



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

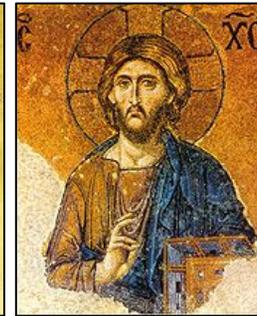
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Chancellor

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 12, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE REMEMBER OUR LORD'S PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *Philemon & Archippos, Apostles of the 70; Philothea the Righteous Martyr of Athens; Niketas the Younger; Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch (+382); New Martyr Christos the Gardener (+1752); Anthony II, Patriarch of Constantinople (+901); Righteous Maria, renamed Marinos; Saints Santorinos and Plutinus; and Meletios of Ypseni. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

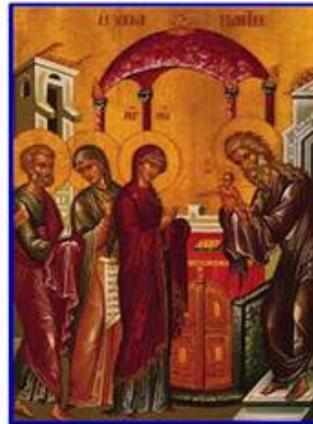
Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

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.

Today's Special Hymn in Honor of 40 Day Churching Service

[Fr. George thanks our Church Choir for practicing and offering this special hymn sung on February 2nd, the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple when He was 40 days old. Just as that Feast celebrated Jesus' entry into the Temple, today we welcome our newest parishioner in God's Holy Church and recall the origin of this blessed practice from Old Testament times.. May God bless her and her family always!]



*Theotokos, as the hope * of us Christians, one and all, * guard and shelter and protect * those who put their hope in you.*

*O believers, come let us perceive * a type in the law, and the shadow and the letter. * Every male that opens the womb shall be holy to God. * So the unoriginate Father's firstborn Logos and Son, * who is the firstborn of the Mother who knew not man, we magnify.*

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER THE 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 – (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.

4. Kontakion for Sunday of the Prodigal Son– (Hymnal-pp.256-259):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: From my Father's glory, I have foolishly turned away. By my sins, I squandered all the riches He gave me. Therefore, like the prodigal, I cry out to Him: I have sinned before You, compassionate Father. Accept my repentance, and take me back again as one of Your hired servants.

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 (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and

teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 15:11-32)

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far

off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

How many of us will celebrate Valentine's Day with a little bit of "bling!?" The holiday that elevates the warmth of our love and the softness of our hearts also pushes us to give a gift of something cold and hard — a diamond.

Diamonds, we are continually reminded, are forever. That's why they are worthy of a significant financial investment. Diamonds are expensive because they are rare, elusive, and found only in tiny bits and pieces. Yet if you could travel 50 light years away from Earth, to star BPM 37093, located in the Centaurus constellation, you would arrive at "Lucy" — a burned out sun, a "white dwarf," whose entire central core is a planet-sized chunk of crystallized carbon — a diamond — 10 billion-trillion-trillion carats worth, to be precise.

This "space diamond" was named "Lucy" after the Beatle's hit, "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." By comparison, the largest earth-diamond, the Golden Jubilee Diamond, is 545 carats — a sandal toe full of diamond "sand" on one of Lucy's dunes.

Diamonds are a chosen and cherished gem because of their sparkle and glow. They ignite with a kind of inner fire when the light hits them. Unfortunately for "Lucy," that means that the solid diamond core of that dwarf star is as unremarkable and unassuming as any other stone. You could take a drawer full of exquisite diamond gemstones and dump them in a drawer and — without the gift of reflective light — you wouldn't know you had anything different than a box of rocks.

The miracle of reflected light is what our goal in life is all about — to become transfigured in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we begin Great & Holy Lent in a couple of weeks — Monday, February 27th — it is my prayer that the miracle of God's divine light will "transform" and "transfigure" each of our lives so we grow closer in union and harmony with Him. As we travel our 2017 lenten journey together, may the brilliance and purity of the light that illumines Jesus attract our attention.

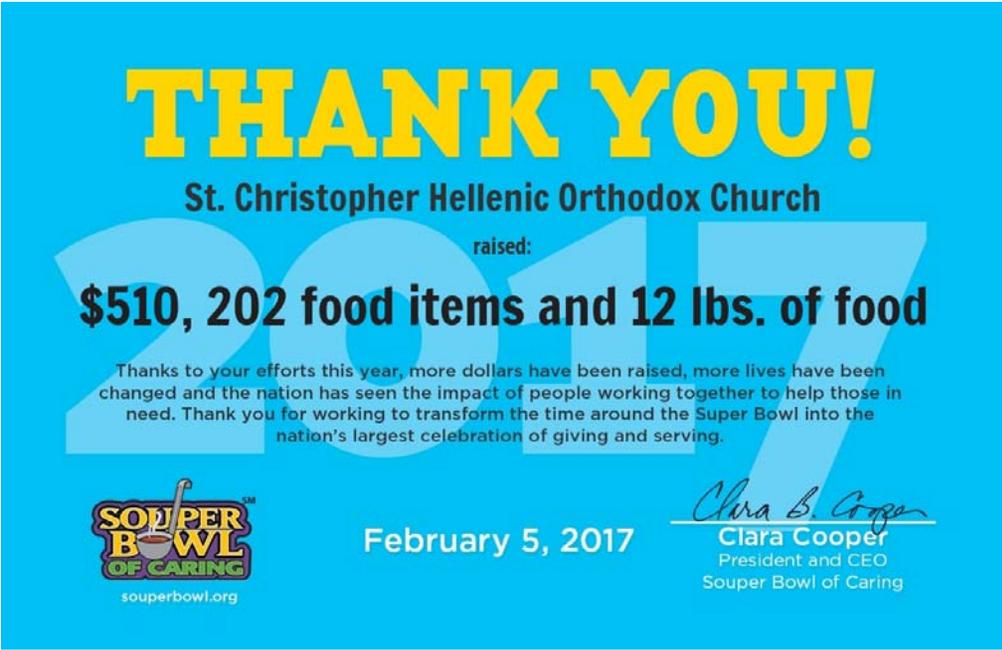
Transforming our lives in the image and likeness of our Lord is a central part of Orthodox theology. Just as He transfigured Himself and appeared to His disciples in divine glory on Mt. Tabor shortly before His last days leading up to His Crucifixion and Resurrection, I pray that we consider this miraculous event as proof that Jesus Christ is the light and glory coming from God, our Heavenly Father. Through Christ's voluntary passion for each of us, He

assured us of the voluntary nature of His suffering and death for the salvation of the world.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ invites every human being to seek to attain spiritual transfiguration in order to be granted eternal life and everlasting paradise. May we take advantage of the opportunity to achieve this aim by considering what kinds of things we can do on a daily basis to show love, compassion, and charity to others so that our Lord judges us worthy of this gift.

And on this 644th 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!

 ["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page.](#) *Check for updates and photos.*



THANK YOU!

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

raised:

\$510, 202 food items and 12 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

 souperbowl.org

February 5, 2017


Clara Cooper
President and CEO
Souper Bowl of Caring

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 12 (Sunday of the Prodigal Son):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am 40 Day Service of Churching - Shannon & Baby Johns/Divine Liturgy/Philoptochos Reception Honoring Johns Family's New Baby!
- 10:45 am General Parish Assembly (regular first of year meeting)
- 12:30 pm Fr. George & Parish Council Officers Annual Meeting with Ministry Heads – Session 2 (*those meeting have been notified; will end by 5:00 p.m.*)

Monday, February 13:

- 5:30 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday - Thursday, February 14 - 16:

Fr. George will be attending the late winter Clergy Retreat at DRC

Thursday, February 16:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice – *please join us!*

Saturday, February 18 (1st Saturday of the Souls – bring Kolyva):

- 7:45 am Orthros
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service

Sunday, February 19 (Judgment Sunday - Meatfare):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 am GOYA Meeting
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes

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