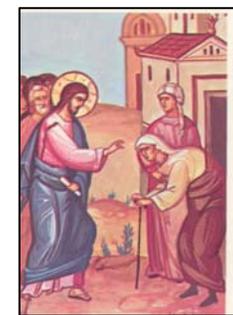
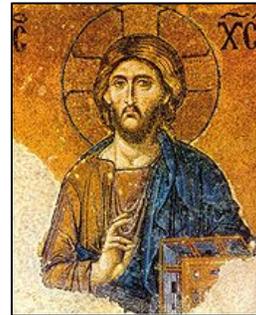




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 7, 2014

ON THIS DAY, THE 10TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (+397); Athenodoros the Martyr of Mesopotamia; Righteous Father Gerasimus, Ascetic of Euboia (4th cent.); and Holy Father John of Kronstadt. *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

3. 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.

4. 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 5:14-19)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.

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

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

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)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Salmon do it. Hummingbirds do it. Butterflies do it. Turtles do it. All these creatures and many more: *they all . . . go home again.*

Salmon find their way from the vast ocean back to whatever tiny tributary in which they were hatched. Hummingbirds fly over 6,000 miles to find their nesting sites. Butterflies congregate in the same trees, generation after

generation. Migrating turtles once closed down whole runways at JFK Airport as they made their way back to home ground.

The instinct to “go home” is world-wide, widespread in creation and often times unstoppable.

Let us forget the stockpile of stuff we may have gathered during Thanksgiving weekend’s “Black Friday”. As we approach the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us be reminded of that pang of home-sickness. There is in each of us a “homing instinct” that Christmas draws out of us. Why?

There is, for each of us, a “homey place” where some part of our soul and mind long to return, year after year. Consider how we enjoy singing in our heads every year in December, “I’ll be home for Christmas?” That song is one of the most recorded Christmas songs ever.

Indeed, we all get a bit homesick at Christmas time – even if we *are* “home.” We get homesick for our childhood homes. We get homesick for our own homes filled with our children. We get homesick for homes we never had. We get homesick for the homes we left behind.

Who first said “home is where the heart is?” Home is not just where the heart is. Home is our main hope of having a heart to begin with.

But is it really the “heart,” our true and pure emotional yearnings, that drives our homing-instinct? If an emotional fix was all we needed, then a few Christmas television specials should suffice. But what if “home” is where our soul soars and our spirit is fulfilled? What if “home” has as much to do with our Heavenly Father and the future that awaits us as it does with our earthly family and relationships? What if our “homesickness” is as much about our eternal home as our earthly home?

What if instead of finding our fulfillment in establishing a home, a family, a career, a reputation, a community standing, a professional expertise, or a Klout score of over 50 – what if what we need to be truly “at home” is something different? *What if “coming home” is the indwelling and*

ingathering of the presence of God? What if “coming home” is to be gift-wrapped in the God of love?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus Christ assured His disciples and continues to assure us today that no matter how difficult times may be for us, we always are welcomed parts of our Lord’s Body, and we belong in His Home. As we prepare to celebrate our Savior’s First Coming into the world at His Holy Nativity, let us remain strong, expectant, and encouraged to keep looking ahead to His Glorious and Triumphant Second Coming in “great power and glory.” It will usher in a new era... indeed, the fullness of the Kingdom of God. *Amen!*



Hands of Love: December 2014

“For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land.” Deut. 15:11

December 14, 2014: St. John the Wonderworker
Grant Park Christmas Basket Program

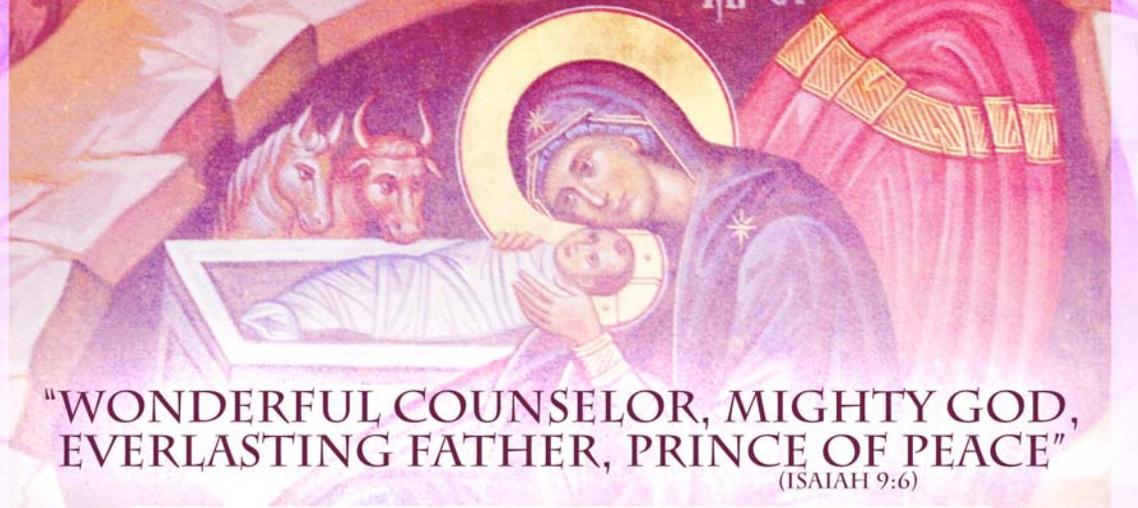
This year we will be collecting *toys* for children as well as *food items* for a family meal. Please pick an angel from our tree and bring your donations by December 14th for delivery. Gift cards to Wal-Mart and Target are accepted. Thank you for your year round support! *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

Won't **YOU** consider lending an hour or two for our **YOUTH**?

The Winter Youth Rally Committee is once again looking for Adult Volunteers over the age of 21 to assist with the safety and security of our **YOUTH** on **Sunday & Monday, December 28th & 29th**. During this season, when we thank God for the gift of His Son, we ask you to *consider giving a gift that is “priceless” – YOUR time for OUR teens!*

Please contact the Metropolis Youth Office if you have a few hours to spare on Sunday or Monday evening. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Rally. Call Julie at the Youth Office: 404-634-9345 (ext. 19) OR youth@atlmopolis.org

CATHOLIC-ORTHODOX ECUMENICAL GATHERING



"WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE"
(ISAIAH 9:6)

Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord
IN A BROKEN WORLD

DECEMBER 9, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.
FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION



HIS EMINENCE ALEXIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLITAN OF ATLANTA



HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND WILTON D. GREGORY
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF ATLANTA



GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION
2500 CLAIRMONT ROAD, N.E., ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30329
(404) 633-5870



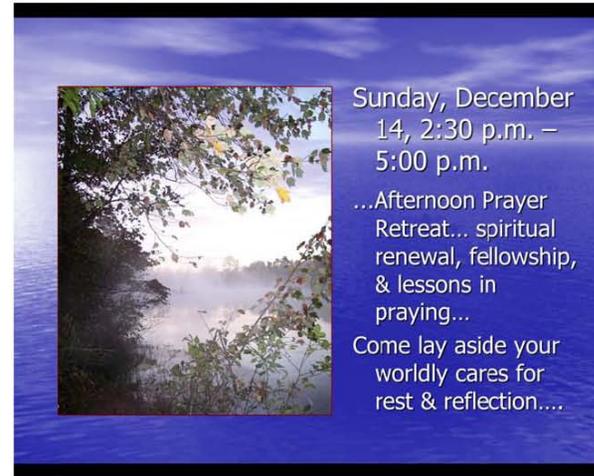
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AFTERNOON LENTEN PRAYER RETREAT

Sunday, December 14, 2014

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (with optional dinner to follow)



There are three reasons why I have planned this afternoon of prayer and reflection.

First, many of our parishioners have told me that they wished there was an opportunity for spiritual renewal during lent. This special afternoon is for parishioners of all ages to renew their souls through prayer and reflection.

Second, our parishioners have also expressed the desire to introduce a friend or family member to an experience of Orthodox prayer, without asking them to become Orthodox or sitting through one of our services... *a sort of "Come and See" experience.*

Third, this is a Workshop in Prayer where people may learn to use *The Jesus Prayer* to raise our awareness of God in our lives.

This special afternoon (2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) offers an opportunity for all: *spiritual renewal, fellowship, and lessons in praying.* It will include discussion, time for prayer, and an optional Dutch-treat dinner at Broadway Diner at 5:00 p.m. to round out the evening.

The program starts at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 14th, and lasts until 5:00 p.m. You can arrive as early as 2:15 p.m. There is no charge, but to receive handouts, you must RSVP by Sunday, December 7th, 11:30 a.m. to Fr. George Tsahakis, chancellor@atlmetsopolis.org, or telephone and leave a message at 770/381-1842. *You, your family, and friends are welcome!*

And on this *the five hundred and thirty-sixth* 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 7 (10th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service - Petko, Angelina, & Dimitar Boyadzhiev
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 11:30 a.m. Deadline to Schedule Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation Before Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
- 11:30 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal

Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Board Room:

Parish Council Training for Candidates (offered at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, GA, by Fr. Paul Kaplanis for those who couldn't attend in Marietta)

Tuesday, December 9:

- 7:00 p.m. Catholic Orthodox Ecumenical Gathering at Annunciation Cathedral; 2500 Clairmont Road; NE; Atlanta; GA 30329
(See flyer inside today's liturgical guide for details.)

Thursday, December 11:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

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

Fr. George will offer Orthros at 8:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am at Archangel Michael Chapel, 2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

Saturday, December 13:

- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 14 (11th Sunday of St. Luke/Sunday of the Holy Forefathers/ Offering of 2015 Stewardship Pledges):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Blessing of Prayer Shawls
- 10:30 am Parish Council Elections
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 am GOYA Meeting
- 11:45 am Parish Council Meeting
- 2:30 pm Afternoon Lenten Prayer Retreat
- 5:00 pm Prayer Retreat – Optional "Dutch-Treat" Dinner at Broadway Diner

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!