The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Friday, December 25, 2020

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*

Christ is Born, Glorify Him!

Liturgical Guide for Wednesday, December 25, 2020

ON DECEMBER 25TH, WE COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. *We also remember the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar; and the commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Thank You for Your Understanding

We welcome our parishioners who pre-registered and are attending services in person today and we also welcome those who are viewing our online video streaming at home. Let us comply with the guidelines we have provided everyone. We appreciate your kind understanding that our church is beginning phase one of the re-opening of our doors. Fr. George is deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

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./3./5./10. Special Hymn for the Feast of the Blessed Birth of our Lord (sung *after* the Great Doxology, *before and after* the Small Entrance, and instead of *Ithomen to fos, "We have seen the true light"* after the distribution of Holy Communion) – *(Hymnal-pp.198-201)*: "Your birth, O Christ our God, shines forth on all the world with the light of knowledge. For at Your Birth, those who had adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to know You, the Dawn from on high. O Lord, glory to You."

2. 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 born of the Virgin, Who sing to You, Alleluia.

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:
On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Before the morning star, from the womb, I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a

Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who was born of the Virgin, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

6. Kontakion of the Blessed Birth of our Lord – *(Hymnal-pp.244-247)*:

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth presents a cave to the Unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds give Him glory; wise men follow a star as they journey to Him who is God from all ages, yet for our sake is born as a little child.

7. Trisagion Hymn – *(Hymnal-pp.292-293)*:

*On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: "*As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)"

8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – *(Hymnal-pp.312-315)*:

*Today , the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": "*O my soul, magnify her who is greater in honor and in glory than the armies of heaven. I see here a strange and paradoxical mystery. For, behold, the grotto is heaven; cherubic throne is the Virgin; the manger a grand space in which Christ our God the uncontainable reclined as a babe; Whom in extolling do we magnify."

9. Communion Hymn – *(Hymnal-p.326)*:

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "*Praise the Lord*":* "The Lord has sent redemption to His people. (3) Alleluia."

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM 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 – ORTHROS SERVICE (Matthew 1:18-25)

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 knew her not until she had borne a son; and He named Him Jesus.

Epistle Reading (Galatians 4:4-7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12)

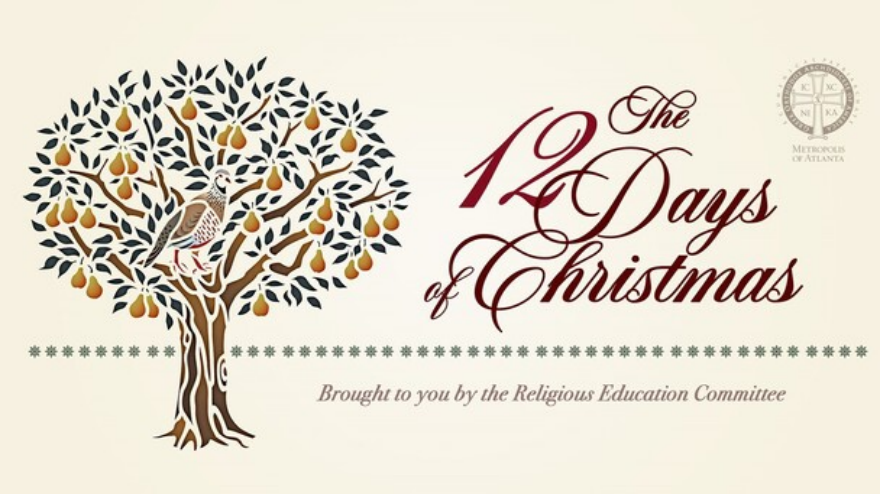
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." **(Isaiah 9:6)**

After the dismissal of today's Divine Liturgy, Fr. George, joined by our Chantors and Choir Members go to the the Solea [in front and on the sides of the Festal Icon of the Holy Nativity of our Lord], and lead our congregation in singing <u>the following two Hymns in Greek and English</u>:

1. The <u>Troparion</u> of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English).
<u>This can be found on page 198 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.</u>

2. The <u>Kontakion</u> of the Feast (first in Greek, and then in English).
<u>This can be found on page 244 of the Divine Liturgy Hymnal.</u>



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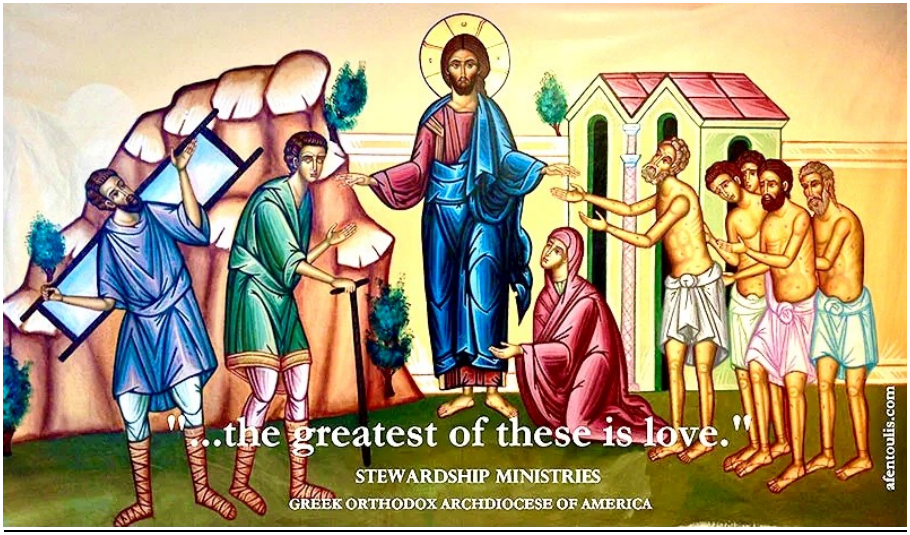

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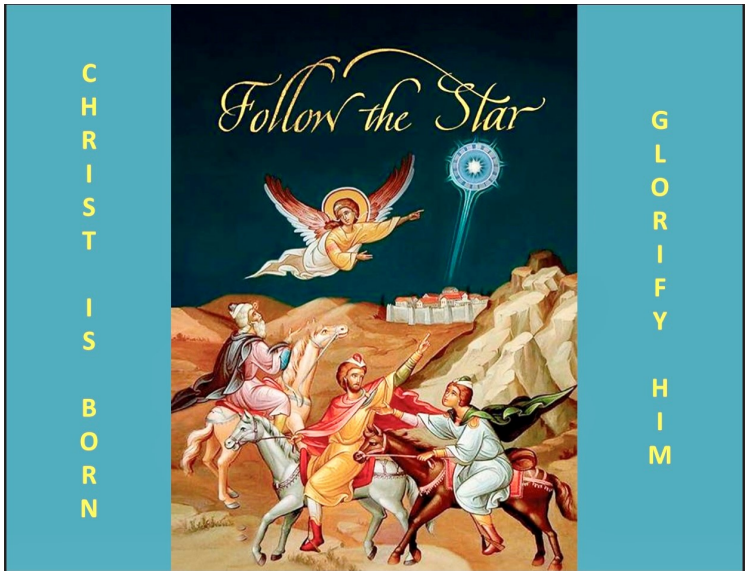
On this *the 18th Year* of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle 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…)*

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

(In celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, the period from 12/26 - 1/4 is fast free.)



Click to View 2020 Parish Christmas Program

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Selamat Natal
圣诞快乐
God Jul
Christmas MobArak
Sung Tan Chuk Ha
Buon Natale
Christmas MobArak Selamat Natal
Selamat Natal Mutlu Noeller
Feliz Navidad
с Рождеством Христовым
felix dies Nativitatis
Schöni Wiehnachte Καλά Χριστούγεννα
с Рождеством Христовым Meri Kurisumasu
Καλά Χριστούγεννα
圣诞快乐 gëzuar Krishtlindja
Vrolijk Kerstfeest عيد ميلاد مجيد
Merry Christmas Selamat Natal
Mutlu Noeller
Il-Milied it-Tajjeb Tratra ny Noely كرسمس God Jul
Linksmų Kalėdų Mutlu Noeller Gozhqq Keshmish
Prettige Kerstfeest Chuć Mưng Giáng Sinh كرسمس Meri Kirihimete
Merry Christmas 圣诞快乐 Glædelig Jul
Frohe Weihnachten Sretan Božić Joyeux Noël
Feliz Navidad
Buon Natale
felix dies Nativitatis
Merry Christmas
Καλά Χριστούγεννα
Frohe Weihnachten