



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

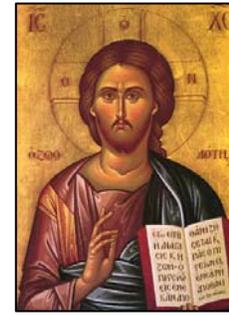
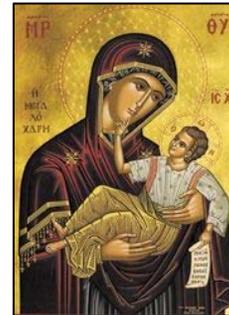
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, February 22, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, WHICH WE REFER TO AS CHEESEFARE SUNDAY AND THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS, WE CALL TO MIND the banishment of Adam and Eve, the first created from the joys of Paradise. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Finding of the Precious Relics of the Holy Martyrs in the Quarter of Eugenius; Righteous Fathers Thalassius and Baradatus; and Anthousa the Martyr and her 12 Servants. *O Christ our God, through Your ineffable compassion, deem us worthy of the joys of Paradise, and have mercy on us, as the only Loving One. Amen. 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.



Reminder for Next Sunday

Each parishioner is encouraged to bring an icon to church next week for the Sunday of Orthodoxy and join us in the procession at the end of the Orthros Service at 8:30 a.m.

TODAY's Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

The fall of our first parents, *Adam and Eve*, and their banishment from Paradise are commemorated on this day. Today is also the SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS as emphasized in the Gospel reading. *We are reminded, before we enter the Lenten fast, that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.*

Please join us here this coming Saturday, February 28th, as we commemorate the 3rd Saturday of the Souls . . .
Orthros, 7:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., followed by Memorial Service for our departed brethren. For those who are able, please bring Kolyva.



SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the

curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

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 sung for Cheese Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp. 264-267):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O You Who are the source of all wisdom and discernment, instructor of the ignorant and champion of the poor; strengthen my heart, O Master, and grant me understanding. O Word of the Father, bring words to my lips, that nothing would keep me from crying out to You: In Your compassion have mercy on me, for I have fallen.

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 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 (Romans 13:11-14:4)

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 6:14-21)

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ”And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ”Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

“How great is the mercy of the Lord, and His forgiveness for those who return to Him.” *(Sirach 17:29)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

As we begin our lenten journey together tomorrow, I share a beautifully-written and insightful email that I received this past Friday, quite unexpectedly. As a Pastor, I recognize it as evidence of the “spiritual fruit” that has been harvested from previous lenten journeys here at St. Christopher Church. My purpose in sharing it is to witness that God transforms us during our lenten journeys together.

It calls each of us to think on this “Eve” of Great and Holy Lent, “Am I willing to offer my Lord and God some of my personal time and efforts during this special opportunity, sharing myself with my brothers and sisters at St. Christopher Church, with my family and my household, with my workplace, and with my friends? Can I manage to let go of less important personal desires, to make room to be part of and assist with lenten worship services, new study of God’s Word and our Orthodox Tradition, serve those in need, and share supportive time with those outside my usual daily sphere?”

If you decide to join this journey with your parish family, I promise you that through the grace of the God’s Spirit already within each of us, you will be stirred to view and respond to life differently. Adding extra spiritual discipline can enable you to recognize new opportunities to grow and reflect God’s presence in your midst. You will sense unexpected joy in spite of the struggle and sacrifices that are needed to reach this union with Him and His Body here on earth and in His eternal

Kingdom. Christ Jesus will give you insights that you can use throughout the rest of your life. Best of all, the insights and experiences we will share this year will be useful forever, and will keep multiplying within you, and your sphere of influence. ***God is calling you!***

If these words are not enough to convince you, please read the email below from Jeanie “Alexandra” Ellinas. She shared her “heart” with me in her email below. What a delight to receive... it is unexpected reinforcement of the importance of Great and Holy Lent. When I called to ask permission to use it, before I could even ask, she noted how by setting extra time for God has changed her life and how she views it, in spite of the physical limitations she has had due to her recent illness. She is so excited about Great Lent, and from her testimony, I am reminded how God’s “spiritual fruit” keeps giving and giving and giving. *I’m most grateful to Jeanie/Alexandra for sharing it, and I’m equally grateful to each of you reading this... for your prayers, support, encouragement, and love to me and my family, today and always.*
Amen!

> From: Jeanie Ellinas

> Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 12:08 PM

> To: Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis

> Subject: The Lenten Triodion Book

>

> Father, I look forward to reading and studying with the book you gave us years ago, each year. And I always read the inscription from December 25, 2006 each year before I begin; it means so much and encourages me on my journey.

>

> Today when reading, I read the most encouraging words from page 179:

>

> Taking up the armour of the Cross, let us make war against the enemy. Let us have as our invincible rampart the Faith, prayer as our breastplate, and as our helmet almsgiving; and as our sword let us use fasting that cuts away all evil from our heart. If we do this, we shall receive the true crown from Christ the King of all at the Day of Judgement.

>

> I will be glad and rejoice in Thee, I will sing to Thy Name, O Most High.
Psalm 9:3

>

> Adam was driven out of Paradise, because in disobedience he had eaten food; but Moses was granted the vision of God, because he had cleansed the eyes of his soul by fasting. If then we long to dwell in Paradise, let us abstain from all needless food; and if we desire to see God, let us like Moses fast for forty days. With sincerity let us persevere in prayer and intercession; let us still the passions of our soul; let us subdue the rebellious instincts of the flesh. With light step let us set out upon the path to Heaven, where the choirs of angels with never-silent voice sing the praises of the undivided Trinity; and there we shall behold the surpassing beauty of the hope of the Master, O Son of God, Giver of Life, in Thee we set our hope: count us worthy of a place there with the angelic hosts, at the intercessions of the Mother who bore Thee, O Christ, of the apostles and the martyrs and of all the saints.

>

> Wonderful, beautiful, encouraging and TRUE words!

>

> Thank you, again, for the book and all your prayers, teachings, guiding us always with love for us and Christ. I am so thankful.

>

> Faithfully,

> Alexandra*

**(See last page for photo Jeanie shared...)*

Καλη Τεσσαρακοστη!

May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!

PASTORAL APPEAL FROM FR. GEORGE:



I am asking EACH OF OUR ADULTS to donate \$100 (or more if you would like)! We need all of our families to help us achieve our SUPER goal of \$10,000 no later than March 1st! DON'T DELAY – MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!

Make checks payable to Saint Nicholas National Shrine. I am calling upon you to help rebuild the only Church destroyed on 9/11 and to assist in launching Orthodox Christianity into American consciousness at a level previously unimaginable. The Saint Nicholas Church of Lower Manhattan is being resurrected as The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero and each Church of our Archdiocese is asked to support this critically important effort.



Our Philoptochos sponsored

Hands On Clean Up Day

is right around the corner...

Save the Date: THIS SATURDAY, February 28, 2015 10:30-3:00 pm
(following church services and breakfast)

Please sign up to help - signup sheet is in the Narthex

☺ WE DON'T DISCRIMINATE:

YOUNG OR OLD WE HAVE A JOB YOU CAN DO ☺



All are invited to join us for the
SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS
followed by a Lenten Meal and Presentation in the
Parish Life Center
3431 Trickum Road, Marietta, Georgia

March 1, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Speaker: Archpriest Stephen Freeman,
St. Anne Church,
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Fr. Stephen is the author of
Everywhere Present (Conciliar Press)
and the web blog
"Glory to God for All Things"



And on this 547th 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

Today is the 4th Sunday of the Triodion Period – *Great and Holy Lent begins tomorrow, February 23rd.*

Sunday, February 22 (Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday –no dairy Products after today for those seeking strict fast during Great Lent/OCMC Mission Sunday):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:15 a.m. Vespers of Forgiveness

11:00 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

11:45 am Let's EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, GA

Monday, February 23 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera” – Strict Fast):

5:00 p.m. Great Compline Service (*note earlier start time*)

Wednesday, February 25 (1st Wednesday of Great Lent):

6:00 p.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy

7:15 p.m. Community Lenten Dinner & Lenten Family Program (*Please Bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series that concludes each Wednesday by 8:30 p.m. We will focus on the book, “Being Bread.” You and your family and friends are encouraged to attend.*)

Thursday, February 26:

5:00 p.m. Parish Software Installation Meeting (until 8:00 p.m.)

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, February 27 (1st Friday of Great Lent):

6:30 p.m. Salutations to the Theotokos Service

Saturday, February 28 (Saturday of the Souls – Bring Kolyva):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (Bring Kolyva)

10:30 a.m. Community Lenten Breakfast/ “Hands-on Day” –

Every parishioner encouraged to come and help - *Our Philoptochos Society invites all our parish ministry leaders to join their co-workers in our parish and offer your "hands-on" talents to clean and offer needed minor repairs in our church. Use the sign-up sheets in the church as you enter.*

Sunday, March 1 (1st Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of Orthodoxy):

7:15 am Orthros Service (*note earlier starting time*)

8:30 am Procession of Holy Icons in commemoration of Sunday of Orthodoxy (*bring icons from home to use in procession*)

8:45 am Divine Liturgy

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

6:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers (*Transfiguration Church, Marietta*)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE (CONT.):

**(Photo from Jeanie Ellinas that she keeps on her desk at work... see entire reflection, including her email, inside today's bulletin!)*

