



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 Saturday, December 12, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES our Righteous Father and Wonderworker, Spyridon; Holy Martyr Synetos; Holy Priest-Martyr Alexander, Archbishop of Jerusalem; and Holy Fathers Amonatha and Anthos. *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./3./4. Hymn for St. Spyridon the Wonderworker– (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Great Doxology and before and after the Small Entrance. At the first of the Synods, you emerged as the champion, and wonderworker, our God-bearing Father Spyridon. Therefore, you addressed the dead one in the grave, and a serpent you changed to gold. And while chanting in service your sacred prayers, you had angels concelebrating, O most Holy One. Glory to Christ Who glorified you, glory to Him who crowned you, glory to the One Who works, through you, healings for everyone.

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (pg. 28 of Hymnal):

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, among the saints glorified, we sing to You, Alleluia."

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 – 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.

7. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p.328):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "The memory of the righteous will endure forever." (Ps. 111[112]). Alleluia."

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">– St. John Chrysostom</p>
--

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 10:1-9)

John 10:1 “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 5:8-19)

Eph. 5:8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” 15 Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, 16 making the most of the time, because the days are evil. 17 So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 10:9-16)

John 10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, 15 just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

On this our thirteenth Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker at St. Christopher parish, 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/CLASSES

Saturday, December 12 (Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker):

7:45 a.m.	Orthros
9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
10:30 a.m.	Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 13 (11th Sunday of St. Luke):

7:45 a.m.	Orthros
9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy/Prayer Shawl Blessing
10:30 a.m.	Community Christmas Program with Luncheon to follow
11:00 a.m.	Parish Council Elections
12:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
5:00 p.m.	Deadline Goal to Collect 2016 Stewardship Pledge Cards

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!