



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

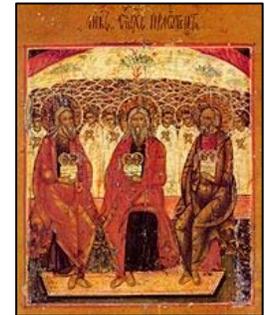
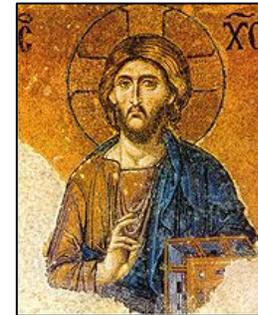
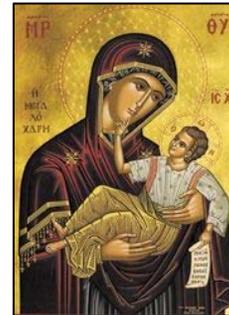
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, December 11, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE 11TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ; our Righteous Father Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (+489); Righteous Father Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon (+970-980); Holy Martyrs Ascepsia and Aethal; Holy Martyrs Miracus and Barsabas (7th cent.); Leontios the Righteous of Monemvasia; and the Glorious King Nikephoros Phokas. *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 (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

3. Hymn for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.186-189):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By their faith You justified Your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old You betrothed to Yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave You birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):

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 (11/26-12/24) – (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.

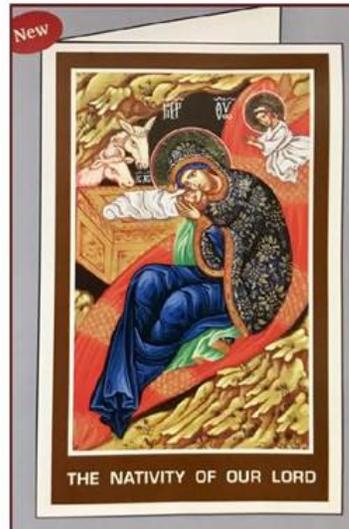
– St. John Chrysostom

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:9-20)

Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Col. 3:4-11)

Col. 3:4 When Christ Who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!



You are invited to share your family's name(s) in our first ever

St. Christopher Church Parish Christmas Card

to be distributed to all parish families before Christmas. Proceeds will be used to assist our needy brothers and sisters.

The donation per family is \$25.00.

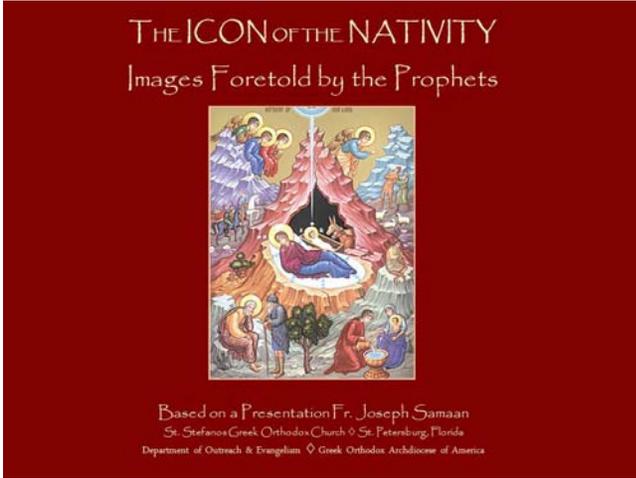
St. Christopher Church Parish Christmas Card

Print Name(s) exactly as you wish to appear in the card...

(e.g., Haralambos, Xanthippe, Tassos & Zoe Pourlos, or Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Pourlos & Children, or The Pourlos Family)

Ordered by: _____, Phone _____

Attach check made payable to "St. Christopher Philoptochos" for \$25.00 and give directly to Lydia McGee or Presbytera Marinda no later than Sunday, 12/11/16, 11:30 a.m. (please do not mail)



Join Fr. George's Adult Religious Education Class today for
THE ICON OF THE NATIVITY
Images Foretold by the Prophets

GET READY.



will you join us on the christmas bus?
sunday, december 18

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24; Matt. 22:14)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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

Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; *but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.*" (Joshua 24:15)



["Follow" & "Like"](#) our Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this 635th 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!

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

As we will soon celebrate the blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I wanted to thank all of you for your faithful service and witness during the year. I am truly grateful for the unselfish gift of your time, talent, energy and resources to serve our Lord and His Church, your parish, and our Holy Metropolis of Atlanta.

As we prepare ourselves for the Divine Gift of God's Son, what a beautiful gift we receive, the gift of love from God Himself. This great and joyous feast of the Nativity is a wonderful opportunity to reconsider our lives and the way we deal with each other. While we search the stores for the “perfect gift” for our loved ones, perhaps we should also consider giving the most costly gift of all this Christmas in honor of our Savior's birth. This gift is not expensive in terms of money, but does require a great deal of effort on our part to “love one another, as He has first loved us.” Letting go of old wrongs and hurts, forgiving mistakes and shortcomings, even as He forgives us, and humbling ourselves is not easy. What better time to forgive each other's failings and start over again, as joy and peace fill our hearts, and God comes to us as a little baby?

As we gather with our families later this month, I am praying for safe travel to visit your loved ones and all the joy and blessings of this Holy Season. I pray that the loyalty of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child will be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always. Amen.

God bless you and keep you in His tender care as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas and throughout the New Year!

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Nativity Fast – continues through December 24

Sunday, December 11 (11th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Parish Council Elections
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, December 15:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 16:

Sacrament of Holy Confession - *Schedule with Fr. George by today*

Saturday, December 17:

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Lenten Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for everyone in 12.18.16
Program (*all youth/adult volunteers required to be present*)

Sunday, December 18 (Sunday before the Holy Nativity of our Lord):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 a.m. Blessing of Prayer Shawls
- 10:45 a.m. Community Christmas Program with Luncheon to
follow (*see December newsletter for what food to bring*)

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

***Parishioners in good standing are encouraged to vote in
our Parish Council Elections today! Kali Dynamis... may
God's strength be upon our candidates. Thank you!***