



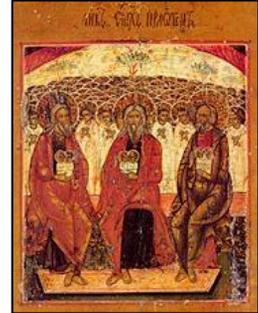
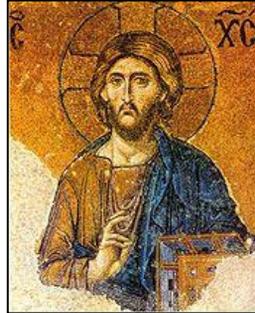
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 15, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE 11TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ; the Holy Priest-Martyr Eleftherios and his mother, Anthia the Martyr (+120); and Susannah the Deaconess. *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

3. Hymn for Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ – (Hymnal-pp.186-189):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By their faith You justified Your ancestors, Christ our God, and through them, of old You betrothed to Yourself the Church brought together from the nations. Let these saints rejoice in glory, for from their seed has come forth a noble fruit, she who gave You birth without seed. Through their prayers, Christ our God, save our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Eleftherios – (see handout):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. You were fully adorned with the sacred priestly robes. You were dripping with streams of your own martyric blood. In this state, you ran to Christ your Master, O blessed Saint Eleftherios, destroyer of Satan; you are wise. Therefore, cease not interceding for us who loyally honor your blessed contest of martyrdom.

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 (11/26-12/24) – (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 (Luke 24:1-12)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 1:8-18)

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed

through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the One in Whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to Him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. ¹⁵You are aware that all who are in Asia have turned away from me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain; ¹⁷when he arrived in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me ¹⁸—may the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! And you know very well how much service he rendered in Ephesus.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 14:16-24; Matt. 22:14)

Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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

"and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."
(Ephesians 4:32)

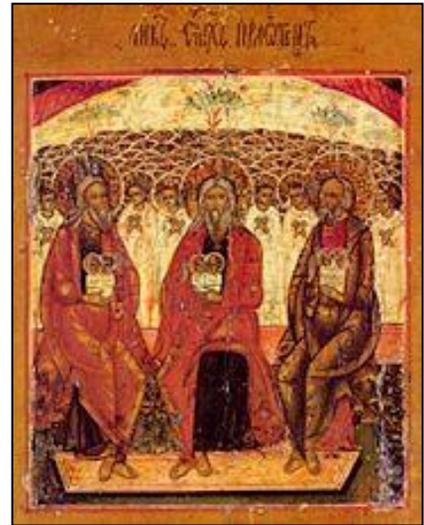
PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Today's Special Commemoration:

The Holy Forefathers/Ancestors of Christ

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we commemorate Christ's forefathers according to the flesh, both those that came before the Law, and those that lived after the giving of the Law.

Special commemoration is made of the Patriarch Abraham, to whom the promise was first given, when God said to him, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). This promise was given some two thousand years before Christ, when Abraham was seventy-five years of age. God called him and commanded him to forsake his country, parents, and kinsmen, and to depart to the land of the Canaanites.



When he arrived there, God told him, "I will give this land to thy seed" (Gen. 12:7); for this cause, that land was called the "Promised Land," which later became the country of the Hebrew people, and which is also called Palestine by the historians. There, after the passage of twenty-four years, Abraham received God's law concerning circumcision. In the one hundredth year of his life, when Sarah was in her ninetieth year, they became the parents of Isaac. Having lived 175 years altogether, he reposed in peace, a venerable elder full of days.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

PAGEANT : 10:30 AM

LUNCHEON : 11:30 AM (Lenten Dishes Please)

SALADS

Last Names: T-Z

MAIN COURSE

Shrimp Pasta provided by Philoptochos

SIDE DISHES

Last Names: M-S

DRINKS

Last Names: G-L

DESSERTS

Last Names: A-F

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Please join the ladies of St. Christopher's Philoptochos as they host our lunch,
December 22 immediately following the Christmas pageant.



“World Watch List of 2019”

This week we continue reviewing the 50 countries where it's most dangerous to follow Jesus. May we offer prayers in support of their efforts and pray for God's peace and good will to prevail!

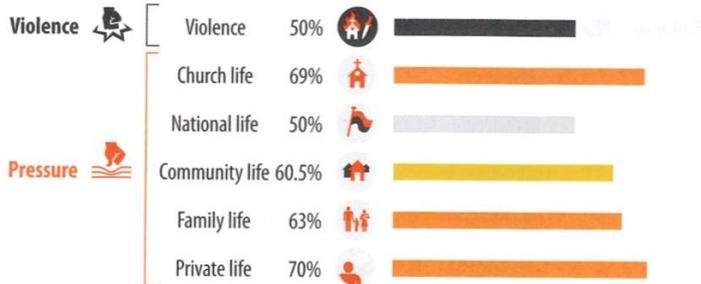


Kenya

Source of persecution Islamic oppression
Population 50,951,000
Christians 41,650,000
Main religion Christianity
Government Presidential republic
Leader President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta

Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



Government seeks to eliminate Christianity

Inspired by Islamic radicals in Somalia, Muslim politicians have made it their agenda to eliminate Christianity. Officials often demand churches do things that are not in line with their faith, while militants viciously carry out suicide bomb attacks and other brutal acts against those considered to be the enemies of Islam. Due to corruption inside the government agencies, those operating against Christians tragically often enjoy impunity.

Prayer points

- Pray for believers who risk being attacked by their own family members and neighbors if their conversion is revealed.
- Pray the government will keep their vows to bring perpetrators of violence against Christians to justice.
- Pray for Christian leaders who knowingly take on great risk to operate churches or share their faith.



Hands of Love: December

"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)



2019 "Christmas Toy and Food Box Program"

Saturday, December 21st, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.

and

"Loaves and Fishes" Christmas Day Dinner for the Homeless,

Wednesday December 25th at noon

at

St. John the Wonderworker Orthodox Church in Atlanta

This year, an online gift registry will be set up at the website of "St. John the Wonderworker" for purchasing gifts for families in need and for financial donations for the Christmas programs.



Take an Angel home from the St. Christopher's Angel Tree to remind you to purchase a gift and also to sign up online to volunteer for [both events](#) at www.saintjohnwonderworker.org/christmas-program-2019

Wishing you a peaceful, joyful,
and blessed Christmas!

Anna Andreeva Naydenova,
"Hands of Love" Chair



Sharing the Christ of Christmas

Promise Place is a source of refuge for women and children in Fayette County seeking protection from Domestic Violence. On December 15th, Fr. George will bless our next gift of prayer shawls. These shawls will let us share our love of Christmas through Christ with the women who are seeking protection and assistance from Promise Place. We hope our shawls will help give these women the strength to make important changes in their lives.

Rectangular shawls should be 24"- 30" wide and 68"- 72" long with fringe or some other decorative finish at each end. Triangular shawls should be 60"- 72" across the longest side, 24"- 30" to the point with fringe along the two short sides or some other decorative finish all around. Please make sure your shawl is completed with no loose ends and the sew-in label attached. Shawls made of soft, cuddly yarns in comforting or bright colors will help make the recipients feel very special.



Please contact Susan Kleto at (678) 877-9115 or sbkleto@gmail.com to either become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions or suggestions for improving this ministry.

Other Ways to Help Promise Place

Making a Prayer Shawl is not the only way you can help Promise Place. Please consider bringing some of the following items on Sunday, December 15th to help fulfill their Pantry Needs:

Paper Towels
Dishwasher Detergent
Clorox Wipes
Dish Detergent

Cold Cereal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Jelly
Canned Vienne Sausages
Mac and Cheese
Bottled Water

Size 2T-3T Girls Diapers
Size 3 Pull-Ups
Size 5 Diapers
Size 6 Diapers
Car Seats and Booster Seats
(Good Condition and
Unexpired)



December Prosfora Baking Schedule



The following families are scheduled to prepare Prosfora this month:

Sunday, Dec. 1 (due Sun., Dec. 1 by 7:00 am)	Effie Sakkas/Susan Kleto
Sunday, Dec. 8 (due Sun., Dec. 8 by 7:00 am)	Dedee Panayis/Milena Taylor
Sunday, Dec. 15 (due Sun., Dec. 15 by 7:00 am)	Effie Sakkas/Susan Kleto
Sunday, Dec. 22 (due Sun., Dec. 22 by 7:00 am)	Helen Psihountas & Julie Skouteris
Tuesday, Dec. 24 (due Tues., Dec. 24 by 7:00 am)	Costas & Tammy Soulakos/Lydia McGee
Wednesday, Dec. 25 (due Wed., Dec. 25 by 7:00 am)	Georgia Lungaro/Claudia Sliwinski
Thursday, Dec. 26 (due by Thurs. Dec. 26 by 4 pm)	Fr. George Tsahakis
Sunday, Dec. 29 (due Sun., Dec. 29 by 7:00 am)	Pat MacDougall & Stella Christodouloupoulos

PROSFORA BAKERS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS! To aid Fr. George in his preparations, please have your Prosfora offering to the church **NO LATER THAN 7:00 am for morning Liturgies and 4:00 pm for evening Liturgies.** Presbytera Marinda appreciates everyone's help and if needs arise, please contact her at mtsahakis@comcast.net or (770) 381-1842.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*presented by the
Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood*

*Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 5:00 pm
at the
Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta*

*His Eminence
Metropolitan
Alexios of Atlanta
will preside over this
Pan-Orthodox Service*



Christmas Concert following the Service featuring: Choirs from the Annunciation Cathedral, Holy Transfiguration, St. John the Wonderworker, and St. Elias, along with the Men's Choir and Chanters from the Annunciation Cathedral.

Reception to follow

Nativity Vigil/Services



Tuesday, December 24 (Vigil of Nativity of Christ):

8:00 a.m. Service of Great Hours

9:00 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

Wednesday, December 25 (Nativity of Christ):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**11:30 a.m. Feeding the Homeless at St. John the
Wonderworker Church (Grant Park)**

Please join us with your family and friends!

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

On this the 784th 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...)*

Nativity Fast – continues through December 24

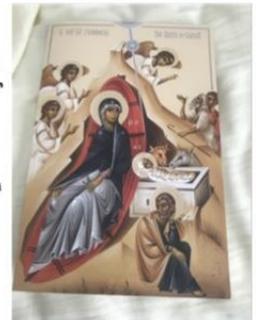
Sunday, December 15 (11th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:15 a.m. Blessing of Prayer Shawls/GreekFest Presentation**
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Parish Council Elections/Coffee Fellowship**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)***
- 11:30 a.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting**

Parish Nativity Card

Our Philoptochos is having a Nativity Card fundraiser again this year. This is a great way to help the friends in our midst and in our communities, who are poor and in need of assistance. We are asking a minimum donation of \$25.00 per family. If you choose to donate to this Christmas ministry, your name/names will be listed with the other contributors on the card. The cards will then be mailed to everyone in the parish. We will begin accepting donations on the 24th of November and continue until the 15th of December. Donations and donation cards can be given to Jeanie/Lydia McGee. God bless Philoptochos and our beloved parish as we consider the needs of others this glorious holiday season.

Faithfully, Jeanie/Lydia McGee



Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!