



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

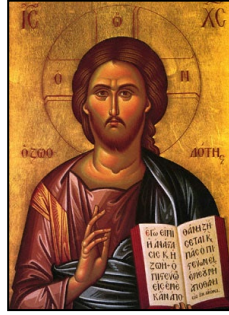
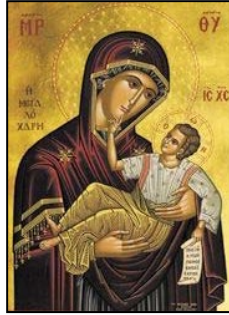
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 Thursday, January 7, 2021

ON THIS DAY WE REMEMBER THE SYNAXIS (COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION) OF JOHN, THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, BAPTIST, AND FORERUNNER (ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST). [CONCURRENTLY, THE TRANSFERENCE, TO WITHIN THE QUEEN CITY, OF HIS MOST PRECIOUS AND HOLY HAND]. We also remember Cedd, Bishop of Scotland; and Fursey, Abbot of Lagny. *Through the intercessions of Your Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy and save us. 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./6. Hymn for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung at the end of Great Vespers and after the Small Entrance. The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.28):

On the occasion of Theophany 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 baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

3./5./12. Hymn of the Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.208-211):

This hymn is sung *before and after* the Small Entrance, and instead of *Ithomen to fos*, "*We have seen the true light*" after the distribution of Holy Communion): "At Your baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the Father's voice bore You witness, by calling You His beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove, confirmed the truth of the Father's Word. O Christ our God, You have appeared to us and enlightened the world. Glory to You."

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Blessed in He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, Who was baptized in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist, as we sing to You, Alleluia.

7. 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.

8. Kontakion of the Holy Theophany of our Lord – (Hymnal-p.-248-249):

This hymn is sung *after* the Small Entrance: “You have revealed Yourself to the world today, and Your light shines forth on us, who sing Your praise with full knowledge: You have come to us, O Lord; You are made manifest, O inaccessible Light.

9. Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-p. 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)”

10. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today’s feast, the following hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...” O my soul, magnify the ever-virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us. O all spotless Bride, surpassing comprehension are the wonders of your childbirth, blessed Mother! Through you obtaining comprehensive salvation, we bring you a gift in striking up this worthy hymn of gratitude to you our Benefactress.

11. Communion Hymn – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today’s feast, the following hymn is sung instead of “Aineite” or “Praise the Lord”: “The righteous will be remembered for ever. (Ps. 111[112]). Alleluia.”

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY

<p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">– St. John Chrysostom</p>

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Acts 19:1-8)

19While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” 4Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in

the One Who was to come after Him, that is, in Jesus.”⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.⁸ He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 1:29-34)

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is He of Whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man Who ranks ahead of me because He was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know Him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that He might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³I myself did not know Him, but the One Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.

On this our eighteenth Feast of St. John the Baptist at our St. Christopher parish, 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...)

Thursday, January 7 (Synaxis of St. John the Baptist):

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!