



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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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 28, 2016

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 Righteous Father Basil the Confessor (+750); Holy Priest-Martyr Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria (+457); Holy Martyr Nestor; Holy Women, Kyra and Marana; Holy Six Martyrs from Egypt; Nymphas and Euboulos, of the 70 Apostles; Righteous Varsos, Bishop of Damascus; Holy Martyr Averkios; Holy New-Martyr Kyranna of Thessaloniki (1751); Jonah the Righteous Martyr of Lerios; and Righteous John Cassian of Rome, Confessor (+435). *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 THE SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

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 (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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.* ¹⁴*And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.* ¹⁵*Do 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."¹⁷ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.¹⁸ Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself.¹⁹ Or 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?²⁰ For 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:

One day a man stopped in a convenience store to get a newspaper. He noticed that the owner of the store had tears in his eyes and kept looking out the window. He asked what was going on.

The store owner said, "Do you see that bus bench over there? There's a woman who comes there every day around this time. She sits there for about an hour, knitting and waiting. Buses come and go, but she never gets on one and no one ever gets off for her to meet. The other day, I carried her a cup of coffee and sat with her for a while.

"Her only son lives a long way away. She last saw him two years ago, when he boarded one of the buses right there. He is married now, and she has never met her daughter-in-law or seen their new child. She told me,

‘It helps to come here and wait. I pray for them as I knit little things for the baby, and I imagine them in their tiny apartment, saving money to come home. I can’t wait to see them.’”

The reason the owner was looking out the window at that particular moment was that the three of them – the son, his wife and their small child – were just getting off the bus. The look on the woman’s face when this small family fell into her arms was one of pure joy. And this joy only increased when she looked into the face of her grandchild for the first time. The store owner commented, “I’ll never forget that look as long as I live.”

The next day the same man returned to the convenience store. The owner was again behind the counter. Before the store owner could say or do anything, the customer said, “You sent her son the money for the bus tickets, didn’t you?”

The store owner looked back with eyes full of love and a smile and replied, “Yes, I sent the money.” Then he repeated his statement from the day before, “I’ll never forget that look as long as I live.” This man had discovered the beauty of caring for others.

Leo Tolstoy said, “The only certain happiness in life is to live for *others*.” It is when we see the world with a larger level than self. It is when we become concerned with *others* that we find the depth of God's love for our lives.

On this day, may we be reminded of God’s loving concern for each of us. Let us seek His aide and mercy for whatever needs exist in our life. Let us entreat Him to deliver us from every danger. Let us live in Him... and may He use us to care for others. Amen.

PREVIEW...

Adult Religious Education Class – Katie Wilson

Sunday, February 28, 2016

*For today's lesson, Katie Wilson will review
and lead a discussion of the article:*

Leading the Family into the Great Fast



February 25, 2016 by [Elissa Bjeletich](#)

Reprinted from <http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/raisingsaints/leading-family-great-fast/>

Once again, Great Lent approaches.

I think I love how Pascha moves around, which means that Great Lent has to move around. Some years, it has come early and this year, of course, it's late. It's like Spring — sometimes it comes early, and sometimes it comes late. Great Lent begins on March 14 this time, with Pascha falling all the way back to May 1st. Have a late Lent makes me yearn for it a little. I'm feeling like I've been lazy and undisciplined, like I really need a good long fast to get back on track.

(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 597th 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 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...!

Tuesday, March 1 – Thursday, March 3:

Fr. George will be at our Metropolis Clergy Retreat at the DRC

Thursday, March 3:

6:30 pm Choir Practice – please join us!

Saturday, March 5 (1st Saturday of the Souls)

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service (Bring Kolyva if you can)

Sunday, March 6 (Judgment Sunday/Meatfare Sunday/Philoptochos

Wear Red Sunday for both women and men):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/General Parish Assembly (one item)

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Philoptochos Membership Drive

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

Noon GOYA Lunch and Outing (see newsletter for details)

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