



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, February 3, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF SAINT MATTHEW, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD INTO THE TEMPLE, WE REMEMBER the Synaxis of the Holy and Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver and the Holy Prophetess Anna (+0); Stamatios, John, & Nicholas, New Martyrs of Spetses (+1822); Nicholas, Archbishop & Enlightener of Japan; Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos; and Werburga. *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 OF DIVINE LITURGY

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 held in the arms of the righteous Symeon, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

2./4. Hymn for the Feast of the Presentation – (Hymnal-pp.212-215):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

3. Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

5. 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.

6. Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord (Hymnal-pp.250-253):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

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
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:9-20)

Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere,

while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 6:1-10)

6As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For He says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 25:14-30)

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,

‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“Ascribe to the LORD the **glory** due His Name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Worship the LORD in holy splendor;” *(1 Chronicles 16.29)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

A Winning Cause

People give to a winning cause, not to a sinking ship. This is an important principle for teaching the concept of “giving” of one’s talents, time, and treasures. *The mission of God is a winning cause.* Our parish family, at its best, is a winning cause.

God calls us to the winning cause of His mission of salvation for everyone. In the process, people will be helped; lives will be changed. There will be times of reconciliation, wholeness, caring, and justice. Much will be accomplished through our faithful efforts to assist our Lord as parish leaders.

In this context, I offer the following prayer. It would be good if we could pray this prayer each day of our life, and live it with our family and friends, with those whom we work with, and with those whom we cooperate and serve with at St. Christopher’s. Indeed, it is a prayer of personal growth for our entire parish family:

With the help of God, my family and friends, I am growing confidence and assurance in myself and others, developing new possibilities and opportunities, advancing compassion and encouragement, and building vision and hope. I pray I will complain and lament less. I pray that I will forget how to scold and whine. God help me to grow, develop, advance, and build – in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, until the ages of ages. Amen.

May we discover the steps we each can take personally to nurture these gifts, strengths, and competencies even more fully in our own life, our family, and our parish.



Hands of Love: February

For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land. (Deut. 15:11)



Sunday, February 3rd: TACKLE  HUNGER

Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to **fight hunger and poverty** in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

It was initiated in 1990 by 22 churches in Columbia, SC. They collected \$5,700 for the first Souper Bowl. This mission was embraced by more churches across the nation and around the world and now has its headquarters in Houston, TX. Last year they collected \$8,188,534.

This year **Atlanta** is hosting the game in our new and unique Mercedes-Benz Stadium - a call for all of us to **step up to the plate!**

On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3rd (or any of the following 3 weeks), we are asking each family member to donate at least **one dollar and/or one item** of canned food for local people in need. **100% of our donation will go directly to St. John the Wonderworker in Atlanta.** Since the canned food donations will be used in their soup kitchen, please try to select large canned items or multiples of smaller items.



For more information visit: www.souperbowl.org and www.saintjohnwonderworker.org.

Yours in Christ,

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, Philoptochos Hands of Love Ministry Chair

GO RED SUNDAY:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

Be relentless in support of women's health.

On Friday, February 1, Wear Red and Give.



The National Philoptochos Society promotes the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign. Improve awareness by sharing information with your Philoptochos sisters, your parish community and all the women you know and love.



Use the letters in "F.A.S.T." to spot stroke signs and know when to call 9-1-1.



Face Drooping

Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven or lopsided?



Arm Weakness

Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?



Speech

Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.



Time to Call 9-1-1

If the person shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get them to the hospital immediately.

Additional Symptoms of Stroke

If someone shows any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 or emergency medical services immediately.

Sudden Numbness

Sudden NUMBNESS or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body

Sudden Trouble Walking

Sudden TROUBLE WALKING, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

Sudden Confusion

Sudden CONFUSION, trouble speaking or understanding speech

Sudden Severe Headache

Sudden SEVERE HEADACHE with no known cause

Sudden Trouble Seeing

Sudden TROUBLE SEEING in one or both eyes

Be prepared

American Heart Association

Warning Signs of Heart Attack & Cardiac Arrest

If these signs are present CALL 9-1-1

Heart Attack Symptoms

CHEST DISCOMFORT

Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

DISCOMFORT IN OTHER AREAS OF THE UPPER BODY

Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

with or without chest discomfort.

OTHER SIGNS

may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

Cardiac Arrest Symptoms

SUDDEN LOSS OF RESPONSIVENESS

No response to tapping on shoulders.

NO NORMAL BREATHING

The victim does not take a normal breath when you tilt the head up and check for at least five seconds.



Today is “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”

... the custom of offering the Five Loaves monthly reminds us of the generosity and multiplication of the gifts of fish and bread that our Lord multiplied and shared with all present. Through this Orthodox Service, we return thanksgiving to God for multiplying our own

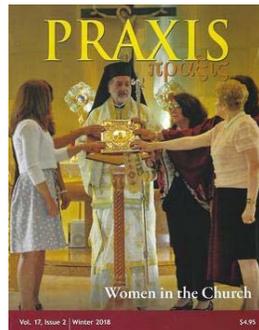
gifts and hence, the icon of this miracle has been selected as our logo for **“Parish Thanksgiving Sunday” ... the first Sunday of every month!**

*On this fourth of our “Parish Thanksgiving Sundays,” we thank **Katie Tsahakis Wilson** for making and offering on behalf of her and her family our five Artos (loaves of bread), as well as donating the oil, wheat and wine for the Service of the Blessing of the Five Loaves.*



Likewise, today we thank God and celebrate Name Days, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and other special occasions that occurred recently or during the month of December. The Artos (blessed sweet bread) will be distributed to everyone during our Coffee Fellowship Reception. Join us! Congratulations to everyone celebrating their special events today and thanks to all who offered our parish their gifts for God to use and multiply.

Next Sunday's Adult Religious Education Class



Thanks for supporting our Adult Religious Education classes. We are studying a new 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 10, 2019: "The Maternal Kinship Between the Mother of God and Her Cousin Elizabeth (pp. 13 - 14)



February Prosfora Baking Schedule



The following families are scheduled to prepare Prosfora this month:

Saturday, Feb. 2 (due Sat., Feb. 2 by 7:00 am)	Dedee Panayis/Milena Taylor
Sunday, Feb. 3 (due Sun., Feb. 3 by 7:00 am)	Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis/Becky Butler
Sunday, Feb. 10 (due Sun., Feb. 10 by 7:00 am)	Pat MacDougall/Stella Christodouloupoulos
Sunday, Feb. 17 (due Sun., Feb. 17 by 7:00 am)	Costas and Tammy Soulakos/Lydia McGee
Sunday, Feb. 24 (Due Sun., Jan. 24 by 7:00 am)	Effie Sakkas/Susan Kleto

PROSFORA BAKERS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Presbytera Marinda appreciates everyone's help and if needs arise, please contact her at mtsahakis@comcast.net or (770) 381-1842.



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

On this the 741st 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 3 (16th Sunday of St. Matthew/Souper Bowl of Caring):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Five Loaves with Thanksgiving
Sunday Commemorations for February to follow

10:45 a.m. General Parish Assembly

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Assembly of Bishops' Statement on the Sanctity of Life

January 31, 2019 The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America affirms the sanctity of life based on the firm conviction that life begins at the moment of conception. The Assembly remains steadfast in its conviction that any interference in the development of life is a serious issue, and therefore it regularly participates in a variety of relevant events and also releases pertinent statements on the topic.

While recognizing that there are rare but serious medical instances where mother and child may require extraordinary actions, the Assembly of Bishops is deeply concerned that the taking of innocent life through abortion has become an acceptable cultural norm. This phenomenon – increasingly prevalent throughout contemporary societies – was exacerbated by a recent law of the New York State Senate (Bill S.240). The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America categorically denounces these adverse developments that allow for abortion, under certain unjustifiable circumstances, even within the third trimester of existence.

The Assembly of Bishops further reminds the faithful that Christ is a beacon of hope in this challenging world. Accordingly, the Church is always prepared and willing to support women who are considering abortion to find alternative avenues to alleviate any burden, physical and spiritual. The Church is ever a mother – loving, understanding, nurturing, praying, and protecting all human life.