



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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, March 27, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT AND HOLY LENT, WE CALL TO MIND OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKI (+1360). (SEE TRIODION INSERT INSIDE.) WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *Holy Matrona of Thessaloniki and Paul, Bishop of Corinth. 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.

TODAY'S Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

Since 1268, the *Second Sunday of Lent* is dedicated to the memory of *St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki* (1296-1359). This commemoration forms a continuation of last Sunday's celebration: Gregory's victory over the *heretics* of his time is seen by the Church as a renewed triumph of Orthodoxy.

Liturgy of St. Basil Used Every Sunday during Great and Holy Lent:

The Liturgy of St. Basil was, until the twelfth century, the chief Liturgy of Constantinople. Its 'Prayer of Consecration' or *Anaphora* is probably the most eloquent of all liturgies, east and west. Powerful in its unity of thought, theological depth and rich biblical imagery, it was celebrated every Sunday and Great Feast Days. Now it is used only ten times during the year: on the five Sundays of Great and Holy Lent; on the Vigils of Pascha, Christmas and Epiphany; on Holy Thursday and on the Feast of St. Basil, January 1.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Gregory Palamas – (Hymnal-pp.132-135):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. O light of Orthodoxy, O pillar of strength and teacher of the Church! Glory of monks and nuns, and of theologians the protector invincible! O wonderworker Gregory, pride of Thessalonika and preacher of grace, intercede without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion sung for Lenten Sundays – (Hymnal-pp. 268-271):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

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>– St. John Chrysostom</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 21:1-14)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after

daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

And, "In the beginning, Lord, You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak You will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will never end." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him,

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 2:1-12)

When He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and He was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in His spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and He said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” (Mark 2:5)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Although postage stamps become more expensive, at least they have one attribute that most of us could emulate: they *stick* to one thing until they get there. Perhaps that’s a reminder for us as we begin our third week’s journey through Great Lent to struggle

faithfully and persevere to overcome all obstacles that keep us from clinging to our Almighty God.

- Let us pray and seek God's strength to reflect His light amidst the darkness of the tragedy in Brussels this week.
- Let us witness and proclaim God's love and mercy each day, as if we were His angelic messengers on earth.
- Let us look for God's wonders amidst our trials and challenges, and use them as opportunities to grow stronger and confident that God is with us always.
- Let us proclaim the glory of God and His unfathomable power rather than focus on the pessimism of the world.
- Let us denounce the seeds of doubt sown by Satan and his demonic spirits.
- God's providential care is like a cup overflowing with the nectar of eternal hope. His light is like a torch that shines brighter than the sun. His truth shines forth and causes our fears to be plunged into darkness. Let us serve and assist Him today, tomorrow, and always.
- In closing, let us cling to St. Peter's words of encouragement in his First Letter, 4:13: *"But rejoice insofar as you are*

sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when His glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:13) Amen!



Lenten Study Series – During the Wednesdays of Great Lent, Fr. George will lead our faithful in a discussion of assigned chapters from *“Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives”*.

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... 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.



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

And on this 601st 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 2nd Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.

Sun., March 27 (2nd Sun. of Great Lent – St. Gregory Palamas/W. Easter):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes**
- 12:00 p.m. 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...!**

Wednesday, March 30 (3rd Wednesday of Great Lent):

- 6:00 p.m. Service of the 9th 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 31:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice**

Friday, April 1 (3rd Friday of Great Lent):

- 6:00 p.m. Salutations to the Theotokos Service**
- 7:00 p.m. ECYDC Meeting**

Saturday, April 2:

- 10:00 a.m. Presidents Workshop at Cathedral for all of our Parish Council Members**

Sunday, April 3 (3rd Sunday of Great Lent - Veneration of the Holy Cross):

[No Church Services in Peachtree City this morning – join us at Annunciation Cathedral with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios]

- 8:00 am Orthros at Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA**
- 9:30 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA**

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!