



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)  
*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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, March 13, 2016**

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 Relics of our Holy Father among the Saints, Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople (+846); Pouplios the Martyr, Bishop of Athens (+175) and Markos the Martyr, Bishop of Athens (2<sup>nd</sup> cent.); Holy Martyrs Afrikanas, Pouplios, and Terentios; St. Avivos of Hermoupolis; and Holy Martyr Christina of Persidos (4<sup>th</sup> cent.). *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 after Divine Liturgy. (It starts at 8:30 a.m. and Orthros at 7:15 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, March 19<sup>th</sup>,  
as we commemorate**

***the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (Plagal of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

### **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 20:11-18)**

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him,

and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Romans 13:11-14:4)**

*<sup>11</sup>Besides 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; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. <sup>14</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>Who 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:**

Someone walking in the woods in early spring in her native Georgia once noticed an unfamiliar plant along the trail. Strikingly beautiful, it had tiers of large, variegated leaves and was crowned by a deep red blossom. Further down the path in the gravel was another plant with four small leaves misshapen from being stepped on. Their color was concealed completely by mud. The observer was surprised to discover it was the same kind of plant whose beauty had caught her attention earlier. She felt sorry that this little plant had sprouted in such a hostile spot. Then she reflected: “Nature does not give seeds a choice about where they are planted. A plant may suffer malnutrition if it grows in rocky soil or be bruised and broken by passersby, and a plant in inhospitable surroundings has no power to move to a more favorable spot. Unlike plants,” she thought, “people can make choices that affect their growth.” This Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we begin Great and Holy Lent. I invite you to join me and let us move ourselves and our families to this most favorable opportunity. Let us open our hearts, minds, and souls to its limitless possibilities. Glory to God always!

**Καλη Τεσσαρακοστη!**  
*May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!*

**The First Day of Great & Holy Lent** is tomorrow – “Clean Monday”, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Fr. George invites you to join us for Great Compline Service that evening at 5:00 p.m. for a reflective service that focuses on Scripture readings, prayers, and simple repetitive and easy-to-learn hymns.



**Lenten Study Series** – During the Wednesdays beginning the first week of Great Lent, Fr. George will lead our faithful in a discussion of assigned chapters from “*Encountering Women of Faith*”.

**Lenten Worship Services** – Our schedule on Wednesdays will be the Service of the 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy (Vespers/Communion Service) beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community lenten dinner beginning at 7:15 p.m. and followed by our Family Community Program using “*Our Thoughts Determine Our lives.*” Our Bookstore is selling this text. Also, all persons who wish to ***learn step-by-step the basics of simple pencil drawing and its application to our lenten discipline*** from our wonderful teacher and parishioner, Jim Whitlock... *come join us beginning on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>*. Each Wednesday, we invite you to bring fasting food to share. You and your family are encouraged to attend as much of the series as possible.

**Salutations Services** – Our parish will offer Salutations to the Theotokos Services at 6:30 p.m. during Fridays of Great Lent.

*- I pray you have a “Blessed Lent!” +Fr. George*

## **PREVIEW...**

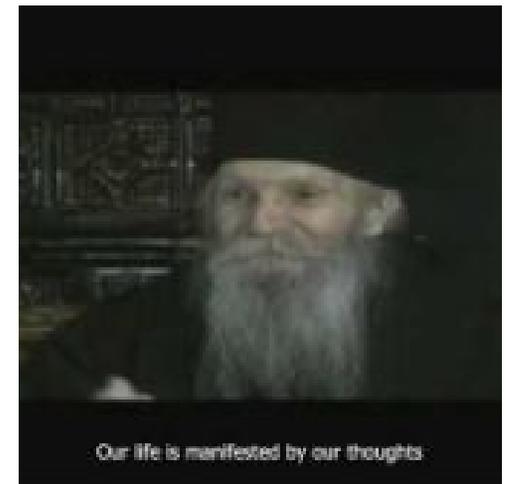
**Adult Religious Education Class – Fr. George Tsahakis**  
*Sunday, March 13, 2016*

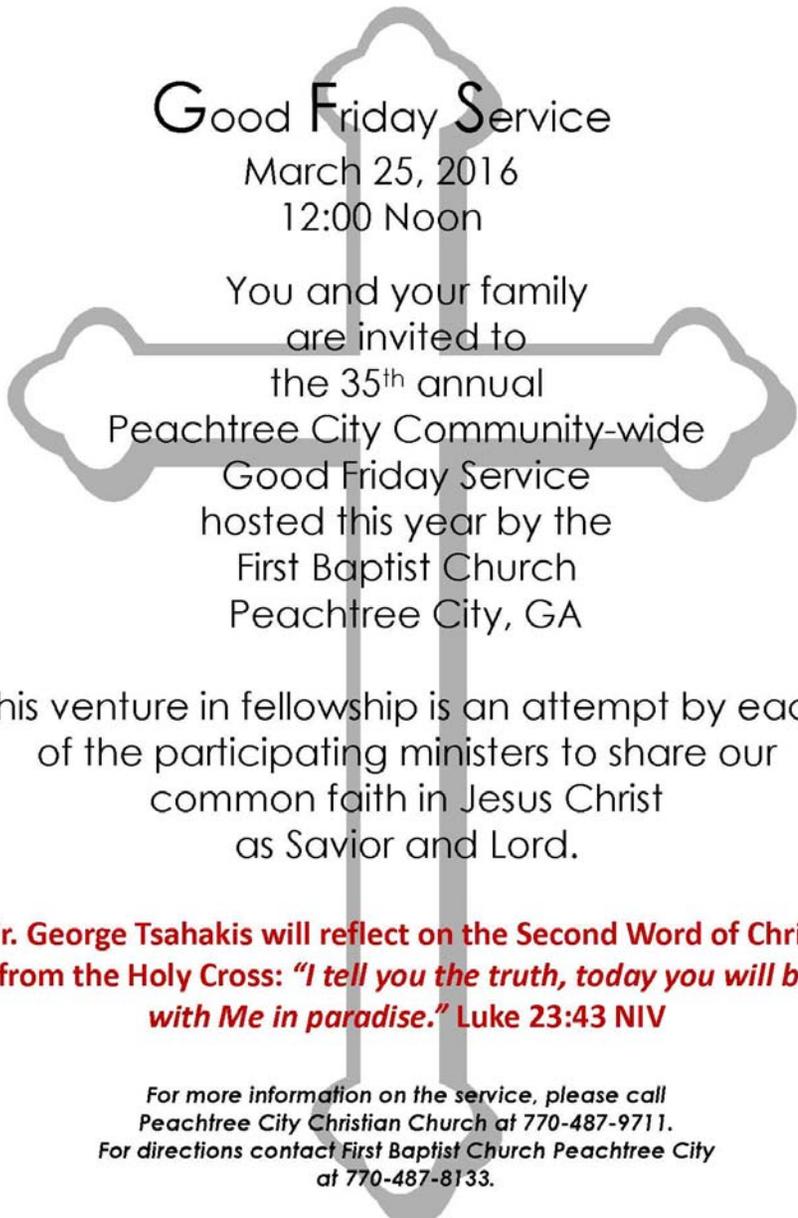
*For today’s lesson, Fr. George will review  
and conclude our discussion of Part 1 of our lenten study book:*

## **The Life of Elder Thaddeus**

*(Come JOIN us to discuss the life of this inspiring saint of our time.)*

*Today, we will view actual interviews with Fr. Thaddeus that were recorded during his lifetime. An amazing gift – viewing the actual conversations of a contemporary saint of our Lord’s Holy Church. Glory to God!*





# Good Friday Service

March 25, 2016

12:00 Noon

You and your family  
are invited to  
the 35<sup>th</sup> annual  
Peachtree City Community-wide  
Good Friday Service  
hosted this year by the  
First Baptist Church  
Peachtree City, GA

This venture in fellowship is an attempt by each  
of the participating ministers to share our  
common faith in Jesus Christ  
as Savior and Lord.

**Fr. George Tsahakis will reflect on the Second Word of Christ  
from the Holy Cross: *"I tell you the truth, today you will be  
with Me in paradise."* Luke 23:43 NIV**

*For more information on the service, please call  
Peachtree City Christian Church at 770-487-9711.  
For directions contact First Baptist Church Peachtree City  
at 770-487-8133.*



HELPING HANDS,  
LOVING HEARTS

## Hands of Love: March

*"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land." (Deut. 15:11)*



### All Sundays in March : One Roof Outreach Ministry of Coweta County

*(People serving the Lord in a unified way to meet the spiritual and physical needs in our community.)*

We will be collecting **personal hygiene items** and **non-perishable foods**.  
For the thrift store, they will accept any gently used items that someone  
can wear or use to make a home.

#### Needs:

Cereal, Grits, Oatmeal, Jiffy cornbread mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta, rice, mac & cheese, instant potatoes, evaporated milk, juice, tea, sugar, corn, green beans, sweet peas, beans, peas, white potatoes, yams/ sweet potatoes, tomatoes, tomato sauce, greens (collards/turnip/spinach), mixed vegetables, fruit, soup, ramen noodles, tuna, salmon, canned meat

#### Requested Items:

Toilet tissue, paper towels, bar soap, toothpaste, shaving cream, disposable razors, lotion, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, feminine products, disposable diapers, wet wipes, and trash bags. We are accepting anything; the requested items are things that cannot be bought with Food Stamps.

One Roof is an alliance of churches of many different denominations, as well as community organizations and businesses. Through their joint effort they hope to improve the goodwill of the community. This ministry offers help in emergency financial situations, runs a food pantry, and a thrift store. One Roof's goal is to bring community resources together to meet the financial and spiritual needs of those struggling in our community.

Just as we "filled the table" for Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and the Fayette Samaritans, let's "fill the table" again as we begin our journey through Great Lent to Holy and Great Pascha. Thank you for your generous support of all our endeavors.

Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator

# The Sunday of Orthodoxy



## Great Vespers

Sunday March 20, 2016

6:00 pm

**St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**2045 Ponce de Leon Ave. NE**

**Atlanta, GA 30307**

**Lenten Dinner of follow**



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

And on this 599<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Triodion Period – *Great and Holy Lent begins tomorrow.*

**Sunday, March 13 (Forgiveness Sunday – Cheesefare Sunday – no cheese & dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Lent/OCMC**

**Mission Sunday): Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, 3/13**

7:45 am Orthros Service  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Youth will assist choir)/Forgiveness Vespers  
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Philoptochos Membership Drive  
11:00 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)  
11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

***Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>***

**Monday, March 14 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera” – Strict Fast):**

5:00 p.m. Great Compline Service

You are encouraged to follow our Orthodox Fasting Tradition by abstaining from meat and dairy after today until Pascha/Easter – May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Tuesday, March 15:**

6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday, March 16 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Great Lent):**

**6:00 p.m.** Service of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy

**7:15 p.m.** Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program (*Please bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series. You, your family, and friends are welcome.*)

**Thursday, March 17: 6:30 p.m. – Choir Practice**

**Friday, March 18 (1<sup>st</sup> Friday of Great Lent)**

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

**Friday, March 18 – Sunday, March 20: Philoptochos Spiritual Retreat - DRC**

**Saturday, March 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Souls – Bring Kolyva):**

**7:45 a.m.** Orthros

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

**Sunday, March 20 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of Orthodoxy):**

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

**8:30 am** Divine Liturgy/followed by Procession of Holy Icons  
in commemoration of Sunday of Orthodoxy

**10:30 am** GOYA Meeting

**10:45 am** Religious Education Classes (no class for Adults today)

**10:45 am** Philoptochos General Meeting

**11:30 am** Hellenic Dance Practice

**6:00 pm** Pan-Orthodox Vespers/Procession of Icons – St. Elias  
Antiochian Orthodox Church – *please join Orthodox from metro Atlanta with our local Orthodox clergy and parishioners – SEE INSERT INSIDE GUIDE*

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

**Καλη Τεσσαρακοστη!**

*May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!*