



Sunday, October 23, 2026



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

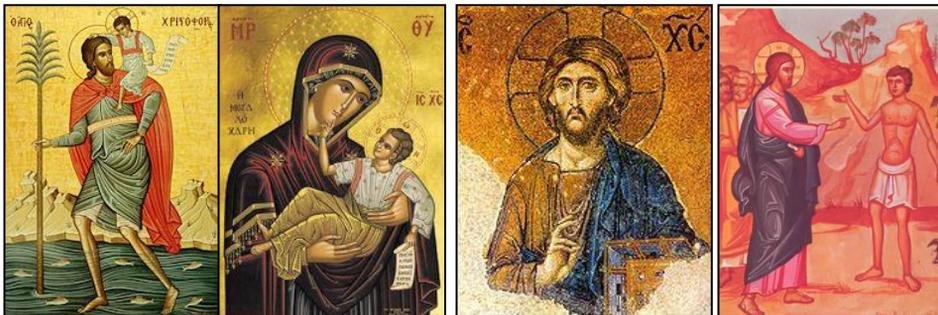
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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, October 23, 2022**

ON THIS DAY, THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES James (Iakovos), the Apostle & brother of Our Lord (+61) & Our Righteous Father Ignatius, Patriarch of Constantinople (+877). *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 Holy Apostle James – (see handout):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. As a disciple of the Lord, you accepted the Gospel, O James the Just. As a Martyr you have unchangeability; as the Brother of the Lord you have confidence; and you can intercede as a hierarch. Intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.

### **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.

### **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 1:11-19)**

*<sup>11</sup>For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; <sup>12</sup>for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>13</sup>You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. <sup>14</sup>I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. <sup>15</sup>But when God, Who had set me apart before I was born and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son to me, so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, <sup>17</sup>nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup>Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; <sup>19</sup>but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother.*

#### **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.

### **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

St. John the Theologian, Apostle, and Evangelist is sometimes referred to as the “Apostle of Love” because through his devoted and spiritual witness, the

light and love of God shone brightly. In his Gospel, he recorded Jesus' counsel: *"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* (John 13:35)

As we share the truth and "Good News" of our Lord, let us remember that if we want our parishioners and those who visit us to recognize whether our parish is filled with Jesus' disciples, we simply need to consider the following question – *"Do we truly love each other?"* I pray our Heavenly Father always provides us the means to enable our church family to answer "Yes" to this question concerning whether or not we share our Lord's "love."

Towards this end, may we always remember the words of Christ Jesus: *"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Mt. 22:37-40) Amen!

### **THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

**(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

*"<sup>2</sup>Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should."* (Col. 4:2-4)



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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

# St Demetrios the Great Martyr, celebrated October 26

*(continued from back cover of bulletin)*

## **1. The first adornment: “a stable faith”**

Faith is not a theoretical teaching, nor a philosophical system with high concepts. Nor is it another mental function derived from human reason.

Faith is life and is directly linked to the source of life, who is Christ. It is union with Christ and the manifestation of Christ within the area of our heart. This experience is particularly highlighted by our Church immediately after our participation in the Mystery of life, namely the Divine Eucharist. That is, once we commune of the Immaculate Mysteries, we repeat with the chanters the moving hymn: “Having seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, having found the true faith.”

“We believe in God and we believe God,” stressed Saint Gregory Palamas. And he goes on to say: “The one is different from the other. ‘I believe God’ means that I consider certain and true the promises He has given us. ‘I believe in God’ means that I think about Him correctly.” Faith therefore is a divine gift and revelation of God within the pure heart of people. This is what Saint Demetrios sought in his life.

This was given to him as a gift. This he kept as something invaluable. This he sealed with his blood.

## **2. The second adornment: “the boundless gift of grace”**

For one to keep the treasure of faith in earthen vessels, according to the expression of the Apostle Paul, and to “tread on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy,” the grace of God is needed. “If sin accomplished so much... grace, indeed the grace of God, not only that of the Father but also of the Son, does it not accomplish more?” asks Saint John Chrysostom.

In this, namely the grace of God, everything is benefited. This forgives us and justifies us, it does not abolish our free will, but it shows us to have trust in the

philanthropy of God. It is the greatest weapon, according to the golden nightingale of the Church: “It is an unbreakable wall. It is the unshaken pillar”... “Everything is accomplished through the grace of God” (Saint John Chrysostom). If we did not have God’s grace, we would not have the presence of the Martyrs, their confession and their miracles, the asceticism and tears of the Venerable Ones, we would not have the presence of Saint Demetrios. The words of Saint Nestor, his disciple, alone, “God of Demetrios help me!” with his myrrh-flowing and grace-streaming relics, show the indwelling grace of his heart which is also in his martyric relics until today.

### **3. The third adornment: “the undiminished wealth of godlike virtues”**

All the virtues, according to our Orthodox tradition, are enhypostatic. They are associated with the person of Christ and are the result of the life in Christ (Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos). They are not abstract values and ideas, but Christ Himself. They who have love, have the unique love which is Christ.

Virtue is the road to Heaven, stresses Saint John Chrysostom. It is conquered with pain and tears. It is difficult, but above all pleasant. It is the natural state of the soul, while wickedness is against nature. Just as health is according to nature, so illness and disease is unnatural.

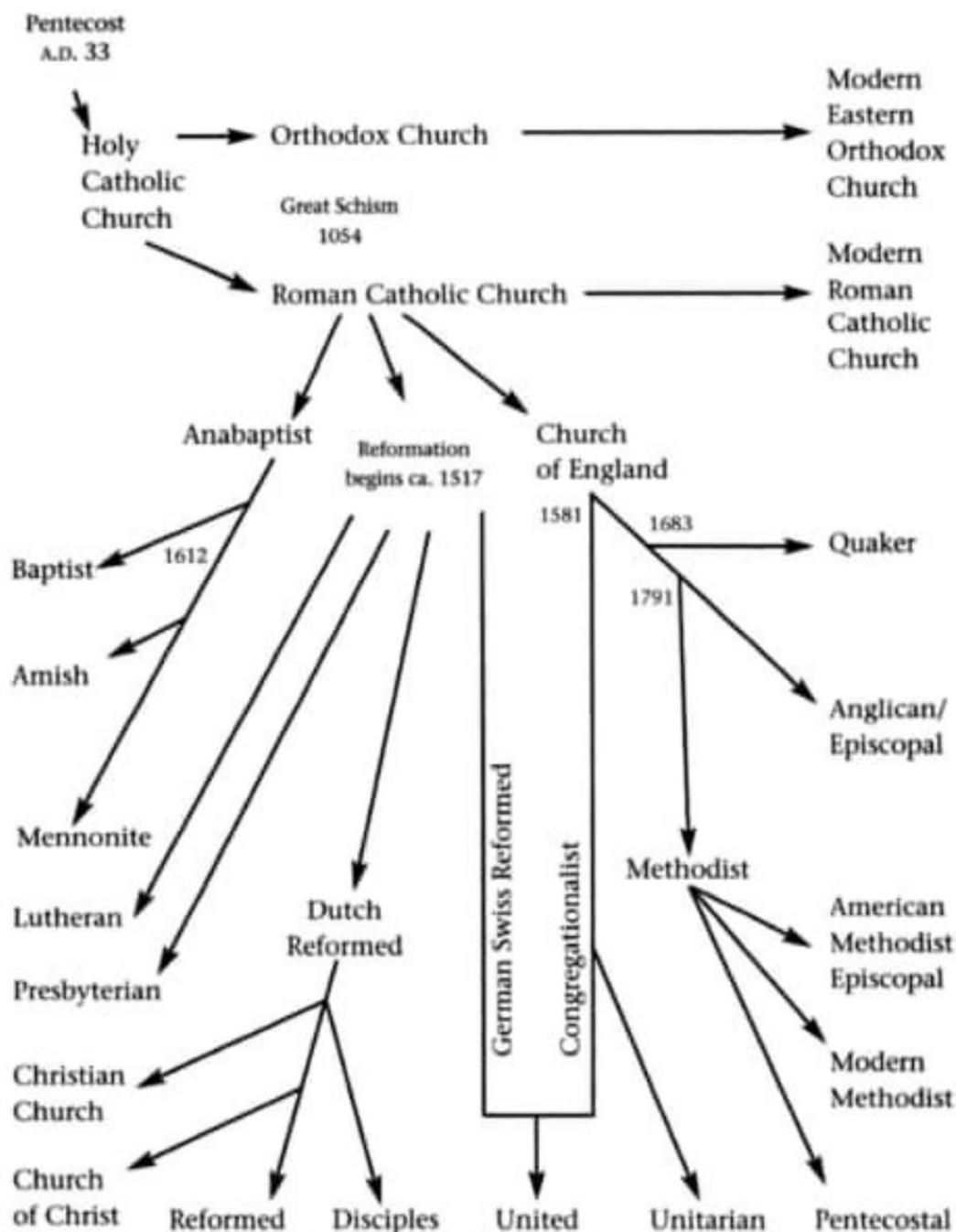
Virtue will help us travel to eternal life: “Only virtue knows and is able to travel with us. Only virtue can pass to eternal life” (Saint John Chrysostom).

And to enter triumphantly into the Kingdom of Heaven, “let us acquire the virtues in the time we have left.”

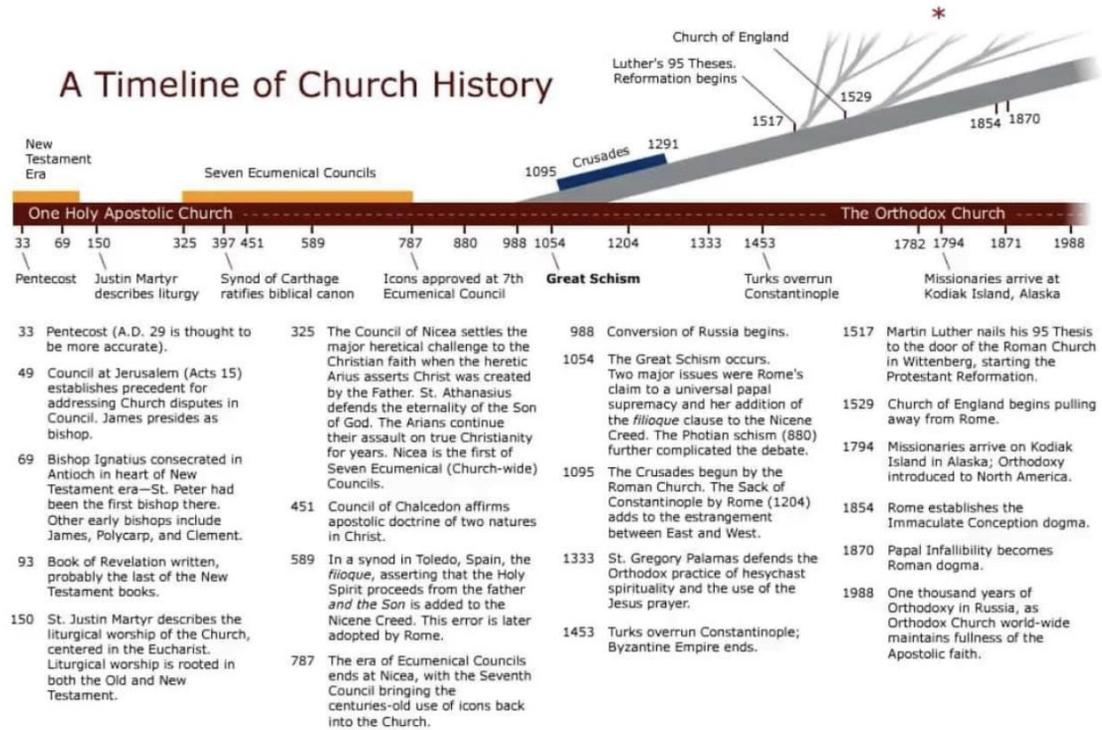
Saint Demetrios, adorned with all the virtues, becomes a fervent preacher and teacher to our sinful era. He is a brave athlete and an excellent champion, a caring father and the leader of Thessaloniki. May he raise his hands of entreaty to the Throne of the Slain Lamb, that we may have:

Stability in faith, the boundless grace of God, as well as the wealth of the godlike virtues.

# FAMILY TREE OF CHRISTIANITY



# A Timeline of Church History



\* According to the Dictionary of Christianity in America [Protestant] (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1990): "As of 1980 David B. Barrett identified 20,800 Christian denominations worldwide . . ." ("Denominationalism," page 351).

On this *the 928<sup>th</sup>* 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 23<sup>rd</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):***

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

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

**11:30 am Building Committee Meeting**

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

## St Demetrios the Great Martyr, celebrated October 26

*Join us for our annual remembrance of St. Demetrios' Feast Day this Wednesday. We will celebrate a Divine Liturgy on the anniversary of the first Sunday Divine Liturgy of our parish history, October 26, 2003. The service is from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. to accommodate the work schedules of those wishing to attend. I share "The Three Adornments of St. Demetrios" by Metropolitan Seraphim of Kastoria, from [www.johnsanidopoulos.com](http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com).*

**+Fr. George Tsahakis**

When praising the Wonderworker, Myrrh-Gusher and Great Martyr Saint Demetrios, Saint Gregory Palamas describes him as:

The great miracle of the ecumene,  
the great adornment of the Church  
and the mightiest of all.

And not only this God-seeing Father of the Church, but many other writers in hagiographic texts and eulogies refer with particular respect and reverence to this martyric figure, who is the guardian, the champion and the savior of Thessaloniki.

Nikephoros Gregoras (1330) notes that while the death of Alexander the Great was considered a loss, the martyrdom of Saint Demetrios was considered a gain that helps the world be better.

This figure has filled the ecumene with aroma and myrrh, "which summer and winter and all eternity has been filled with his grace." And his beloved city, Thessaloniki, is a "spiritual fortress against demonic attacks and the hordes of barbarians, but also a pleasant refuge from the storms of this age... and the protector of our souls and bodies."

To this great figure the Church, the presence of which is particularly felt in the northern areas of Greece and our Greek Macedonia, submits with reverence some autumn flowers - which our country calls *agiodimitriatika* - borrowed from the luminary of Orthodoxy, Saint Gregory Palamas, with which we decorate his person.

**- continued inside bulletin**