



Sunday, November 26, 2023



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.atlmetropolis.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, November 26, 2023

ON THIS DAY, THE 13TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis; Nikon Metanoelite; Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia; George the New Martyr of Chios; Akakios of Sinai who is mentioned in The Ladder; Innocent of Irkutsk. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and

location of services. ***You and your family are welcome; we look forward to meeting you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!***

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 (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

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 – Preparation for the Nativity (11/26-12/24) – (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

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| <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><i>– St. John Chrysostom</i></p> |
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:9-20)

Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 4:1-7)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 18:18-27)

Luke 18:18 A certain ruler asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. 20 You know the commandments: 'You shall not

commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.’” 21 He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” 22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me.” 23 But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. 24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” 27 He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

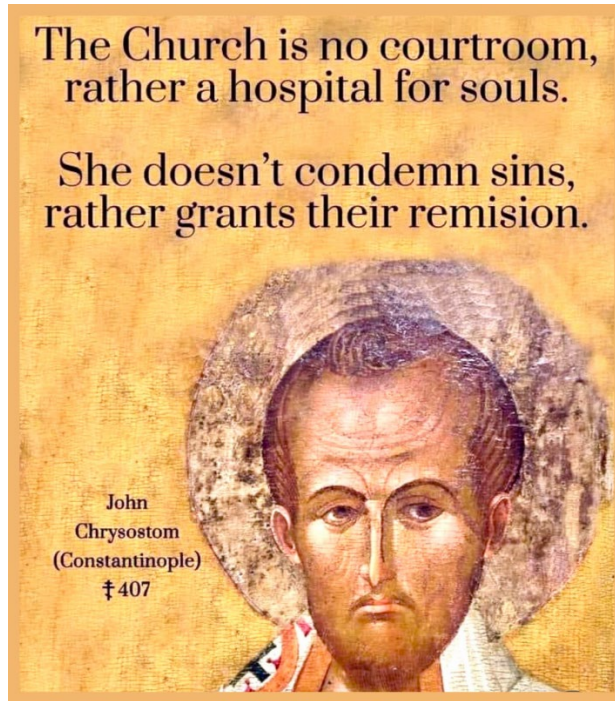
THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His Name. ”
(Ps. 100:4)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

On Monday, November 13th, the Orthodox Church remembered St. John Chrysostom, and in Greek it is Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος. He lived from 347-407 and was an important Early Church Father who served as Archbishop of Constantinople. He is well-known for his preaching and public speaking, his denunciation of abuse of authority both by ecclesiastical and political leaders, his Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom that we use a majority of the Sundays and weekday services, and his ascetic struggles. The epithet Χρυσόστομος (Chrysostomos, anglicized as Chrysostom) means

“golden-mouthed” in Greek and denotes his celebrated eloquence. He was one of the most prolific authors in the early Christian Church.



Today, I wish to share a selection of quotes by Saint John Chrysostom for us to contemplate:

† “The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others.”

† “No matter how just your words may be, when you speak with anger, you ruin all: no matter how boldly you speak, how fairly reprove, or what not.”

‡ “You cannot pray at home, like you can at church, where there is a great multitude; where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the unions of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of priests.”

‡ “Prayer should be the means by which I, at all times, receive all that I need, and, for this reason, be my daily refuge, my daily consolation, my daily joy, my source of rich and inexhaustible joy in life.”

‡ “Be ashamed when you sin, don't be ashamed when you repent. [To repent means to have a change of heart and mind. It is not simply a feeling of sorrow, but a psycho/spiritual growth away from evil/death and a turning to God/life.] Sin is the wound; repentance is the medicine. Sin is followed by shame; repentance is followed by boldness [Boldness means to beg God for undeserved mercy.] Satan has overturned this order and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance.”



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On this *the 980th 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! ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

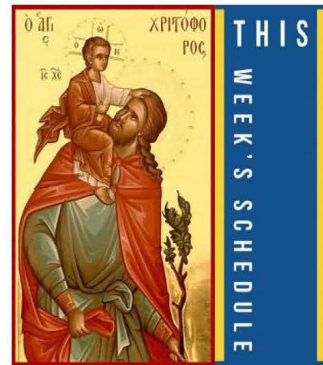
November 26, 13th Sunday of St. Luke

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 General Parish Assembly

1:00 Let's EAT!



November 27, (Archangel Michael Chapel)

9:00 Divine Liturgy

**November 30, Feast of St. Andrew the First-Called
(St. Christopher Church)**

9:00 Divine Liturgy

December 3, 14th Sunday of St. Luke

7:45 Orthros

**9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves offered by
Susan & Pete Kleto & December Commemorations**

11:00 Religious Education Classes

11:45 Community Tree Decorating – all invited to assist

**Noon Deadline for Parish Council Nominations to be
received by Board of Elections members**

St. Andrew, the First-Called Apostle

remembered on Thursday, November 30th, Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

The following reflection is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. **+Fr. George Tsahakis**

Andrew was from the city of Bethsaida, the son of Jonah, and brother of Peter the Apostle. He was the first disciple of John the great Forerunner and Baptist. Later, when he heard his Teacher say, while pointing to Jesus Christ, "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world," he left the Forerunner and followed Christ. And to his brother the Pre-eminent Peter he said, "We have found the Messiah." With these words he drew Peter towards spiritual eros for Christ. And there are many other things that are found in the divinely inspired Scriptures regarding this Apostle.

With the other Apostles, he was chosen by lot to go to other places of the inhabited world. After the Ascension of the Lord the First-Called was chosen to go to Bithynia, the Black Sea, and the places of the Propontis: namely from the Sea of Marmara till the Black Sea. He was also chosen for Chalcedon and Byzantium: namely Constantinople. He also went to Thrace and Macedonia all the way to the River Danube. With these were included Thessaly and Greece all the way till Achaia: namely the area of the Morea, which is between Vasilika and Gastouni. Also, Amisus, which is called Samsun and Emid, and Trebizond, and Heraclea, and Amastris, which was first known as Sisamus.

The Apostle did not pass through these cities and regions quickly, as well as his words. No! but in every city the blessed one was tried by many setbacks. And he responded to many difficult situations. But everywhere he found God's help and strength, and with this he conquered all, and was above all hindrance. Of the cities mentioned above, I only want to remember one here, and leave the rest.

When this divine Apostle went to the city of Sinope, and preached there the word of the gospel, he underwent much torment and suffering by the residents there. For these wild people cast him down to the ground and taking him by his hands and feet they pulled at him, and with claws they tore at him. They beat him with clubs and struck him with stones and cast him out of the city, and with the claws they cut off one of his fingers. After all this the divine Apostle was found again to be healthy and whole through Christ his Teacher.

From Sinope he passed through many cities, such as Neocaesarea, Samosata, commonly known as Sempsat, to the Alani and Abasgians, who are in Crimea, the Circassians, the Bosporites, namely those who lived in the Cimmerian Bosporus, and the Chersonites. Then he returned again to Byzantium, where he ordained Stachys as Bishop. Passing through many lands he entered the notorious Peloponnese: namely Morea. And being hosted by a man named Sosion in Old Patras, he healed there many who were sick. Immediately after the entire city of Patras believed in Christ, together with the wise Stratocles and the brother of the proconsul. And many others who suffered from various illnesses became healthy with the laying on of hands of the Apostle.

When the proconsul Aegeates learned of all this, he became enraged. Capturing the Apostle of the Lord, he had him crucified upside down. For this reason, the unjust one received justice according to God's vengeance, having fallen to the earth from a high place, and being crushed the wicked one died wickedly. The relic of the Apostle was later brought to Constantinople by order of Emperor Constantius, the son of Constantine the Great, which was transferred by Artemios the grand duke and Martyr, who is celebrated on October 20th. And it was placed with the relics of the Evangelist Luke and the Apostle Timothy, in the famous Temple of the Holy Apostles. The placing of his relics is celebrated on July 20th.