



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 23, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST WHICH WE REFER TO AS THE SUNDAY OF THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE all of our Holy and God-bearing Fathers and Mothers who have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam to Joseph, the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos Mary, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke has recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38), as well as, the Holy and Righteous Prophets and Prophetesses of God, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Youths. Today, we remember the following people who lived during Old Testament times: *The first created human beings, Adam and Eve; Abel, son of Adam and Eve; Seth, son of Adam and Eve; Enos, son of Seth; Cainan, Son of Enos; Mahalalel, son of Aainan; Jared, son of Mahalalel; Enoch, son of Jared; Mathusaleh, son of Enoch, Lamech, son of Mathusaleh; Noah, son of Lamech; Shem, son of Noah; Japheth, son of Noah; Arphaxad, son of Shem; Cainan, son of Arphaxad; Salah, son of Cainan; Eber, son of Salah; Peleg, son of Eber; Reu, son of Peleg; Serug, son of Reu; Nahor, son of Serug; Terah, son of Nahor; The Holy Patriarchs Abraham, son of Terah; Isaac, son of Abraham; Jacob, son of Isaac; Holy Twelve Patriarchs and sons of Jacob and Rachel: Rubin, Symeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulon, Isaacher, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin; Saints Perez and Zerah—twins, sons of Judah; The Saints Hezron,*

*son of Perez; Ram, son of Hezron; Amminadab, son of Ram; Salmon; Obed, son of Boaz by Ruth; Jesse, son of Obed; The Holy Kings David, son of Jesse; Solomon, son of David; Rehoboam, son of Solomon; Abijah, son of Rehoboam, Asa, son of Abijah; Jehoshaphat, son of Hezekiah; Amon, son of Manasseh; Josiah, son of Amon; Jeconiah, son of Josiah; The Saints Shaltiel, son of Jeconiah; Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel; Abiud, son of Zerubbable; Eliakim, son of Abiud; Azor, son of Eliakim; Zadok, son of Azor; Achim, son of Zadok; Eliud, son of the Betrothed, son of Jacob; The Righteous Melchizedek and Job; Holy Prophet Moses; Saint Hur, and Holy Nathan; Holy Prophet Daniel; Three Holy Children: Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Patriarch Isaak; The Righteous Leah, first wife of Patriarch Jacob; Rachel, second wife of Patriarch Jacob; Asenath, spouse of Patriarch Joseph; Miriam, sister of the Holy Prophet Moses; Prophetess and Judge Deborah; the Righteous Ruth; Righteous widow of Zarephath to whom the Holy Prophet Elias was sent; Righteous Shumanite woman who showed hospitality to the Holy Prophet Elisha; Righteous Judith; Righteous Esther; Righteous Hannah, mother of the Holy Prophet Samuel; and Righteous Susanna. **ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE** the Holy Ten Martyrs of Crete (+250); Righteous Father Paul, Archbishop of Neo-Caesarea, of the 318 Holy Fathers of Nicea; Remembrance of the founding of the Holy and Great Church of Christ, Hagia Sophia in Constantinople; Holy and God-bearing Naoum the Wonderworker, Illuminator, and Preacher of Bulgaria (+900-950); and Nicholas and John the New Martyrs. *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 (Plagal of the First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

3. Hymn for Preparation of the Nativity – (Hymnal-pp.190-193):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Make ready, Bethlehem; O Eden, open to all. O Ephratha, prepare, for soon the Tree of Life will be brought forth from the Virgin in a cave. Like paradise itself, she will bear the fruit divine, and if we eat of it, we shall never die like Adam. For Christ is born, and by His birth, He will raise that image that fell so long ago.

4. Hymn for Sunday of the Genealogy of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.194-195):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: How great is the power of faith. By faith three young men rejoice in flames as if in refreshing water, and Daniel in the lions' den is like a shepherd with his sheep. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

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 – (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

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 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know

where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebr. 11:9-10, 32-40)

By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matt. 1:1-25)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father

of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at His birth, for He will be great in the sight of the Lord.." (Luke 1:14-15)

Pastoral Reflection from Fr. George:

As we approach the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Christ Jesus, I am praying that God's Holy Spirit guides us to pursue peace and unity in all things; may He bring all of His creation closer together. May our Heavenly Father continue to sustain His earthly realm. With God's taking on our flesh (becoming incarnate), and through His witness and teachings, His suffering and death, and His joyous resurrection, may we be reconciled and join forever with Him and His Heavenly Kingdom, already established, but to be completed at His Glorious Second Coming! Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta once expressed His hope that ***“every day, we would allow our Lord to be born in our hearts so that in turn, we can witness and share Him with His Creation. What a profound and essential thought!***

Every year just before Christmas, we are blessed with our parish youth and adults offering their inspiring Christmas Pageants. For me personally, they bring *to life the Incarnation of our Lord in the very people that we see and worship with each week. They represent the best of all of us... they freely choose to be part of this effort. I commend them and all who assist them “behind the scenes.”* I also commend our co-workers who seek daily to “bring to life” the blessed and good news of our Lord's Incarnation... **That is the message I pray can be communicated in everything we do!** Whether we realize it or not, we are each called to serve God... not just in the annual Christmas Pageant, but in our every worship, service, fellowship, and witness – whether anyone sees us or thanks us for trying. God grants us the freedom to choose to respond to His call through all of us working together through Him – that includes you and me, our ministry leaders, our co-workers, and even the visitors and strangers He enables to be in our midst.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, those present and those traveling, I pray this year's commemoration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ inspires us on our mutual and life-changing journey together. With the Holy Spirit leading us and by us choosing to work together in a spirit of mutual love and mercy, we all have the potential to enter and live forever in God's eternal Kingdom.

In closing, I want to affirm that your presence, prayers, and participation are essential and greatly appreciated. Your time, your talents, and your gifts are priceless! Let us join together in praying for God's peace and unity - both within His Holy Church and throughout His world.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!
Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!

2018 Christmas Pageant Cast



(Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 22, 2018)

Announcer 1 – *Lydia McGee*

Announcer 2 – *Becky Butler*

Readers: *Kirk Panayis & Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis*

Prophets: *Michael Dobur, Stephen Sarantis, & Steven Wilson*

Mary – *Stella Moraitis*

Joseph – *Michael Butler*

Gabriel – *Julie Torres*

Head Angel – *Lily Butler*

Heavenly Hosts – *Alyssa Dobur, Sophie Sarantis, Sofia Spezzano, & Evie Wilson*

Shepherds – *Carson Dobur, Susan Kleto, & Claudia Sliwinski*

Sheep – *Kollin Butler, RJ Meyerhoff, Robert Moraitis, John Spezzano,
& Ana Sliwinski*

Star – *Dedee Panayis* **King Herod & Court** – *James Moraitis & Andrew Tsahakis*

Wise Men – *Gaspard* – *Victor Torres* **Melchior** – *Pete Kleto*

Balthazar – *Fr. George Tsahakis*

Additional Thanks

Pageant Director – *Katie Wilson, assisted by Nicholas Wilson*

Choir – *Jeanie Ellinas, Director, Becky Butler, Lydia McGee, Anna Pelky,
& Jackie Sarantis*

Parent Assistants: *Andrea & Jeff Dobur, Emilia & Angelo Moraitis,
& Jim Sliwinski*

Sound & Lights Design – *Kirk & Dedee Panayis*

Donation of Poinsettias – *Presbyteria Marinda & Fr. George Tsahakis*

Donation of Pageant Costumes & Props – *Becky Butler & Maria Panayi*

Christmas Luncheon – *Julie Skouteris, Chair and everyone who brought food
and helped with set-up, serving, & cleaning up*

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

On this the 735th 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 *(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)*

Sunday, December 23 (Sunday Before the Nativity of Our Lord):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/40-Day Memorial for George Koutsounadis
- 10:30 a.m. Community Christmas Pageant followed by Community Luncheon *(Everyone is invited to join us!)*



Join us on Christmas Eve & Christmas . . .

Monday, Christmas Eve - 12/24

- 8:00 a.m. Great Hours of the Nativity of our Lord*
- 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil*

Tuesday, Christmas Day - 12/25

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros of the Nativity of our Lord*
 - 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Nativity of our Lord*
 - 11:30 a.m. Feeding the Homeless at St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church (Grant Park)*
- (In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, the period from 12/26 - 1/4 is fast free.)*

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