



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



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 17, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE 16TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE PERIOD KNOWN AS TRIODION BEGINS, WITH THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE PARABLE OF THE PUBLICAN (TAX COLLECTOR) AND THE PHARISEE TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Theodore the Tyro, Great Martyr; Mariamne, Sister of Apostle Philip; Righteous Auxentius; Theodore the New Martyr of Byzantium; Hermogenes (Germogen), Patriarch of Moscow; and The Pious Rulers Marcian and Pulcheria. *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.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion for Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee– (Hymnal-pp.254-255):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Let us flee the boastful words of the Pharisee and learn humility from the sighs of the publican; let us cry out to the Savior: Spare us, for You alone are rich in forgiveness.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>– St. John Chrysostom</p> |
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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 (2 Tim. 3:10-15)

Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:10-14)

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was

praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

The story is told of a cold winter Sunday morning, when the parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. Church members were whispering among themselves as they walked into the church, skirting around the man leaning up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down as if he was asleep. His long trench coat was in shreds and a hat concealed his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small, and so holey that his toes stuck out. He was homeless, asleep, and ignored.

The congregation gathered in the Narthex and fellowshiped for a few minutes, including some gossip about the man lying outside. But, no one

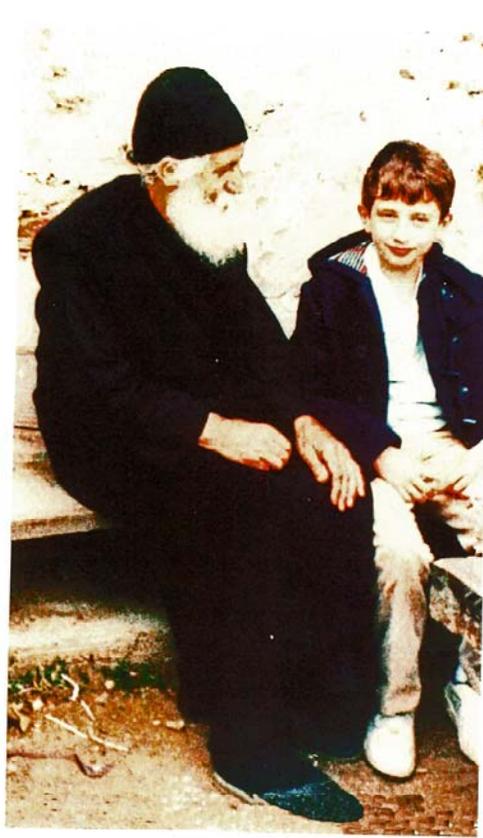
went out to ask him to come in from the cold, let alone take him a cup of coffee.

As the Choir concluded the Great Doxology at the end of the Orthros Service, the church doors opened, and in shuffled the homeless man. A stunned gasp was loosed, and faces made as he shambled up the aisle head down, making a bee-line for the door leading to the entrance of the side of the Altar. When he re-appeared in his priestly vestments, the hearts of the people sank as they recognized their Parish Priest.

No one said a word. When the time came for him to offer the sermon, the Priest took his Bible and opened it saying, “*My brothers and sisters in Christ, I don’t have to tell you what I am preaching about today. ‘For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” (Gal. 5:14)

During this coming week, if our Lord suddenly appears in our midst and asks each of us whether we truly have obeyed this commandment, how will we answer Him? Furthermore, if He asks us whether we have forgiven those who have harmed or transgressed against us, what will we offer as a response? *The Good News, my brothers and sisters in Christ, is God’s mercy and forgiveness is unconditional and accessible to each of us every moment of our lives . . . there is still time to respond accordingly. **Glory to Him always!***

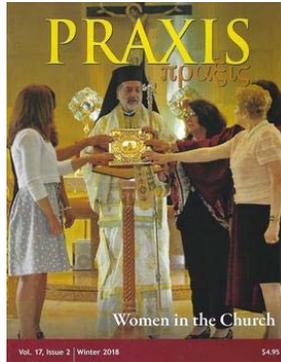
PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



The parents who bear children and give them their bodies and physical life must also contribute, as much as they can, to their spiritual rebirth. Then, of course, what they themselves cannot do for their children, they shall entrust to teachers. This is why our Church, too, refers in this regard "to our parents and teachers." There are also the Spiritual Fathers, who labour for the spiritual regeneration of people and who help more positively in the spiritual nurturing of the young.

Fr. George is planting a seed today with the image and text above. As the weather warms up, I pray it takes root and together, with your help and encouragement, we shall nurture it for the glory of God!

Today's Adult Religious Education Class



Thanks for supporting our Adult Religious Education classes. We are studying the series... *"Women in the Church"*. As we continue this series through March 10, obtain future Lessons by visiting our website homepage, www.saintchristopherhoc.org.

February 17, 2019: "Singing Praises: Music to Deepen Our Prayers (pp. 17 - 19). *Fr. George will teach our class today... come and join us!*



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On this the 743rd 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, February 17 (Triodion Begins – Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee)
(This is a Fast Free Week – February 17 – February 23)

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception

10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

11:30 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!