

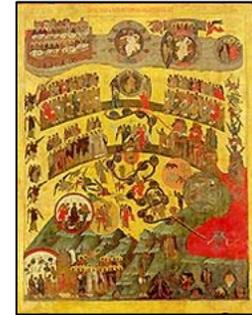
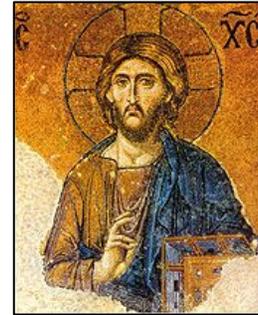


GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210



Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 19, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD WHICH WE REFER TO AS MEAT FARE SUNDAY, WE CALL TO MIND THE SECOND AND INESCAPABLE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Philemon, Archippos, & Apphias, Apostles of the 70 (1st cent.); Holy Martyrs Maximos, Theodotos, Hesechios, and Asclipiodotos; Righteous Father Raboulos; Righteous Fathers and Confessors Eugene and Makarios; Righteous Father Conan; Philothea the Righteous Martyr of Athens (+1589); and Holy Martyr Niketas the Younger. *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.



**Please join us here this coming Saturday,
February 25th,
as we commemorate
the 2nd Saturday of the Souls . . .
Orthros, 8:00 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 THE 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. 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 for Meat Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp.260-263):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: When You come to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all creation will tremble and a river of fire will flow before Your throne of judgment. The books will be opened and the secrets of all will be revealed. On that day, O just Judge, deliver me from eternal flames and make me worthy to stand at Your right.

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 (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)

"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 25:31-46)

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will put the sheep at His right hand and the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you gave Me clothing, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something

to drink? And when was it that we saw You a stranger and welcomed You, or naked and gave You clothing? And when was it that we saw You sick or in prison and visited You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those at His left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from Me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not give Me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” *(Matthew 11:29-30)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

As children we all had to study for and take “vocabulary tests” — learning a new list of words, their spelling and definitions, every week. As we continued on in school, read more books and studied more subjects, our vocabulary naturally expanded. Then to get into college, we took SATs (Scholastic Aptitude Tests), some of the most important of which are called “Vocabulary Tests.”

Building up our word bank is a never completed project. Best-selling author Bill O'Reilly even has a vocabulary test every night on his #1 Cable News show, "The O'Reilly Factor." The great thing about a truly "living language", like English, is that it is always changing, adopting, adapting, and adding new words, new concepts, new elements.

How many words do you use in everyday discussions that a few years ago would have had no meaning whatsoever? When did you first learn to speak "coffee," so that you could communicate your beverage choice with the barista. Phrases such as "Venti, black-eye, half-cap, mocha frappuchino" that would have been complete gibberish a couple decades ago now come tripping off the tongue without need for an interpreter.

In 1998, a new Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan movie made a big deal of an emerging concept. "You've Got Mail" highlighted the strange new world of "e-mail" created by the expansion of the Internet. In 2006 another snazzy word was reconfigured when "Twitter" was born. By 2012 there were over 34 million "tweets" sent per day. Technospeak is a language that continues to expand exponentially. We used to increase our vocabulary by reading "the classics." Now we can only increase our new and necessary vocabulary for living in the twenty-first century by reading our "emails" "tweets," and "blogs." It seems we will all need to pass weekly vocabulary tests throughout our lives.

Yet for all the words we add, we always lose a few to the historical dustbin. There are now thousands of "apps" we can download onto our smartphones and tablets. But try asking anyone under the age

of 25 what “app” stands for and you will probably get a blank look. After all, an “app” is . . . an “app.”

But an “app” is really shorthand for “*application*” — that is, “a use to which something is put.” An “app” isn’t a “thing.” An “app” is an activity. An “app” is not a noun. An “app” is a verb. As we struggle to keep up with a language and lifestyle that is ever changing, we should keep in mind this original definition of “app” — because *application* makes a world of difference between the “real” and the “hypothetical.”

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as Disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to give application to, that is, to actually “*apply*,” our Orthodox faith to our life and our lifestyles. *In today’s jargon, we could call it the “Lifesaver App!”*

With this mindset, let us ponder the following passage from Proverbs 22:17-19: *“¹⁷The words of the wise: Incline your ear and hear my words, and apply your mind to my teaching; ¹⁸for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips. ¹⁹So that your trust may be in the LORD, I have made them known to you today—yes, to you.” Amen!*

And on this 645th 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

Sunday, February 19 (Judgment Sunday - Meatfare):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service - Tzvetan Andreev
(7 years)/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 am GOYA Meeting
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes

No Meat after Sunday - Dairy Allowed Monday, 2/20- Sunday, 2/26

Monday, February 20 (Presidents Day Holiday)

Thursday, February 23:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice – *please join us!*

Saturday, February 25 (2nd Saturday of the Souls – bring Kolyva):

- 8:00 am Orthros (*note later start time*)
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service

Sunday, February 26 (Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday –no dairy products after today for those seeking strict fast during Great Lent/Mission Sunday):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 am Vespers of Forgiveness/Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 11:00 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 12:00 pm Let's EAT!

Great and Holy Lent begins Monday, February 27th

Monday, February 27 (“Clean Monday” – “Kathara Deftera” – Strict Fast):

- 6:00 p.m. Great Compline Service

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!