



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

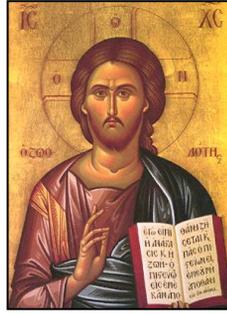
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.org)

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 30, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS FOREFATHERS OF GOD, SAINT JOSEPH THE BETROTHED OF THE VIRGIN MARY; JAMES, THE BROTHER OF THE LORD (IAKOVOS); AND

**DAVID, THE PROPHET AND KING.** On this day, we also commemorate Anysia the Virgin-martyr of Thessaloniki; Gideon the New Martyr of Mount Athos; Holy Martyr Philetaerus; and Righteous Father Leondus the Archimandrite. *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. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, 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 born of the Virgin, Who sing to You, Alleluia.*

### **2./4. Special Hymn for the Feast of the Blessed Birth of our Lord (sung before and after the Small Entrance) – (Hymnal-pp.198-201):**

*"Your birth, O Christ our God, shines forth on all the world with the light of knowledge. For at Your Birth, those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. O Lord, glory to You."*

### **3. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were*

untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

**5. Hymn for Saints Joseph, David, and Iakovos – (Hymnal-pp.202-203):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Go, holy Joseph, tell David what the angel said. With the shepherds and the wise men from afar, praise the Son of the Virgin, begging Him to save our souls.

**6. 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.

**7. Kontakion of the Blessed Birth of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.244-247):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give Him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to Him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born 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 (John 20:19-31)**

*“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if*

*you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.’ A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.”*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 1:11-19)**

*For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matt. 2:13-23)**

*Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." Then Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called My Son." When Herod*

*saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the Child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."*

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

"For a Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

(Isaiah 9:6)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus." (Luke 1:31)*

As we celebrate Christmas, we are encouraged by it being a time when many of us look forward to giving gifts, receiving gifts, or both. For most parents, I believe our joy no longer comes in getting gifts, but in seeing our children respond with delight as they open their packages on Christmas morning.

The day after Christmas, we remembered through our liturgical gathering (*synaxis*) the most holy Mother of God (*Theotokos*), who bore our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Mary gave birth supernaturally to the Son and Word of God, and thus became the instrument of the salvation of humankind. Indeed, as we continue to reflect on the Holy Nativity of our Savior, we can rejoice on *how Mary received a gift on that first Christmas, too. She was given the gift of Jesus.* Now, of course, it is true that Jesus was a gift to the human race as a whole. But we should not forget that it was Mary, a woman in a certain place and time, who gave birth to our Lord Jesus.

The fact that God would, in a manner of speaking, give Jesus to Mary as a gift, is not surprising when we consider that God continually gives gifts – tangible and intangible – to His children. And because we have been blessed with gifts from our Father in Heaven, we can, in turn, give gifts to others. We can bless others because we have been blessed.

The world has it half right. Christmas is about gifts, but not the gifts you can buy with your credit card. No, Christmas is about the gift that God the Father has given to Mary, and by extension, to all of us who believe in the person of Jesus Christ. When we give gifts to those we love, we should remember that we are in some small way recalling the greatest gift of all, one that gives new meaning to the phrase “the gift that keeps on giving!”

**Glory be to God!**



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

On this *the 736<sup>th</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!

# Vasilopita Luncheon



Sunday, January 6, 2019



After Blessing of Five Loaves & January Commemorations

*All donations will benefit St. Basil's Academy*



St. Christopher parishioners are invited to share  
a soup, sandwich & dessert smorgasbord!



*Invite your friends, family & neighbors!*



**We are shouting out to all of our veteran & new bakers!!!**

Please consider donating **1** Vasilopita bread or  
cake for live auction and **1-2** smaller Vasilopites  
to sell at donation price.

Contact: Marinda Tsahakis by January 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
[mtsahakis@comcast.net](mailto:mtsahakis@comcast.net) or 770/381-1842



# St. Christopher's Annual Vasilopita

Sponsored by Philoptochos

Your **Good Will Offering** Benefits St. Basil's Academy



Food + Live/Silent Auction + Entertainment for all ages = FUN!

Sunday, January 6, 2019  
Immediately following the Blessing of the Five Loaves  
and January Commemorations

Please bring an offering of soup or sandwiches to share for lunch,  
bringing enough to feed your family and 6 others

Everyone is welcome!

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

### **Sunday, December 30 (Sunday before the Holy Theophany):**

- 8:45 a.m. Orthros Service (*Tentative – Fr. George returns from Ohio wedding*)
- 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 12:00 p.m. Let's EAT! (Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214. It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all...!)

### **Tuesday, January 1 (Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil/New Year's):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Blessing & Cutting of the Vasilopita

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