



Sunday, December 5, 2021



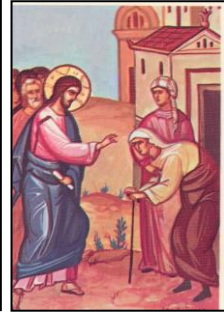
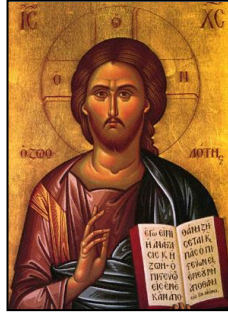
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, December 5, 2021

ON THIS DAY, THE 10TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH remembers Righteous Father Sabbas the Sanctified (+540); Holy Martyr Diogenes; Philotheos the Righteous of Mt. Athos (+1500); & Nektarios the Bulgarian. *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 (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. Hymn for Righteous Father Sabbas– (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Sabbas, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (not in Hymnal):

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 – Preparation for the Nativity – (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

<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 (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the

tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Galatians 5:22-6:2)

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 13:10-17)

Luke 13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When He laid His hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" 17 When He said this, all His opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that He was doing.

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

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

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe”
(Hebrews 12:28)

In this verse, as children of God, we are reminded that we are receiving the triumphant and glorious victory of God in His Kingdom. We will join with the angels and all of the saints throughout the ages to live forever with our Heavenly Father in victorious and never-ending joy.

But this Kingdom will not begin when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. This Kingdom has started *now* in His Church, His people – *to all of those in whom God's will is cherished and obeyed*. So, our worship should be filled with awe that the Holy God of Israel is also the same God in Christ Jesus, Who offers us eternal life and salvation and made us to be a holy people unto Himself. In response, we are encouraged to worship with heartfelt thanksgiving and wonder-struck awe.

As we prepare for our commemoration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, let us remember that all things belong to God. During this time, let us offer our thanksgiving to God for sharing His blessings, promises, hope, and victory. Let us seek His assistance in helping us live a more thankful, victorious life in a world filled with many unbelievers. Indeed, let us serve as examples to our children and to all of those whom we encounter, so that they may come to share God's glorious Kingdom and ultimate victory. Amen.

Invitation for Monday, December 6 – Please read and share with your families!



The Feast of St. Nicholas St. Nicholas is known around the world. Our Holy Orthodox Church has recognized him since the third century. Children love him as Santa Claus. He is the patron of all travelers, and of seafarers in particular; he is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.

This year, let us support his memory and bring our family, including children to church this Monday, December 6th at 4:30 p.m. or whenever you can arrive. Fr. George will share about his life and lead our parish

family in a discussion of traditions surrounding him as we decorate our Christmas tree and the church. He will share a short children's video that ties St. Nicholas with Santa Claus and our current traditions.

Recognizing that Monday is a "school night", he understands if our youth cannot stay for Divine Liturgy that starts at 5:45 p.m. If you can, we will finish no later than 7:00 p.m.

After more than a year, we will resume to offering a community dinner afterwards – please bring Lenten food. Fr. George will present another video on the life of St. Nicholas aimed at adults during our dinner so we can finish no later than 7:45 p.m.

Are we busy... YES! However, this opportunity for our spiritual lives is priceless.

In closing, I share a beautiful testimony from Jeanie Ellinas who wrote me last night about yesterday's church services and sermon for St. Andrew the Apostle:

"Thank you! Very grateful to receive and keep to read and enjoy the message. Going to go and enjoy fish sticks and imagine being one of the 12 called by Jesus dining on fish together. That just makes me happy to think about them having fellowship while Jesus

taught them. Just as we worship and fellowship! Thank you for all the opportunities we are able to do so at Saint Christopher where we are all winners!"

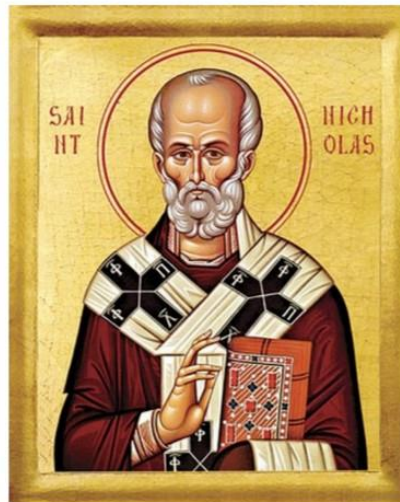
Thank you, Jeanie/Alexandra; your reinforcement of **fellowship, witness, worship, and service** affirms what the Body of Christ is called to share together.

St. Christopher parishioners, join us for as much as you can this Monday late afternoon/early evening. Thank you and God bless us, through the prayers of St. Nicholas, St. Christopher, and Panagia!

Faithfully yours,

+Fr. George

Special Orthodox Hymn for St. Nicholas the Wonderworker



"A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheep-fold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty. Nicholas, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls."

Today is “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”



... the custom of offering the Five Loaves monthly will remind us of the generosity and multiplication of the gifts of fish and bread that our Lord multiplied and shared with all present. Through this Orthodox Service, we return thanksgiving to God for multiplying our own gifts and hence, the icon of this miracle has been selected as our logo for “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”... *the first Sunday of every month!*

Thanks to **Susan and Pete Kleto** for offering the five Artos (loaves of bread) for the health and welfare of her family, our parishioners, and God’s blessings in our lives this month.



Likewise, today we thank God and celebrate Name Days, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and other special occasions that occurred recently or during the month of December. Congratulations to everyone celebrating their special events today and thanks to all who offered our parish their gifts for God to use and multiply.

The Unifying Power of Prayer

St. Silouan the Athonite wrote, "when God wants to have mercy on someone, He inspires someone else to pray for him, and He helps in this prayer. Prayer not only strengthens our relationship by bringing us closer to Christ but also connects us to one another. Our prayers are like the yarn joined together to create something beautiful beyond ourselves."

The women seeking assistance from Promise Place truly need our prayers (spiritual hugs) and support (prayer shawl hugs) as they seek to find support and the strength to leave behind a life dominated by domestic violence. The shawls that these women will receive as Christmas presents will be blessed by Fr. George on Sunday, December 12th. Promise Place's Interim Executive Director, Lyntica Seawood, will be with us to provide an update on Promise Place and to collect the shawls.

Prayer shawls can be either triangular or rectangular but need to be long enough to wrap securely around the body. 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. Yarn color choice is also important as we are trying to uplift the spirits of the recipients of the shawls. Please make sure your shawls are completed with no loose ends and the sew-in label is attached.

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.



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

On this the 885th 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 5 (10th Sunday of St. Luke):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Five Loaves & December Commemorations**
- 11:00 am Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**
- 11:00 am Parish Council Elections from 11 am – 1 pm**
- 12:00 pm Parish Council Meeting**

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

**DO YOU SEE...
WHAT I SEE?**

*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*

**Join us with your family on
Sunday, December 19
for St. Christopher Church's
Nativity Pageant & Luncheon**



St. Nicholas the Wonderworker is remembered tomorrow, December 6th. The following reflection was written by Archimandrite Gregory Konstantinos and is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. **+Fr. George Tsahakis**



Saint Nicholas of the Storm-Tossed, the Saint of the Sea, beloved by people and protector of sailors and all the poor, and a supporter of the afflicted, is particularly honored today by all Orthodox people throughout the world.

On this day, the Saint is celebrated in all the chapels that stand on various beaches and ports as vigilant guards blessing and co-sailing with our sailors.

As Archbishop of Myra in Lycia of Asia Minor, the Saint was always present among us. The Saint was and is a lover of mankind and a lover of the poor, a defender of truth and justice.

The saints of our Church who are registered in our calendar have the privilege to console us.

With the great unrest that exists and that we experience in our days, we have need of their visitation. The economic, spiritual, and moral crisis of recent years hopes for and expects help from heaven.

In his time Saint Nicholas was the patron of the hungry and hurting among his fellow men. Many are his miracles.

That time is like our own. There was deprivation, poverty, need, miseries, and disappointments, but charity, consolation and spiritual stimulation were not lacking.

Saint Nicholas is a shining example. In a time like ours today that offers some conveniences and comforts, as well as confusion and agitation, the Saint guides us from above.

Many people want to take the place of God in our lives. Wickedness and deceitfulness find ways to get into the depths of our soul to trap us. But the Saint liberates us.

Some of our fellow men underestimate the saints while others exaggerate them, thereby underestimating the person of Christ.

The saints, as we know, are good and trusted friends, fierce intercessors, affectionate mediators.

Saint Nicholas crosses seas and lands to protect and save those who are at risk.

He is a known, beloved, and revered Saint. He stands boldly before Christ, and He listens to him willingly.

This is why he is loved by the people. His icons wear a "shirt" of silver, and with their many offerings and lamps they work miracles for all those who embrace them with warm faith.