



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

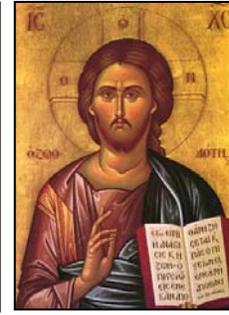
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 9, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE 10TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos; Holy Prophetess Hannah, mother of the Prophet Samuel; Narses the Martyr of Persia; and the Consecration of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) in the Holy City of Jerusalem. *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.

Take this Sunday Bulletin with you to *SHARE* with someone who is *not* here today.

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 the Conception of St. Anna – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Today the bonds of childlessness are broken. For hearing the prayers of Joachim and Anne, God promised that against all hope they would give birth to the Maiden of God. He, the Uncircumscribed, would be born of her, when He would become man, and by the Angel's example, He commands us to call to her: "Rejoice, Maiden full of the grace, the Lord is with you."

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (not in Hymnal):

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.

5. Kontakion – Preparation for the Nativity – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: On this day the whole wide world is celebrating that Saint Anne conceived a child, which was a miracle of God. And she gave birth to the one who bore the divine Logos, in ways passing speech and thought.

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 (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 4:22-27)

Gal. 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. 23 One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. 24 Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children

for slavery. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, “Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.”

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 13:10-17)

Luke 13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” 13 When He laid His hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” 15 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” 17 When He said this, all His opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that He was doing.

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Today, I kindly ask you to consider this parable about hidden needs.

A nurse asked the doctor treating a patient, “Should I replace the bandage on his ankle? It looks well enough to be removed now.”

The physician replied, “Yes, give him a new bandage. He doesn’t really need it there, but I want him to come back, so I can check up on something else about him. Without the bandage he won’t return.”

Many times patients are brought to the doctor by members of their family for some hidden reason because the patient will not come for the true reason. This is done to avoid unnecessary rebellion or anxiety. It is important that the trouble be ascertained and the cure administered.

People sometimes come into our midst for some selfish reason, but whatever brings them to us can lead to a good result. When they meet us at church, many ask the question, “Why did this happen to me?” Defeats sometimes set the stage for victory. Those who suffer great sorrow may become equipped to give understanding, love and help to others. The alcoholic may be more willing to receive assistance from one who suffered the same failing.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, thousands of good deeds are performed daily in patterns that circumvent the barriers of human pride. Each of us may ask, “What hidden blessings has God in store today?” Challenging difficulties can cause us to build character and faith or give us opportunity to serve others in Christ's spirit.

This is the message the Apostle James was teaching when he offered, *“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (James 1:2-4) Amen!

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have children of her that is married, says the LORD.” (Isaiah 54:1)

Philoptochos Christmas Service Project



At our General Meeting on Sunday, November 18, Philoptochos members engaged in a hands-on project tying blankets and signing Christmas cards for the residents of Southland Health & Rehabilitation that were distributed yesterday. We appreciate the Hope & Joy youth and families joining our Philoptochos members yesterday to sing Christmas carols.



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Fr. George & Presbytera Marinda
Tсахakis & Our St. Christopher Church Parish Family, December 8, 2018**

[As promised, Fr. George is sharing the Christmas Photo Card he made from last week's group photo, and photos of the blessing of our gift blankets, the decoration of our Christmas Tree and Christmas Cookies - all distributed yesterday to Southland Health and Rehabilitation Center in Peachtree City.]

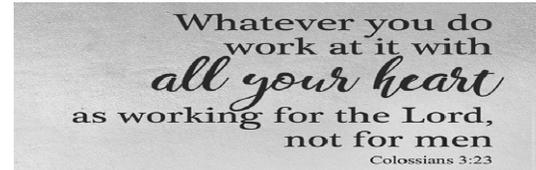
Stewards of the Faith

All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ



STEWARDSHIP
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.

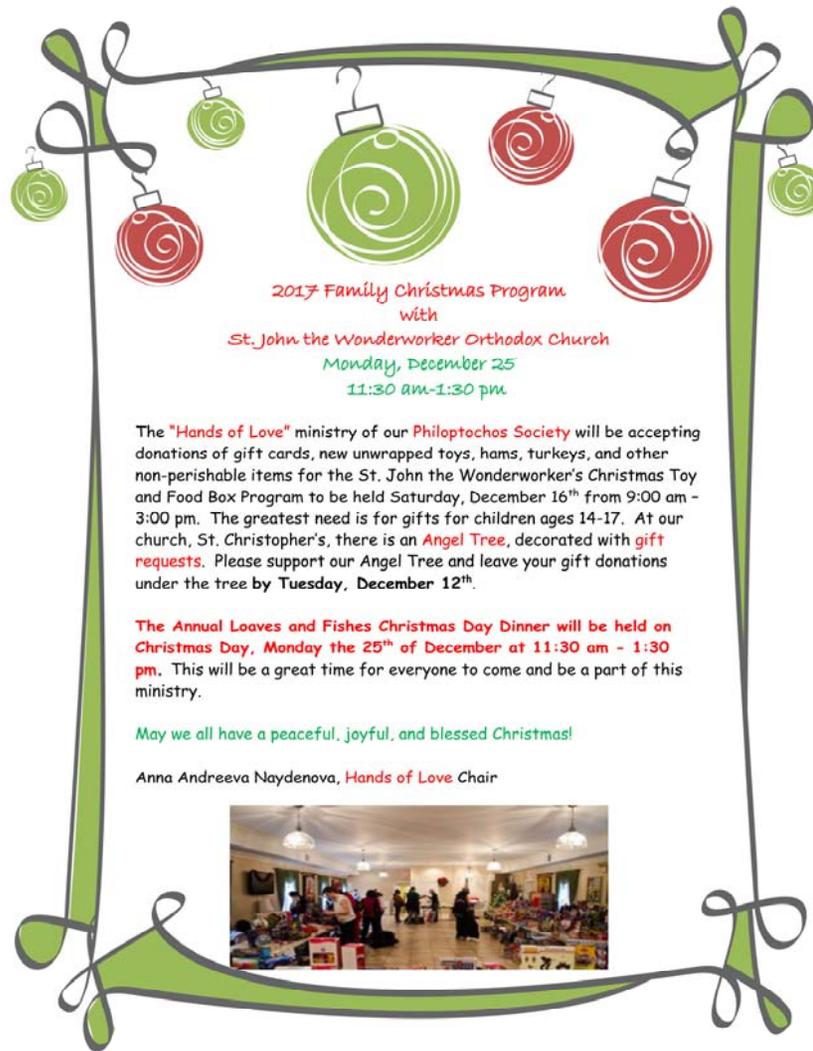
To complete your 2018 pledge & your Christmas offering there are several ways to give:

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



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 733rd 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!

SAMPLE PARISH COUNCIL BALLOT

On Sunday, December 9, 2018, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm,
Parishioners in Good Standing can

VOTE TO FILL **3** (three) OPEN POSITIONS
FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC
ORTHODOX CHURCH

(You may vote for no more than three persons.)

_____ Tom Farmakis

_____ Anna Andreeva Naydenova

_____ Tammy Soulakos

_____ Steve Theodorakis

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Nativity Fast – continues through December 24

Sunday, December 9 (10th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Reception/Parish Council Elections
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes Are Combined Today - *We ask teachers and students in all our classes to meet together for our First Community Christmas Pageant Rehearsal.*
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. St. Christopher Outreach Ministry Meeting

Thursday, December 13:

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 14 (Sacrament of Confession):

Fr. George will offer the Sacrament of Confession today. Please call him at 770/381-1842 to schedule a time no later than 12/9/18.

Saturday, December 15 (Feast of St. Eleutherios the Hieromartyr):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Lenten Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. Second Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (90 minutes)

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

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 a.m. Blessing of Prayer Shawls
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 11:45 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!



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