



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.atlmetropolis.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 21, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE 16TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE PERIOD KNOWN AS TRIODION BEGINS, WITH THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE PARABLE OF THE PUBLICAN (TAX COLLECTOR) AND THE PHARISEE TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE our Righteous Father Timothy of Symbolis (+795); Holy Father among the Saints, Eustathios, Patriarch of Antioch (+360); Holy Zacharias, Patriarch of Jerusalem (+633); Holy Father John III, “the Scholar”, Patriarch of Constantinople (+577); and Holy Father George, Bishop of Amastris. *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 (Plagal of the First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

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 Publican & Pharisee– (Hymnal-pp.254-255):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Let us flee the boastful words of the Pharisee and learn humility from the sighs of the publican; let us cry out to the Savior: Spare us, for You alone are rich in forgiveness.

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>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)

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. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were

opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:10-14)

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever.” *(1 Chronicles 16.34)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

There is an old fable in which a father and his young son journeyed into a distant land. They climbed to a mountaintop where they discovered a hut in which to rest for the night.

At dawn, the sun banished the darkness and painted the snow-capped peaks with brilliant orange. The son awoke. He saw the glowing sky and the flame-colored mountain-tips. He was a small boy, and could only see through the top of the window above him. He did not understand the brilliant colors that were gleaming in. It alarmed him. He longed for the comfort of the past when he was at home with his mother.

The rising sun warmed the winter snow which had lain cold and barren for so long upon the mountainside. It loosened the drifts and sent cascades thundering down into the valley below. The dreadful roaring terrified the young boy even more than the flaming sky.

Finally he rushed to his father and shook him, crying “Father! Father! Wake up! Wake up! It is the end of the world!”

The father opened his eyes. He could see everything clearly through the window which was too high for the vision of his son. He saw the avalanche of snow released by the warming rays of the spring sun. He knew that soon it would bring fresh water to the parched land below, restoring life. He understood these things. He took his son by the hand to comfort him. “No, my son,” the father said. *“It’s not the end of the world. It’s the dawn of a new day.”*

The dawn mistaken for dusk . . . How easy it is to lose our spiritual bearings . . . that’s why the Orthodox Church reminds us beginning this Sunday for four consecutive weeks, that we have the opportunity to experience together our lenten journey beginning on Monday, March 14th.

However, we must begin to make plans now to participate. That’s why the Church uses the period we call *Triodion* – the next four weeks – to help us recognize the *new dawn* that awaits us. Otherwise, our perspective can confuse the months ahead as dusk; we remain asleep then during this period and perhaps for even longer to the spiritual possibilities our Lord envisions for us. *In response, may we thank our Lord for His Divine Providence over us and seek His will to enable us to journey with Him, now and forever! Amen.*

PREVIEW...

Adult Religious Education Class – Fr. George Tsahakis

Sunday, February 21, 2016

***For today's lesson, Fr. George will review
and lead a discussion of the article:***



One Sentence That Pastors and Church Staff Hate to Hear

The moment they hear it, they feel the “cringe factor” throughout their body. Even as the first few words are spoken, the recipient feels his or her emotions plummeting. It is the one sentence that is uniformly dreaded by pastors and church staff. It typically begins with these words:

“People are saying that . . . ”

(Come JOIN us to read the rest...)



["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page](#) – St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church.
Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

And on this 596th 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 SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 21 (Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee/Triodion Begins Today):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship/GOYA Meeting

10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

11:30 am Hellenic Dance Practice

Tuesday, February 22:

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, February 25:

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

Sunday, February 28 (Sunday of the Prodigal Son):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

11:45 am Let's EAT! Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214. It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all...!

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