



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

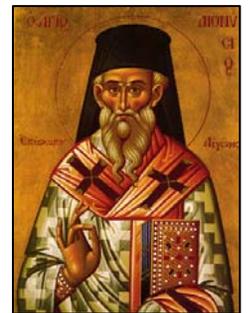
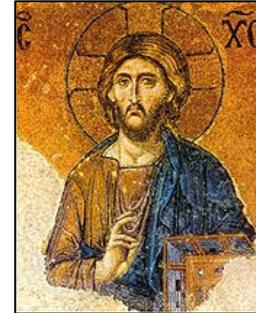
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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 17, 2016**

**ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Daniel the Prophet and the Three Holy Youths (Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, 5<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.) and Righteous Father Dionysios the New, Archbishop of Aegina, Wonderworker in Zakynthos (+1621). *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. Hymn for St. Dionysios of Zakynthos – (not in Hymnal):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the offspring of Zakynthos and bishop of Aegina, protector of Strophades Monastery, Saint Dionysios, O believers, let us all with one accord pay honor, and sincerely say to him: "By your fervent prayers save us, who are observing your memory and who call to you: Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to Him who made you marvelous; glory to Him who gave us you to intercede for us."

#### **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 – 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
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#### **Gospel Reading (John 10:1-9)**

*10*"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. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>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 (Hebrews 11: 33-40; 12:1-2)**

<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— <sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:1-11)**

<sup>14</sup>On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching Him closely. <sup>2</sup>Just then, in front of Him, there was a man who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, “Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?” <sup>4</sup>But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away.

<sup>5</sup>Then He said to them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?” <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to this. <sup>7</sup>When He noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, He told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*On this our 14<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Feast of Daniel & the 3 Holy Youths and St. Dionysios at our 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!*

## **TODAY’S SCHEDULE**

### **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!***