



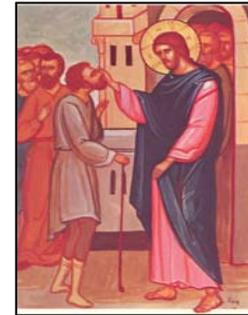
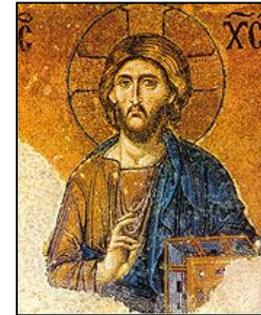
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, December 2, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE 14TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Habakkuk the Prophet; Myrope the Martyr of Chios; Our Righteous Father Cyril of Phileus; Joannicos the Monk of Devich; Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia; and Theophilos the Hermit. *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 (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 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

<p><i>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.</i> – St. John Chrysostom</p>

Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)

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. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to

them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 6:10-17)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the

whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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):

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

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

According to a Greek legend, in ancient Athens a man noticed the great storyteller Aesop playing childish games with some little boys. He laughed and jeered at Aesop, asking him why he wasted his time in such frivolous activity.

Aesop responded by picking up a bow, loosening its string, and placing it on the ground. Then he said to the critical Athenian, "Now, answer the riddle, if you can. Tell us what the unstrung bow implies."

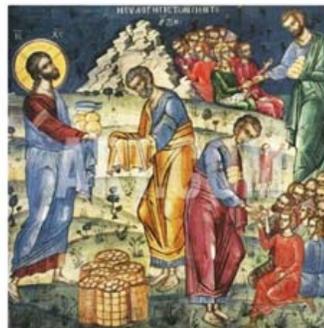
The man looked at it for several moments but had no idea what point Aesop was trying to make. Aesop explained, "If you keep a bow always bent, it will break eventually; but if you let it go slack, it will be more fit for use when you want it."

People are also like that. That's why we all need to take time to rest. Start by setting aside a special time to relax physically and renew yourself emotionally and spiritually . . . and then pray. You will be at your best for the Lord if you have taken time to loosen the bow and receive His Word . . . His encouragement, . . . His guidance.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is doxology, praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication and intercession to God. "When I prayed, I was new," wrote a great theologian of Christian antiquity, "but when I stopped praying I became old." Prayer is the way to renewal and spiritual life. Prayer is aliveness to God. Prayer is strength, refreshment, and joy. Through the grace of God and our disciplined efforts prayer lifts us up from our isolation to a conscious, loving communion with God in which everything is experienced in a new light. Prayer becomes a personal dialogue with God, a spiritual breathing of the soul, a foretaste of the bliss of God's kingdom.

As we pray deeply within our hearts we grow in prayer. By the grace of God we suddenly catch a glimpse of the miracle of the presence of the Holy Spirit working within us. At first it is only a spark but later it becomes a flame freeing and energizing our whole being. To experience the fire of God's holy love, to give it space within us to do its cleansing and healing work as a breath of the Holy Spirit, and to use it as light and power for daily living – such are the goals as well as the fruits of true prayer.



Today is “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”

... the custom of offering the Five Loaves monthly will remind us of the generosity and multiplication of the gifts of fish and bread that our Lord multiplied and shared with all present. Through this Orthodox Service, we return thanksgiving to God for multiplying our own

gifts and hence, the icon of this miracle has been selected as our logo for **“Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”... the first Sunday of every month!**

On this second of our “Parish Thanksgiving Sundays,” we thank **Dedee Panayis** for making and offering on behalf of her and her family our five Artos (loaves of bread), as well as donating the oil, wheat and wine for the Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves.



Likewise, today we thank God and celebrate Name Days, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and other special occasions that occurred recently or during the month of December. The Artos (blessed sweet bread) will be distributed to everyone during our Coffee Fellowship Reception. Join us! Congratulations to everyone celebrating their special events today and thanks to all who offered our parish their gifts for God to use and multiply.



A
CAROLING
WE WILL GO

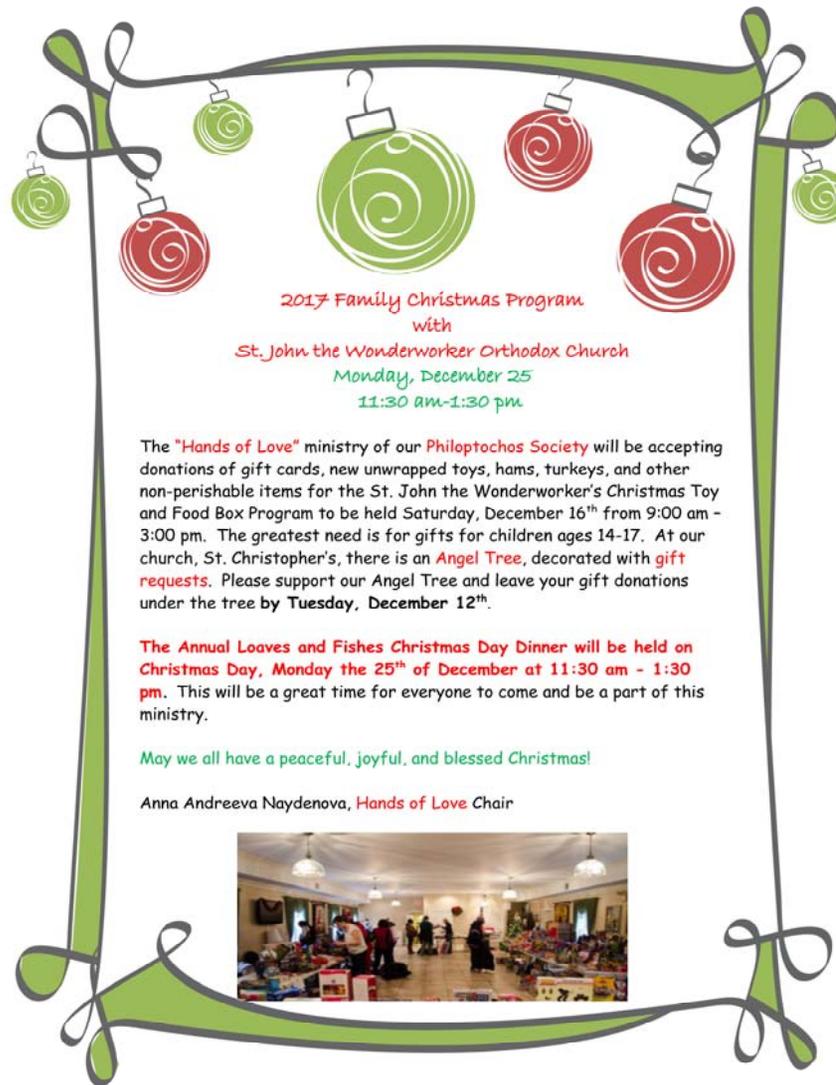
December 8, 2018
9:30am- 11:30am

**Meet at the church and then we will caravan to
the nursing home**

We would LOVE for kids and parents to join us in partnering with Philoptochos to pass out Christmas presents and sing Christmas carols at the nursing home. We will be singing all the traditional carols and hope to bring smiles to many faces with the presence of our sweet youth!

Philoptochos
HOPE/JOY





Parish Nativity Card



PHILOPTOCHOS of St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church is collecting donations for our parish Nativity Card 2018. We are asking a minimum donation of \$ 25.00 per family to have your name/names included on our card. These monies will be used for our philanthropy as friends of the poor. We will be collecting the donations and names on December 2, 9, and 16, 2018. There will be donation papers on the table in the foyer. Please fill out and return the paper and your donation to Jeanie/Lydia McGee or Pat MacDougall on those Sundays. The printing will take place on the 17th or 18th and the cards will be mailed by the 20th. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help.

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

On this the 732nd 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!



2018 "Christmas Family Toys and Food Box Program"
Saturday, Dec 15th, 3-5 p.m.

and
"Loaves and Fishes" Christmas Day Dinner on
Tuesday, Dec 25th at noon

at
"St. John the Wonderworker" Orthodox Church in Atlanta

Hands of Love will be accepting donations of gift cards, new unwrapped toys,
hams and turkeys.

Take home an angel from our  . Leave your gift under the
tree by Sunday December 9th.

You can sign up online to volunteer for both events at saintjohnwonderworker.org

Wishing you a peaceful, joyful and blessed Christmas!
Anna Andreeva Naydenova, Hands of Love Chair



COMMUNITY SCHEDULE (CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)

Nativity Fast – continues through December 24

Sunday, December 2 (14th Sunday of St. Luke/Parish Thanksgiving Sunday):

- | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| 7:45 a.m. | Orthros Service | 9:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy |
| 10:15 a.m. | Blessing of Five Loaves & December Commemorations | | |
| 10:45 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship Reception | | |
| 11:00 a.m. | Religious Education Classes (<i>for all ages</i>) | | |
| 12:00 p.m. | Parish Christmas Tree & Community Cookie Decorating | | |

All parish youth and adults are invited to decorate our parish Christmas Tree, drink apple cider, and share favorite Christmas traditions as we decorate Christmas cookies! Lunch will be provided.

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!