gifts to His people.” ⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He Who descended is the same one Who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)*

¹¹The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

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:

Luke 1: ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord [Archangel Gabriel], standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.’” (Luke 1:11-16)

The birth of a baby brings us great joy. Our relatives and friends gather together and share the joy and excitement of this blessed event with the new parents. Like no other time, there is cause for great celebration and thanksgiving. In the verses above from St. Luke's Gospel, we are reminded of this excitement when Zechariah learned that his wife, Elizabeth would give birth to St. John the Baptist (whom we remembered yesterday, January 7th). His birth brought his parents great happiness and reason to rejoice.

However, the joy with St. John the Baptist's birth was multiplied, and not just because his parents were given a baby as a surprise blessing late in their lives. St. John was given a crucial role to offer in the coming of God's promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. Before Jesus was proclaimed by God as His Beloved Son at the River Jordan during His baptism (which we remembered during Holy Theophany services this past week), St. John reached out to many hearts that the Jewish religious leaders of his day could not touch. St. John's life, beginning in his mother's womb, was one that was dedicated to God's Messiah. He identified himself by his diet and his habits as one specially consecrated to the work of God. His mission in the region of the Jordan River was to bring the people of Israel to the Lord their God.

But unlike the ascetics of the desert who withdrew from sinful people, St. John spoke to them with the Holy Spirit of God. He proclaimed to his followers the message of the coming of the Messiah, and he made them ready through his baptism of forgiveness to meet Jesus Christ – through repentance and a call to holiness in their daily lives . . . for the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand!

And what significance is this to us today? I believe with the birth of any child, we have the choice to pray that he or she will bring glory to God and bring many others to come to know “His Beloved Son, with Whom He was well-pleased!”

As we continue to remember the Holy Feast of the Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, *let us ask our heavenly Father to look down upon all the babies being born today within our church family and throughout the world and to do mighty things through them.* May He guard their parents, may He nurture the youth during their upbringing in His truth, and may He bring spiritual experiences into their lives that will make them most useful to Him. Amen!



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And on this 639th 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 8 (Sunday after Theophany):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:15 a.m. Memorial - Peter & Fotini Kalapodis (55 years & 10 years, respectively)/Parish Council Oath of Office**
- 11:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting (with election of Parish Council officers)**

Thursday, January 12:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice**

Sunday, January 15 (12th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:30 a.m. G.O.Y.A. Meeting**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**
- 11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting**

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