



Sunday, October 31, 2021



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

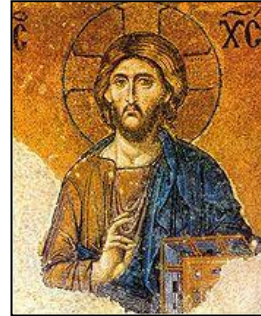
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St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Chancellor

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, October 31, 2021

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Stachys, Andrew, Amplias, Apelles, Urban, Aristobulus, & Narcissus of the 70 (1st cent.); Martyr Epimachus of Alexandria, Egypt (+250); and Nicholas the New Martyr of Chios (+1754). *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 (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. 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.

4. 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.

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 (John 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 11:31-12:9)

The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he forever!) knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands. It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to

boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 16:19-31)

Luke 16:19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24 He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ 25 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ 27 He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house — 28 for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ 29 Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ 30 He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret — it leads only to evil." *(Psalm 37:8)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

I would like to share a story about a politician who was campaigning in a very close election. He had a firm grasp of the issues and many good ideas. Unfortunately, he had one shortcoming – he had no name recognition. Voters simply did not know who he was or what he stood for. To make up for this handicap, he resolved to get out and meet the voters. He needed to advertise and get the word out. He had to shake every hand and kiss every baby he could.

To handle the public relations part of the campaign, he had a very good friend. The problem was his friend wasn't very consistent in his performance. Often, the advertisements he placed in the media were muddled and even wrong. Once, during a scheduled campaign stop, no one showed up, not even the mayor of the town who was one of his supporters. The problem was that the candidate's "advance man" had failed to tell anyone that the candidate was coming.

The candidate's other volunteers began to wonder why he kept this person "on board." And then, in the last days of the campaign, everything fell apart and the candidate lost the election by a very slim margin. If his "advance man" had not been so incompetent, the candidate would have won.

Perhaps there is a lesson here for us. You see, each of us is called by our Lord to witness His Good News and serve as His "advance people." If that is the case, undoubtedly, some of our own co-workers might wonder why He doesn't fire us! *Rather than risk this course, let us consider and put into action the following verses St. Paul uses to call us to action:*

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.” (Col. 4:2-4)



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

Invites You To

A Special Coffee Fellowship Reception for Our
Archangel Michael Honorees - 2020 & 2021

Honorees 2020

Stella Christodouloupoulos & Claudia Sliwinski

Honorees 2021

Fotis & Effie Sakkas

Please join us on this joyous occasion to
celebrate our honorees and thank them
for their sacrificial giving to our parish

Join Us

Sunday,
November 7th

Please bring
your favorite
dish to share
for this special
Coffee
Fellowship
Reception

****Drinks & Desserts
will be provided**

Any questions regarding
Coffee Fellowship
Reception?

Please contact
Julie Skouteris
at
gsjs401mg@gmail.com

Feast of Saints Kosmas, Damian, & Theodote – November 1

(continued from back cover of bulletin)



The life and times of our Saints give us the opportunity to emphasize the following:

First, the first-formed in Paradise had communion with God and were healthy, both physically and psychically. But after their fall into sin they wore tunics made of skin, i.e. decay and death, and were vulnerable to various weather conditions. Therefore, physical and psychic illnesses and death are post-fallen conditions, the result of sin. Because they lost their communion with God, their *nous* became darkened and enslaved to various passions.

Post-fallen man has need of physical and especially psychic healing, which consists of the purification from the passions, the illumination of the *nous* and communion with God.

Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is the pre-eminent physician of souls and bodies, which is why He was clothed in human nature, to renew it, heal it and deify it.

Second, medical science is the result of the cultivation of reason, which God endowed man and is a service to our fellow man. Physicians perform a function and so they should be honored, especially those physicians who are animated by the loving and sacrificial spirit of the Holy Unmercenaries.

The Holy Unmercenaries indicate the way in which the medical profession should function and be exercised. Namely, with love towards man, without class distinctions, with a spirit of sacrifice, service and offering and above all with prayer.

Physicians who love God and respect His law, respect and consider every person, regardless of office, money or social positions, because in their face they see the face of Christ. Man is the icon of Christ, especially the poor and the least among us, and they identify with Christ Himself, who said the known words: "I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me."

Characteristic and remarkable are the words of someone who worked in a Hospital: "I observe physicians and see the difference between those who love God and have an organic relationship with the Church and those who are indifferent and atheists. The first are selfless and humble and feel as if they are partners in God's work of healing their fellow man, while the second consider themselves something higher than other people, like a god, and woe to those who dare challenge them." Human life must be placed above all earthly possessions, but there can be no selfless love and offering without the Grace of the Holy Spirit. Saint Silouan the Athonite says that no one can truly love unless the Holy Spirit dwells within them, Who teaches them to even love their enemies.

In today's society, where most people are hurting and feel unbearable loneliness, it is imperative to have physicians, and people in general, who are animated by the loving and sacrificial spirit of the Holy Unmercenaries. The Orthodox Church is the factory in which such people are "designed".

Source: *Ekklesiastiki Paremvasi*, "ΑΓΙΟΙ ΑΝΑΡΓΥΡΟΙ ΚΟΣΜΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΑΜΙΑΝΟΣ ΥΙΟΙ ΘΕΟΔΟΤΗΣ, ΟΙ ΕΞ ΑΣΙΑΣ (1 Νοεμβρίου)", November 2005. Translated by John Sanidopoulos.



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All Sundays in October: Division of Family and Children Services of Fayette County, Georgia



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

We will be accepting **gift cards for food** or monetary donations to assist the **Fayette County Division of Family and Children Services**. Areas served are **Brooks, Fayetteville, Peachtree City, Tyrone, and Woolsey**. **FCSFC investigates child abuse**, facilitates **placement in foster homes** for children, helps low income and out-of-work parents get back on their feet, and assists with **childcare costs**.

<https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site>

Your donations to the Fayette County Division of Family and Children Services will be of immediate help to a child, or a troubled family.

Faithfully,

Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair

On this *the 880th* 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 31 (5th Sunday of St. Luke):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

12:00 pm Let's EAT! Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, GA 30214. Dutch Treat and open to all!

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**

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement
are essential and appreciated!***

Feast of Saints Kosmas, Damian, & Theodote – November 1st

The following reflection by Fr. George Papavarnavas on the commemoration of these saints is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com +Fr. George Tsahakis

The Holy Unmercenaries Kosmas and Damian, who are celebrated on November 1st, were brothers from Asia. But there are also two other pairs of Holy Unmercenaries with the same name. The first pair were martyred in Rome and are celebrated on July 1st and the second pair were from Arabia and are celebrated on October 17th. They were all physicians, yet they are not the only ones called Unmercenaries. There are many others, such as Cyrus and John, Sampson and Diomedes, Mokios and Aniketos, Thallelaios and Tryphon, etc.

They are called Unmercenaries (*Ανάργυροι*) because they did not love silver, that is, they were not lovers-of-silver (*φιλάργυροι*), their hearts were not attached to material possessions, and they offered their medical services *pro bono*.

The Holy Unmercenaries Kosmas and Damian had pious parents. Their father, however, died when the Saints were young, and they were completely taken care of by their mother, the holy Theodote, who nurtured them with the laws of the Church and taught them love towards God and man. Saint Theodote should be the standard for every mother who wants their children to thrive. But progress is unthinkable without love, selfless love for all people indiscriminately. To truly love people, one should first have love for God, because true love is a gift from God. The Apostle Paul advised his disciple Saint Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus, to study the Gospel daily and to live according to it, in order to prosper in life and for this prosperity to be apparent to everyone.

The Holy Unmercenaries healed all selflessly and indiscriminately with their scientific knowledge. But where human power was unable to proceed because some diseases are incurable, they healed sicknesses with their prayers. But to hide their gift of healing which they received from God, due to their great love, they pretended to heal with medications. They did this out of humility, lest they be admired and praised by people. Their whole life was a ministry of service, an offering, and a sacrifice on the altar of selfless love.

The end of their life was “Christian, unashamed and peaceful”, or as it is written in the sacred Synaxarion, “they were perfected in peace”.

- continued inside bulletin