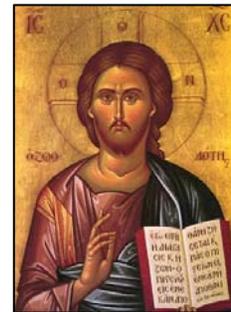




Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

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 26, 2017

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 our Righteous Father Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza; Photini the Samaritan Woman and her martyred sisters: Anatole, Phota, Photis, Paraskevi, and Kyriaki; Holy Martyrs Jesse, Photinos, and St. Sebastian the Duke; Holy Martyr Theocletus; and John Claphas the New Martyr. *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 Divine Liturgy.

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,
March 3rd,**

as we commemorate

the 3rd Saturday of the Souls . . .

**Orthros, 8:00 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 (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 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 (John 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter

came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

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)*

Καλή Τεσσαρακοστή!

May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Growing up, my family and I always enjoyed reading the advice column by Pauline Phillips, known affectionately to the nation by her pen name “Abigail Van Buren”. In her “Dear Abby” columns, she wrote short, clever, sharp, and witty words of wisdom. As we are just a couple of days away from beginning Great and Holy Lent, I wanted to share a poem she once published that first appeared as a full-page ad in *The Wall Street Journal*. May it remind us always to avoid falling prey to the sin of “gossip.”

NOBODY’S FRIEND

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice.

I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend.

Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages.

I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion.

I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip. I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true? Is it harmless? Is it necessary?

If it isn't, don't repeat it.

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

And on this 646th 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 27th.*

Sunday, February 26 (Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday –no dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Great Lent/Mission Sunday):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

10:15 am Vespers of Forgiveness/Coffee Fellowship Reception

11:00 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

12:00 pm Let's EAT!

Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, February 27th

Monday, February 27 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera” – Strict Fast):

5:00 pm Great Compline Service, followed by Special Showing of “Risen” the Movie. *Bring strict lenten food to share.*

Wednesday, March 1 (1st Wednesday of Great Lent):

6:00 pm Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy

7:15 pm Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program (*Please Bring fasting food to share and join us for our Lenten Program series that concludes each Wednesday by 9:00 p.m.*)

Thursday, March 2:

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

Friday, March 3 (1st Friday of Great Lent):

6:00 p.m. Salutations to the Theotokos Service

Saturday, March 4 (Saturday of the Souls – Bring Kolyva):

8:00 am Orthros (*note later start time*)

9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (Bring Kolyva)

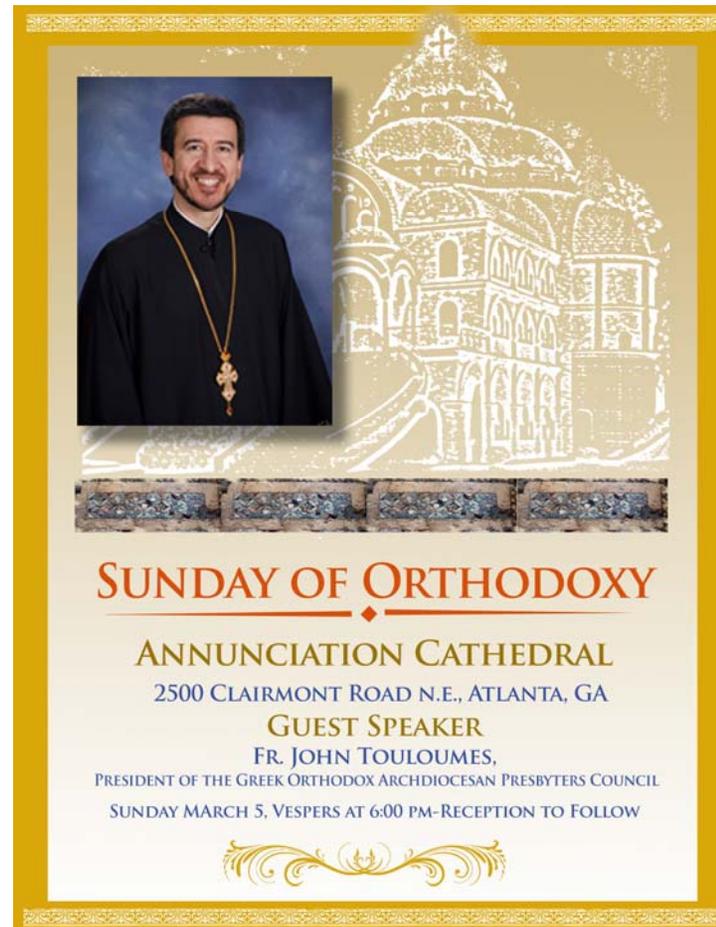
10:30 am “Hands-on Day” – Every parishioner encouraged to come and help
Our Philoptochos Society invites all our parish ministry leaders to join their

co-workers in our parish and offer your "hands-on" talents to clean and offer needed minor repairs in our church.

Sunday, March 5 (1st Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of Orthodoxy):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/ followed by Procession of Holy Icons
in commemoration of Sunday of Orthodoxy (bring icons)**
- 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Philoptochos Membership Drive**
- 11:00 am Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**
- 6:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers (Annunciation Cathedral)**

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
2500 CLAIRMONT ROAD N.E., ATLANTA, GA

GUEST SPEAKER
FR. JOHN TOULOUMES,
PRESIDENT OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESAN PRESBYTERS COUNCIL

SUNDAY MARCH 5, VESPERS AT 6:00 PM-RECEPTION TO FOLLOW