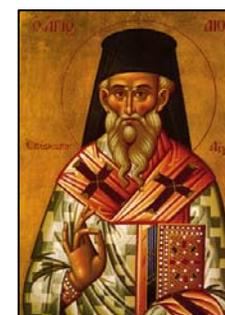
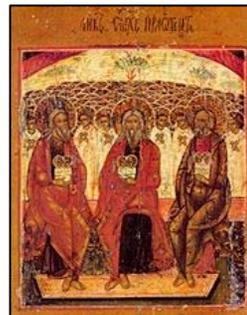
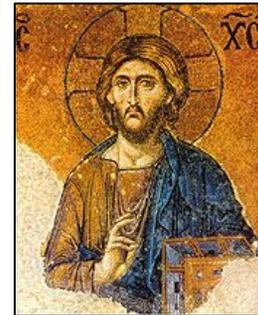




Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)  
St. Christopher 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 Sunday, December 17, 2017

**ON THIS DAY, THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ; 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. Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

### **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 (Luke 24:36-53)**

*While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to*

*Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.*

**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!*

**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*

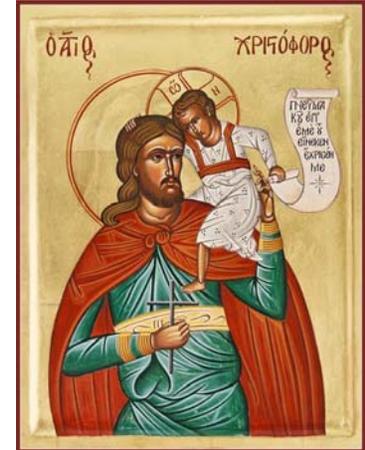
*may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”*

**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)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

During today’s Divine Liturgy, *Jackie Sarantis* will be joining the Holy Orthodox Church, assisted by her family and Godmother, *Jeanie Ellinas*. Plus, we will be offering pastoral support and praying for the repose of *Pat MacDougall’s* mother, *Vossie*, and her brother, *Victor*. I also will be praying for God’s servant, *Stefanos*, brother of *Alexandra*



*Tagalos* who this week fell asleep in the Lord in Greece... we offer deepest condolences to his family. Following the Liturgy, we will be asking God to bless the prayer shawls our parishioners have made to be given to our dear friend, *Vanessa Watkins*, Executive Director of Promise Place to be used by those they serve. And then, we welcome back *Justin and Alexa Burley and their newborn daughter and family* for the traditional 40 Day Blessing of Mother and Child. Several parishioners will be offering special gifts in

commemoration of their Feast Days and then we will have a one-item General Parish Assembly to discuss the future financing of our Phase 1 building on our church property. ***Each of these occasions involves members of our parish family and your presence and prayers are welcomed!***

*We didn't plan for this to happen all at once... through the grace of God, as we continue planning and fundraising for our future church complex, the Lord is reminding us that we are being blessed with many opportunities to serve His Holy Vineyard.*

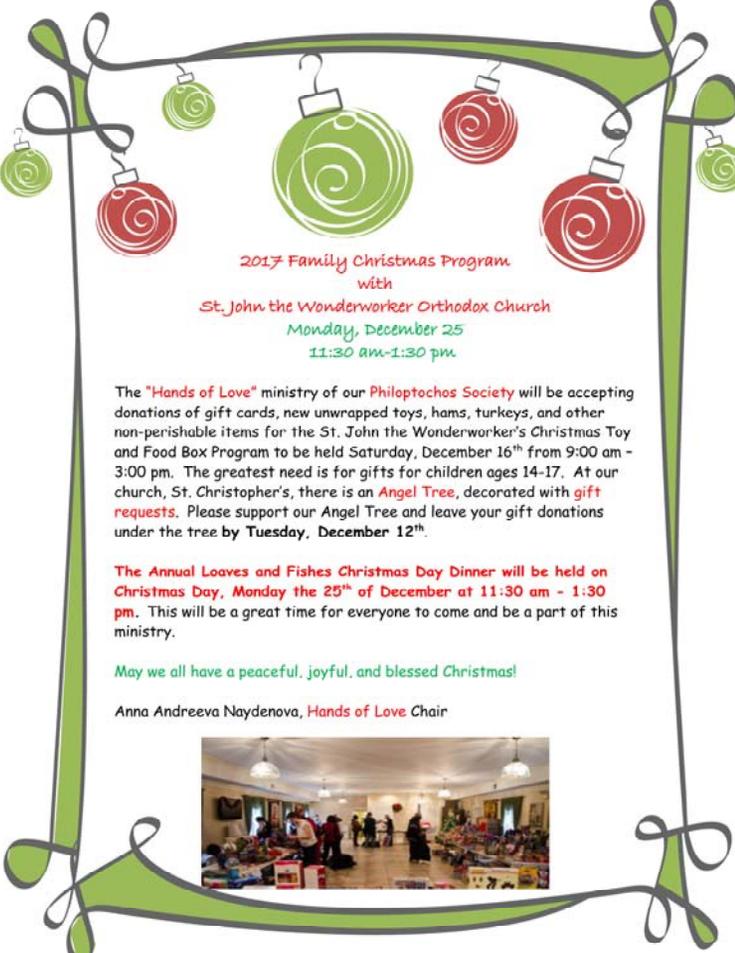
*At the same time, we are moving ahead as a parish family to establish a permanent presence on Ebenezer Road. Through churching our newborn parishioner, welcoming a new parishioner through conversion, praying for those who have gone ahead of us to the Eternal City, assisting those in need and who suffer with our prayer shawl ministry, and worshipping and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord, we are demonstrating that we are one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic body.*

***We are a caring and growing body... THANK YOU for joining us this morning and always... as we seek to lift up those in our midst and offer our blessings in thanksgiving to our Lord. We want you to be part of our church family and use your talents and gifts to glorify God. You and your family are always welcome!***



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

On this *the 685<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!



**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



# **COMMUNITY SCHEDULE**

*Nativity Fast – continues through December 24*

## **Sunday, December 17, 2017 (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke – Sunday of the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ)**

7:30 a.m. - Orthros - *note earlier start time*

8:45 a.m. - Divine Liturgy & Sacrament of Chrismation (Jackie Sarantis) & Memorial Service (Vossie & Victor Bellos)

10:15 a.m. - Blessing of Prayer Shawls

10:30 a.m. - 40 Day Blessing of Mother & Child (Alexa Burley & Baby)

10:45 a.m. - General Parish Assembly Meeting (one item only)

## **Monday, December 18:**

5:00 p.m. Deadline to submit articles for January 2018 Newsletter

7:00 p.m. Orthodox-Catholic Gathering at Annunciation Cathedral  
(2500 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329)

## **Tuesday, December 19:**

Fr. George will offer Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. at the Archangel Michael Chapel at the Metropolis of Atlanta.

## **Wednesday, December 20:**

Fr. George will offer Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. at the Archangel Michael Chapel at the Metropolis of Atlanta.

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

## **Thursday, December 21:**

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

## **Friday, December 22:**

9:00 a.m. Service of Royal Hours preparing for Holy Nativity

## **Sunday, December 24 (Eve of the Holy Nativity of our Lord):**

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:15 a.m. Community Christmas Play and Luncheon

*(Everyone is asked to bring their favorite lenten dish to share)*

## **Monday, December 25 (Holy Nativity of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ):**

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

11:30 a.m. Feed the Homeless at St. John the Wonderworker Church

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