



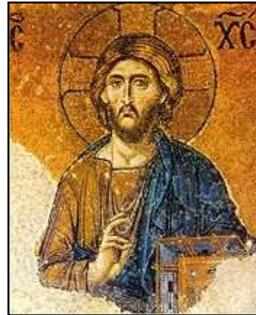
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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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, December 3, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Prophet Sophonias (Zephaniah); Holy Martyrs Agapius and Seleucius; Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria; Our Righteous Father John, Bishop and Hesychast; Angelis the New Martyr; and Karpos the Hieromartyr. *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

### **3. 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.

### **4. Kontakion – Preparation for the Nativity – (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 24:1-12)**

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did*

*not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 5:8-19)**

*For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,*

## **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:35-43)**

*Luke 18:35 As He approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38 Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39 Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to Him; and when he came near, He asked him, 41 "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." 42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." 43 Immediately he regained his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.*

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

<sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God,  
<sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone." (Ephesians 2:19-20)

## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As we look forward to celebrating the blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I wanted to thank all of you for your faithful service and witness during the year. I am truly grateful for the unselfish gift of your time, talent, energy and resources to serve our Lord and His Church, your parish, and our Holy Metropolis of Atlanta.

As we prepare ourselves for the Divine Gift of God's Son, what a beautiful gift we receive, the gift of love from God Himself. This great

and joyous feast of the Nativity is a wonderful opportunity to reconsider our lives and the way we deal with each other. While we search the stores for the “perfect gift” for our loved ones, perhaps we should also consider giving the most costly gift of all this Christmas in honor of our Savior's birth. This gift is not expensive in terms of money, but does require a great deal of effort on our part to “love one another, as He has first loved us.” Letting go of old wrongs and hurts, forgiving mistakes and shortcomings, even as He forgives us, and humbling ourselves is not easy. What better time to forgive each other's failings and start over again, as joy and peace fill our hearts, and God comes to us as a little baby?

And for all the faithful of your parish and those living in the Metropolis of Atlanta, I pray for safe travel to visit loved ones and all the joy and blessings of this Holy Season. I pray that the loyalty of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child will be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always. Amen.

God bless you and keep you in His tender care as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas. Let us journey together towards Him in the coming New Year!

On this *the 683<sup>rd</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!

2017 Family Christmas Program  
with  
St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church  
Monday, December 25  
11:30 am-1:30 pm

The "Hands of Love" ministry of our **Philoptochos Society** will be accepting donations of gift cards, new unwrapped toys, hams, turkeys, and other non-perishable items for the St. John the Wonderworker's Christmas Toy and Food Box Program to be held Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. The greatest need is for gifts for children ages 14-17. At our church, St. Christopher's, there is an **Angel Tree**, decorated with **gift requests**. Please support our Angel Tree and leave your gift donations under the tree by **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**The Annual Loaves and Fishes Christmas Day Dinner will be held on Christmas Day, Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of December at 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.** This will be a great time for everyone to come and be a part of this ministry.

May we all have a peaceful, joyful, and blessed Christmas!

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, **Hands of Love** Chair





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## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

*Nativity Fast – continues through December 24<sup>th</sup>*

*Sunday, December 3 (14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):*

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Community Christmas Tree Decorations

*Monday, December 4 (St. Barbara the Great Martyr):*

**Note:** Fr. George will offer Orthros at 8:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am, Archangel Michael Chapel, 2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta

*Tuesday Morning, December 5 (St. Sabbas the Sanctified):*

**Note:** Fr. George will offer Orthros at 8:00 am & Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am, Archangel Michael Chapel, 2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta

*Tuesday Evening, December 5 (Eve of Feast-St. Nicholas the Wonderworker):*

- 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- 5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening), followed by *Community Lenten Dinner*
- 7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

*Thursday, December 7:*

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

*Saturday, December 9 (The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos):*

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Lenten Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Christmas Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10 (10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 a.m. Community Christmas Program
- 11:00 a.m. Parish Council Elections
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting

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



## Casting Call for 2017 Christmas Pageant

As we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord on December 25<sup>th</sup>, Fr. George has selected a special Christmas Pageant that brings together our parish family of all ages. Parents are encouraged to sign-up their children to participate as *Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Men, Angels, and animals* that witnessed the Good News of our Savior's blessed birth. **Parents, please notify Katie Wilson by today, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. if your children and you would like to participate (yes, we need adults also).**

Call or text Katie at 404/434-0877. Before signing up, please be reminded of the mandatory practice on Saturday, December 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. *The pageant is on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.*