



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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## 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, December 10, 2017

**ON THIS DAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH** COMMEMORATES the Holy Martyrs Menas (+285-305), Hermogenes, and Eugraphus (+285-305) and Thomas the Righteous of Bithynia (+313). *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.*

**Take this Sunday Bulletin with you to *SHARE* with someone who is *not* here today.**

## **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 Commemorating Today's Holy Martyrs – (not in Hymnal):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. When they had deadened burning impulses and movements of sinful passions by their self-control and virtue, then the Martyrs of Christ were given the divine grace of driving away the illnesses of the sick and working wonders, alive and after their death. Paradoxical miracle it is indeed, that naked bones should pour out cures abundantly. Glory be to our only God.

### **4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (not in Hymnal):**

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 – Preparation for the Nativity – (Hymnal-pp.240-243):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Today the Virgin goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds, let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.

## **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 (Luke 24:12-35)**

*But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter*

into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 6:10-17)**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of

*the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 13:10-17)**

*Luke 13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When He laid His hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" 17 When He said this, all His opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that He was doing.*

### **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Today, I kindly ask you to consider this parable about hidden needs.

A nurse asked the doctor treating a patient, "Should I replace the bandage on his ankle? It looks well enough to be removed now."

The physician replied, "Yes, give him a new bandage. He doesn't really need it there, but I want him to come back, so I can check up on something else about him. Without the bandage he won't return."

Many times patients are brought to the doctor by members of their family for some hidden reason because the patient will not come for the true reason. This is done to avoid unnecessary rebellion or anxiety. It is important that the trouble be ascertained and the cure administered.

People sometimes come into our midst for some selfish reason, but whatever brings them to us can lead to a good result. When they meet us at church, many ask the question, "Why did this happen to me?" Defeats sometimes set the stage for victory. Those who suffer great sorrow may become equipped to give understanding, love and help to others. The alcoholic may be more willing to receive assistance from one who suffered the same failing.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, thousands of good deeds are performed daily in patterns that circumvent the barriers of human pride. Each of us may ask, "What hidden blessings has God in store today?" Challenging difficulties can cause us to build character and faith or give us opportunity to serve others in Christ's spirit.

This is the message the Apostle James was teaching when he offered, *"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing."* (James 1:2-4) Amen!

2017 Family Christmas Program  
with  
St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church  
Monday, December 25  
11:30 am-1:30 pm

The "Hands of Love" ministry of our **Philoptochos Society** will be accepting donations of gift cards, new unwrapped toys, hams, turkeys, and other non-perishable items for the St. John the Wonderworker's Christmas Toy and Food Box Program to be held Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. The greatest need is for gifts for children ages 14-17. At our church, St. Christopher's, there is an **Angel Tree**, decorated with **gift requests**. Please support our Angel Tree and leave your gift donations under the tree by **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**The Annual Loaves and Fishes Christmas Day Dinner will be held on Christmas Day, Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of December at 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.** This will be a great time for everyone to come and be a part of this ministry.

May we all have a peaceful, joyful, and blessed Christmas!

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, **Hands of Love** Chair



**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

*"Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married, says the LORD."  
(Isaiah 54:1)*



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

On this the 684<sup>th</sup> 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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Nativity Fast continues through December 24**

Sunday, December 10 (10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 a.m. Parish Council Elections
- 10:30 a.m. Community Christmas Play Practice (*Re-scheduled due to bad weather on 12/9*)
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, December 14:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 15:

Schedule in advance with Fr. George if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Holy Confession, by calling him at 770/381-1842 before today.

Sunday, December 17 (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke/Sunday of the Holy Forefathers):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (Vossie & Victor Bellos)
- 10:15 a.m. Blessing of Prayer Shawls
- 10:30 a.m. Community Christmas Play Practice (*Re-scheduled due to bad weather on 12/9*)
- 10:45 a.m. General Parish Assembly Meeting (Youth involved with Community Christmas Play will practice during our meeting in a separate room.)

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