



Sunday, October 24, 2021



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, October 24, 2021

ON THIS DAY, THE 6TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Arethas the Great Martyr and His Fellow Martyrs; Sebastiane the Martyr; and Maglorious of Sark. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Thank You for Your Understanding

We welcome our parishioners who 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 in following them. Fr. George is deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

Parishioners and visitors who are sick are asked to remain at home to recover and rest. We strongly encourage all parishioners who visit to resume wearing masks to slow the spread of the Delta variant in response to [His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' request to our Clergy and Parish Councils](#) to do so.

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 Commemorating St. Arethas – (see handout):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. The holy martyrs suffered painful tortures for Your sake, O Lord; be compelled by what they endured, and heal our every pain, we entreat You, as the only One who loves humanity.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

<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>– St. John Chrysostom</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading (2 Cor. 9:6-11)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, “He scatters

abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 8:26-39)

Luke 8:26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. Luke 8:27 As He stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met Him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me” — 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. 32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So He got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that He might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return to your home, and declare

how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.’” Then the devil left Him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Him. (*Matt. 4:10-11*)

**Feast of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos in Blachernae
& OXI Day (*continued from back cover of bulletin*)**

Verses for October 28th:

You cover and comfort with your protection, O Pure One,

The faithful who look towards you, O Virgin.

The Protection of the Mother of God covers godly-minded Greece.

Once, during an all-night vigil that was being celebrated in the holy shrine in Blachernae, the blessed Andrew went there, as was his custom. Epiphanius was there also with one of his children. He would stand there, as was his custom was, because his fervor gave him strength, sometimes until midnight, sometimes until dawn. And so, when it was already about eleven o’clock at night, the blessed Andrew saw with his own eyes a most extraordinary vision coming in female form from the royal doors with a dread entourage, among which was the Honorable Forerunner and the Son of Thunder, holding her by the hand on either side, and many saints, robed in white, went before her; while others followed with hymns and spiritual songs. When she drew near the

ambo, Andrew approached Epiphany and said, "Do you see the Lady and Mistress of the world?" He replied, "Yes, my spiritual father."



And as they watched, she bowed her knees and prayed for a long time, shedding tears down her godlike and immaculate face. After her prayer, she advanced to the sanctuary, where she entreated for the people present. So when she had removed the mantle which she was wearing on her most-

pure head and which had the appearance of lightning, she unrolled it and taking it with great reverence in her all-pure hands — it was large and awesome — spread it out above all the people who were standing there. The saints saw it stretched out over the people for a number of hours and blazing with the glory of the Lord like amber. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, it was visible also, but after she had departed, it was no longer to be seen. For while she indeed took it with her, she felt behind her grace for those who were there.

At the prayers of your most pure Mother, Christ God, have mercy and protect us from visible and invisible enemies and save our souls. Amen.

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Perhaps Daniel Defoe gave us some good advice through his fictitious character Robinson Crusoe. The first thing that Crusoe did when he found himself on a deserted island was to make out a list. On one side of the list, he wrote down all of his problems. On the other side of the list, he wrote

down all of his blessings. On one side he wrote: I do not have any clothes. On the other side he wrote: But it's warm and I don't really need any. On one side he wrote: All of the provisions were lost. On the other side he wrote: But there's plenty of fresh fruit and water on the island. And on down the list he went. In this fashion he discovered that for every negative aspect about his situation, there was a positive aspect, something to be thankful for. It is easy to find ourselves on an island of despair. What if we were to sit down and take an inventory of our blessings?

Why wait until the American tradition of Thanksgiving to express our thanks to God? Perhaps we're overdue in doing so. Notwithstanding, today and every day is a day the Lord has made, let us *"thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind."* (Psalm 107.8)

**Fr. George thanks the Lord and our parish family for hosting
Greece on the Go yesterday!**



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

On this the 879th 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, October 24 (6th Sunday of St. Luke):

7:45 am Orthros Service

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service (40 Days)
for Christian Timothy**

10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL HONOREES SUNDAY:

Please join us on Sunday, November 7th as we recognize our two Archangel Michael Honorees from 2020 – Stella Christodouloupoulos & Claudia Sliwinski and those for 2021 – Fotis & Effie Sakkas. We have a unique opportunity this year to recognize our honorees selected during the pandemic in our local parish rather than a weekend event at the Metropolis Cathedral in Atlanta.



May God grant Stella, Claudia, Fotis, & Effie and their families good health and joy for many years. We value their friendship and commend them for their sacrificial support for our parish family. On behalf of our St. Christopher Church, I congratulate them and look forward to bestowing their medals and certificates on behalf of Metropolitan Alexios. On that Sunday, we hope you will bring a favorite food for the special coffee fellowship reception in their honor. **+Fr. George**

Feast of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos in Blachernae & OXI Day – October 28

The following reflection on this Thursday's commemoration is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com +Fr. George Tsahakis

While most of the Orthodox Christian world celebrates the Holy Protection, or *Agia Skepi*, of the Theotokos on October 1st according to ancient custom, Greeks celebrate the Holy Protection on October 28th as a special holiday in order to invite the secular government of Greece to honor the Theotokos for her special protection over the Greek people during World War 2.

The celebration of the Holy Protection dates back to 626 A.D., when the miraculous intervention of the Theotokos saved Constantinople from the Avars (Turkish-Mongolian Nomads), and it was officially established that October 1st be the date to honor this miracle. All Orthodox Christians celebrated this feast on October 1st until the 21st of October 1952 when the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece decreed (*Συνοδικές Εγκύκλιοι*, Τόμος Β', Αθήνα 1956, σελ. 649) that from henceforth there was to be celebrated in Greece a dual feast of the Holy Protection and the national holiday of "OXI" (pronounced "Ohi", which means "No"), which commemorates Greek resistance to the Axis powers and freedom from the Italian and German occupation, on October 28th. A Service was specially written by Elder Gerasimos Mikragiannanites for this feast on October 28th.

- continued inside bulletin