



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***

# **Christ is Born, Glorify Him!**

## **Liturgical Guide for Monday, December 25, 2017**

**ON DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, WE COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.** *We also remember the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; and the commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord. To Him be glory forever and ever. 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.*

<p style="text-align:center"><b><u>SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE</u></b> <b><u>ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016</u></b></p>
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**1./3./5./10. Special Hymn for the Feast of the Blessed Birth of our Lord (sung after the Great Doxology, before and after the Small Entrance, and instead of *Ithomen to fos*, "We have seen the true light" after the distribution of Holy Communion) – (Hymnal-pp.198-201):** "Your birth, O Christ our God, shines forth on all the world with the light of knowledge. For at Your Birth, those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. O Lord, glory to You."

**2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular *Soson imas*, "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, Who sing to You, Alleluia.*

**4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Before the morning star, from the womb, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, as we sing to You, Alleluia."*

**6. Kontakion of the Blessed Birth of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.244-247):**

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give Him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to Him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born as a little child.

**7. Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.292-293):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)"*

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

*Today, instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...", we sing: 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.*

**9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p.326):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (3) Alleluia."*

**SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM 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 – ORTHROS SERVICE (Matthew 1:18-25)**

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord*

*commanded him; he took her as his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and He named Him Jesus.*

### **Epistle Reading (Galatians 4:4-7)**

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.*

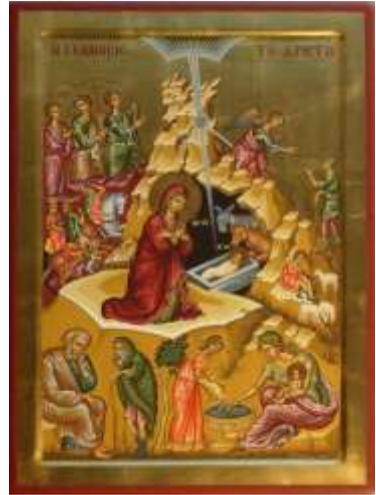
### **Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12)**

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.*

***“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)***

## PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

One week ago today, Presbyter Marinda and I represented our Metropolis and parish family at the Orthodox – Catholic Ecumenical Gathering hosted by Metropolitan Alexios at our Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta. It was a blessing to witness first-hand this effort to bring together God’s Holy Church – both the Eastern and Western brothers and sisters in Christ to recall the significance of Christ’s Holy Nativity. This aim – ***bringing together*** – is the precise message of our Lord’s Holy Nativity... ***bringing*** our Divine God together with us in the



earthly realm, and with His taking on our flesh (becoming incarnate), and through His witness and teachings, His suffering and death, and His joyous resurrection, He reconciles and joins us forever with Him and His Heavenly Kingdom, already established, but to be completed at His Glorious Second Coming! His Excellency, Archbishop Wilton Gregory, expressed His hope that ***“every day, we would allow our Lord to be born in our hearts so that in turn, we can witness and share Him with His Creation. What a profound and essential thought!***

Yesterday, we witnessed the youth and adults of our parish offer their inspiring Christmas Pageant. For me personally, it brought *to life the Incarnation of our Lord in the very people that we see and worship with each week. They represented the best of all of us... they freely chose to be part of this effort. I commend them and all who assisted them “behind the scenes.”* I also commend everyone in our parish who seek daily to “bring to life” the blessed and good news of our Lord’s Incarnation... **That is the message that needs to be communicated in everything we do!** Whether we realize it or not, we are each called to serve God... not just in the annual Christmas Pageant, but in our every worship, service, fellowship, and witness – whether anyone sees us or thanks us for trying. God grants us the freedom to choose to respond to His call through all of us working together through

Him – that includes you and me, our ministry leaders, our co-workers, and even the visitors and strangers He enables to be in our midst.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, those present and those traveling, I pray this year's commemoration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ inspires us on our mutual and life-changing journey together. With the Holy Spirit leading us and by us choosing to work together in a spirit of mutual love and mercy, we all have the potential to enter and live forever in God's eternal Kingdom.

*In closing, I want to affirm that your presence, prayers, and participation are essential and greatly appreciated. Your time, your talents, and your gifts are priceless! **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!***

**Help us Feed the Homeless Today 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
at St. John the Wonderworker Church**

We will be helping St. John the Wonderworker's Loaves and Fishes Program distribute food, hats, scarves, and gloves for adults. Please join us! *If you cannot, no worries... but please pray for the needy and help them in the coming year with your precious and needed gifts.* For location information, go to:

[www.saintjohnwonderworker.org](http://www.saintjohnwonderworker.org).

***After the dismissal of the Liturgy, Fr. George, joined by our Chantors and Choir Members go to the middle of the Solea [in front and on the sides of the Festal Icon of the Holy Nativity of our Lord], and lead our congregation in singing the following two Hymns in Greek and English:***

1. The Troparion of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English). ***This can be found on page 198 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.***
2. The Kontakion of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English). ***This can be found on page 244 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.***

# Vasilopita Luncheon



Sunday, January 7



After Divine Liturgy

All donations will benefit St. Basil's Academy



Members of Philoptochos will provide  
a soup and sandwich smorgasbord.



Bring a dessert to share!



Invite friends and family!!!!



Calling all veteran and new bakers!!!

Please consider donating **1** Vasilopita bread or  
cake for live auction and **1-2** smaller vasilopita to  
sell at donation price.

Contact: Marinda Tsahakis or Helen Psihountas by

~January 1<sup>st</sup>~



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. Be sure to  
check our status for updates and photos.

On this our fifteenth Feast of the Holy Nativity of our Lord, 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**

### **Monday, December 25 (Holy Nativity of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
- 11:30 a.m. Help Feed the Homeless at St. John the Wonderworker Church

*(In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, the period from 12/25-1/4 is fast free.)*

### **Wednesday, December 27 – Saturday, December 30:**

*Metropolis of Atlanta Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta - Fr. George will represent His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios who is away this week.*

### **Thursday, December 28:**

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

### **Sunday, December 31 (Sunday before the Holy Theophany):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)*
- 11:45 a.m. Let's EAT!

### **Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil the Great/New Year's):**

- 8:45 a.m. Orthros Service *(note later starting time)*
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Blessing of the Vasilopita *(note later starting time)*



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