



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

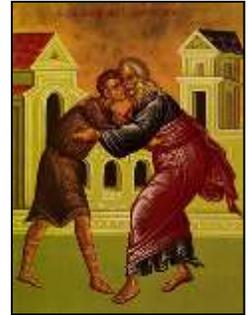
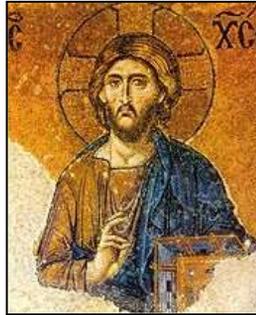
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, February 4, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE REMEMBER OUR LORD'S PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Isidore of Pelusium; Nicholas the Confessor; Hieromartyr Abramius; John the Righteous, Bishop of Irinopolis; Theodosios the Righteous; and Joseph the New Martyr of Aleppo. *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 THE SMALL ENTRANCE

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

On the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord, 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 held in the arms of the righteous Symeon, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

2./4. Hymn for the Feast of the Presentation – (Hymnal-pp.212-215):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

3. 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.

5. 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.

6. Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord – (Hymnal-pp.250-253):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

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 Cor. 6:12-20)

¹²*"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.* ¹³*"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.* ¹⁴*And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.* ¹⁵*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!* ¹⁶*Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh."* ¹⁷*But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with*

him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 15:11-32)

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But

we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

We cannot come to God in honest prayer when we have not forgiven one another's wrongdoings. I offer the following story that reinforces this approach.

Consider how a young boy saw a pack of cigarettes on the ground and decided to try them. He went to a field near his home and, after several uncomfortable attempts, got one to light up. It didn't taste good to him; indeed, it burned his throat and made him cough. But it made him feel very grown up.

Then he saw his father coming. Quickly, he put the cigarette behind his back and tried to be casual. Desperate to divert his father's attention, the young boy pointed to a nearby billboard advertising the circus. "Can we go, Dad? Please, let's go when it comes to town."

The father quietly and firmly replied, "Son, never make a plea while at the same time trying to hide an obvious disobedience."

How can we dare approach God in honest prayer if do we not forgive one another's wrongdoings? In spite of our hesitation to forgive others or even to seek God's help to forgive others' wrongdoings, I feel the starting point is nonetheless to approach Him... with humility, contrition, and prayer... asking for Him to guide us "how" we can forgive others. He even said this in Luke 11:9-13:

⁹... Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Glory to God in all things! Amen!



Hands of Love: February

"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land." (Deut. 15:11)



Sunday, February 4th



Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to **fight hunger and poverty** in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

It was initiated in 1990 by 22 churches in Columbia, SC. They collected \$5,700 for the first Souper Bowl. This mission has been embraced by more churches across the nation, and around the world, and now has its headquarters in Houston, TX. Last year they collected \$10,156,200.

On Super Bowl Sunday (February 4th), we will take up a collection of **one dollar and one item** of canned food, per family member, for local people in need. We will continue to collect donations throughout February.



100% of our donations will go directly to Fayette Samaritans
For more information visit: www.souperbowl.org and www.fayettesamaritans.org

Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Ministry Chair

Let's Unite On
National Wear Red Day



Philoptochos Invites You To Go Red For Women®

A national movement led by the *American Heart Association*, is taking action to help save our communities from heart disease. Knowledge is key in the fight against cardiovascular diseases and stroke,

Join us and wear RED on Sunday, February 11, 2018

Know your Story. Know your Power. Know Your Family History

And know the red flags of heart disease and stroke. Cardiovascular diseases kill nearly one in three women each year — more than all cancers combined.

**Our very own Jeanie McGee will provide us with some important information;
this will be brief but very informative!**

Female parishioners wearing Red on Sunday, February 11, 2018 will be entered into a drawing to win the go red signature thermal bottle pictured below!



More information can be found at <https://www.goredforwomen.org>



["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page](#) – St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

On this *the 692nd* 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 4 (Sunday of the Prodigal Son):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 am General Parish Assembly Meeting/Coffee Fellowship
- 1:00 pm Building Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 8:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Saturday, February 10 (1st Saturday of the Souls):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service (*bring Kolyva if you are able*)
- 10:30 am - noon *Let's Begin the Journey Together!* Meetings

Sunday, February 11 (Judgment/Meatfare Sunday/Philoptochos Go Red

Sunday):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

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