



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

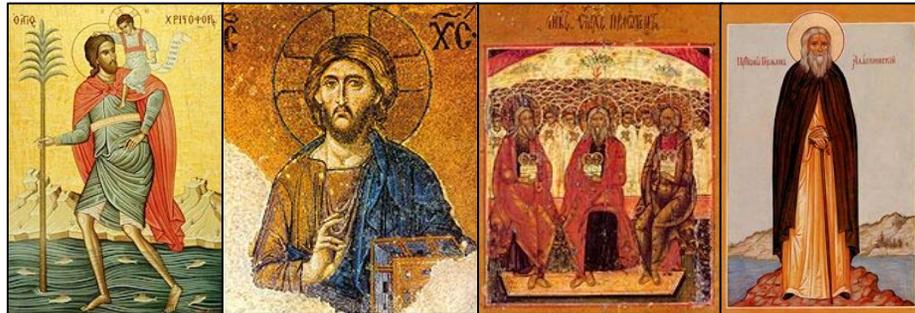
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, December 13, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE 11TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ; Glorious Holy Martyrs Eustratios, Auxentios, Eugenios, Mardarios, and Orestes of Sebaste (+305-310); Holy Martyr Loukia the Virgin (+304); Righteous Father Arsenios of Latro; Holy Priest New-Martyr Gabriel, Archbishop of Serbia (+1681); and St. Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America. *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 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 for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.186-189):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By their faith You justified Your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old You betrothed to Yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave You birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):

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 – Preparation for the Nativity (11/26-12/24) – (Hymnal-pp.240-243):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Today the Virgin goes forth, making her way to a cave where from her, ineffably, God the eternal Word will be born. Let the world be filled with joy, hearing these tidings. Joining the angels and shepherds, let us give glory to Him who is God from all ages, yet wills to be seen as a little child.

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 (Col. 3:4-11)

Col. 3:4 When Christ Who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice,

slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24; Matt. 22:14)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Kids smile an average of 45 times an hour, and they will "belly laugh" once every 7.5 minutes. By the time we become an adult, we smile no more than 15 times a day. In hospitals, the incidence of smiling is nearly zero. When was the last time you had a good laugh?

The popular saying, "Laughter is the best medicine" is not a Scriptural quote. However, the concept comes directly out of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs – "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22) The focus of this verse is inward - *on a happy heart*. The function of the verse is outward - *working healing*. What is interesting is that the word translated "medicine" in this verse literally means the "removal of a bandage... the healing of a wound."

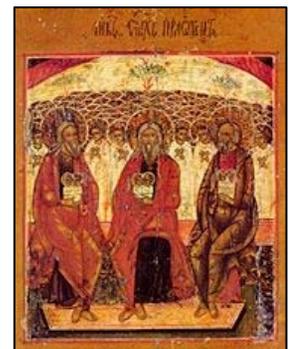
As we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior, each of us could resolve to let our thoughts and attitudes reflect the "joy of the Lord". He is in control and His love towards us is steadfast. A cheerful disposition out of the overflow of our heart often will bring healing to those we come into contact with.

So . . . why would anyone want to live with their heads hung down, focusing on the negative, and removing God's joy from their lives. No matter what - smile! Laugh again. Laugh often. Bring back the joy of life God has blessed us with. It is "a medicine" that will turn our lives around. Amen!

**Today's Special Commemoration:
*The Holy Forefathers/
Ancestors of Christ***

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the



earth be blessed” (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, “I will give this land to thy seed” (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the “Promised Land,” which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

Stewardship 2016

We thank all families who have offered their 2016 Stewardship Commitment Card. If you have not done so already, please place your envelope in the basket in the Narthex/entrance area. Extra cards/envelopes are available. *Every parish family is asked to support our Stewardship Program!*

Everyone is invited to join us for our
**Annual Community Christmas Program
& Lenten Luncheon – Today!**



Thank you to all who offered food and drinks!

Blessing of Prayer Shawls Today:

Today Fr. George and our parish family welcome Vanessa Wilkins representing Promise Place and Maureen Coates representing the Community Welcome House to receive the blessed prayer shawls made by our parishioners. We commend them and their co-workers for the tremendous ministry they offer. Likewise, appreciation is offered to Susan Kleto for overseeing this Philoptochos Ministry and thanks to all who made the beautiful prayer shawls. May God bless the recipients and the donors and those who have connected us with them!



Please Join Us to Celebrate the Feast of the Holy Nativity!

The Eve of the Feast (Christmas Eve)

4:00 p.m. Great Hours of the Nativity of our Lord

5:15 p.m. Vespers for the Nativity of our Lord

6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the Nativity of our Lord

Feast of the Holy Nativity (Christmas Day)

8:00 a.m. Orthros for the Nativity of our Lord

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Nativity of our Lord

11:30 a.m. Feed the Homeless, St. John the Wonderworker Church

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page – St.](#)

[Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church.](#) *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this 586th 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!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Nativity Fast from November 15 – December 24

Sunday, December 13 (11th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Prayer Shawl Blessing
- 10:30 a.m. Community Christmas Program with Luncheon to follow
- 11:00 a.m. Parish Council Elections
- 5:00 p.m. Deadline Goal to Collect 2016 Stewardship Pledge Cards

Monday, December 14 (Archangel Michael Chapel at Metropolis Offices):

- 9:00 a.m. Fr. George will offer Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel, 2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329. Feel welcome to join him.
- 6:30 p.m. Joint Meeting of the Building & Building Fundraising Committees

Thursday, December 17:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, December 20 (Sunday Before the Holy Nativity of our Lord)

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service (3 months) – Penelope Spetsios
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 12:00 p.m. GOYA Lunch at Pascales, Cookie Donation to Cancer Treatment Center of America in Newnan, Caroling at Ashley Park

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!