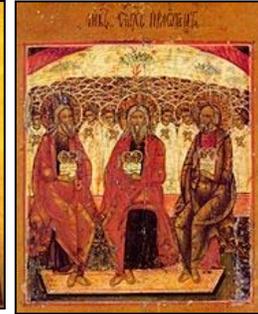
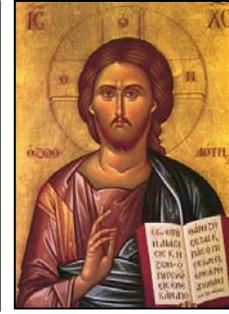




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 16, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE 11TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Forefathers of Christ; Holy and Glorious Prophet Haggai (520 B.C.); St. Modestos, Patriarch of Jerusalem (+386); Righteous Mother Blessed Empress Theophania (+894); Nicholas, Patriarch of Constantinople; and Memnonus, Archbishop of Ephesus. *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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.186-189):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By their faith You justified Your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old You betrothed to Yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave You birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn for St. Theophania– (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Preferring heavenly things unto the earthly, you while on earth did live the life of the Angels, raised up on godly longing, O Theophania. Wherefore, you have been vouchsafed Heaven's graces and visions, standing with the Angels' hosts and the Saints' fair assemblies before the King of all, Whom you did love; pray to Him to grant us His mercy and blessedness.

5. 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.

6. Kontakion – Preparation for the Nativity (11/26-12/24) – (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 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

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Col. 3:4-11)

Col. 3:4 When Christ Who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. 8 But now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10 and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11 In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24; Matt. 22:14)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

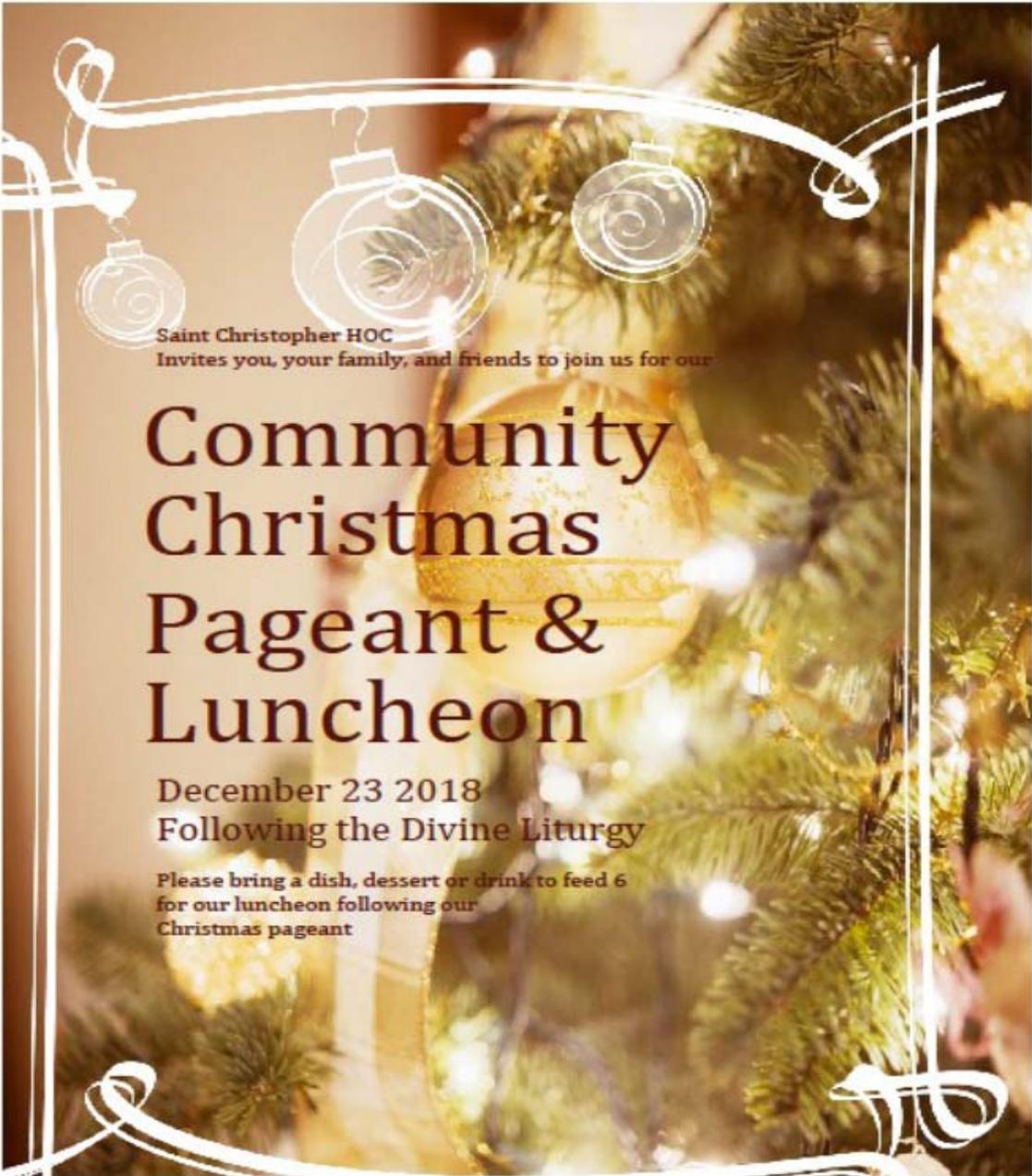
(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)



*Let Us Continue to Support
Our Efforts to Build
Phase One*

 ["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page.](#) Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.



Saint Christopher HOC
Invites you, your family, and friends to join us for our

Community Christmas Pageant & Luncheon

December 23 2018
Following the Divine Liturgy

Please bring a dish, dessert or drink to feed 6
for our luncheon following our
Christmas pageant

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Today's Special Commemoration:

The Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ

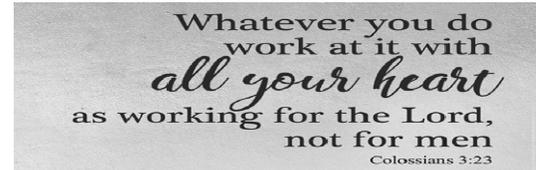
On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month (which is today), we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites. When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

Blessing of Prayer Shawls Today

Thanks for sharing the light of Christ as we celebrate today's Blessing of the Prayer Shawls. We welcome our visitor from Promise Place, Board Member Lynn Vickers, who joined us for the entire Liturgy and Prayer Shawl Blessing. Promise Place offers shelter and assistance to women experiencing domestic violence. Our prayers and prayer shawls provide moral and emotional support and the knowledge they are special and cared about. Special thanks to those who completed their shawls and who offered them for today's blessing. Please contact Susan Kleto at sbkleto@gmail.com or 770.253.8469 to become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, a *Prayer Guide*, or if you have questions. As always, thank you so much to everyone who contributes their time and talents to this ministry.

End of Year Stewardship Reminders



With Christmas almost upon us we are truly thankful for you and your family. Each of you is a vital and blessed part of our community.

A strong parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ and welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home. Our parish provides a place for worship, community and education in the faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish.

During this season of Joy and Good Will we kindly ask that if you have not already completed your 2018 Stewardship Pledge to do so before the end of the year thus enabling us to continue our ministries and carry on our mission.

Additionally, every year we encourage everyone who is part of St. Christopher's to give a Christmas offering - a gift of gratitude as a way of saying, "I was really blessed this year, and I want to be generous." Our Lord has truly blessed us and when you give, you are close to His heart because He is a giver. Envelopes are available on the table in the narthex for this gift of gratitude.

To complete your 2018 pledge & your Christmas offering there are several ways to give:

1. Go to www.saintchristopherhoc.org and click the green online giving box
2. Make a donation with your credit card
3. Use your bank or credit union bill pay service
4. Write a check
5. Make a cash donation (Always use an envelope & include your name so we can correctly record your stewardship)

We are deeply grateful for the loving generosity that you and your family provide and we thank you for your offerings of Time, Talents and Treasurers.

If you have any questions please contact me at gsjs401mg@gmail.com.

Faithfully, Julie Skouteris, Stewardship Chair

On this the 734th 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 16th 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 12th**.

The Annual Loaves and Fishes Christmas Day Dinner will be held on Christmas Day, Monday the 25th 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

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)

*Nativity Fast – continues
through December 24*

*Sunday, December 16 (11th Sunday of St. Luke/Sunday of the Holy Forefathers):

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 10:00 a.m. | Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Prayer Shawls |
| 11:30 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship Reception |
| 11:45 a.m. | Religious Education Classes <i>(for all ages)</i> |
| 12:30 p.m. | Philoptochos Board Meeting *Service Schedule was changed to accommodate Fr. George traveling back from the funeral of his beloved Aunt in Virginia yesterday. <i>May Maxine's memory be eternal.</i> |

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

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. The final day we will be collecting the donations and names is today. 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.