



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

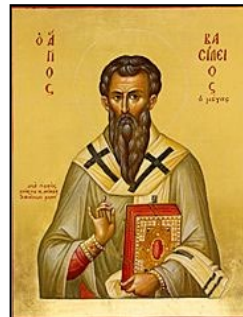
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, December 31, 2023

ON THIS DAY, THE EVE OF JANUARY 1ST, WE COMMEMORATE THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. We also commemorate Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Emmelia, Mother of Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Makrina, and Peter of Sebaste; Gregory, Bishop of Nanzianzos, Father of Gregory the Theologian; Peter the New Martyr of the Peloponnesos; Theodotos the Martyr; Righteous Theodosios of Triglia; Telemachos the Martyr; & Fulgentius, Bishop of Ruspe. *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 knowing 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 THE SMALL ENTRANCE

Liturgy of St. Basil Used TODAY

1./3./4./10. Hymn for the Commemoration of our Lord's Circumcision (sung at end of Orthros, before and after the Small Entrance, and instead of Ithomen to fos, "We have seen the true light" after the distribution of Holy Communion) – (not in Hymnal):

In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, You assumed human nature without transmutation. Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will You accepted circumcision in the flesh, to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; glory to Your compassion; glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.-28):

On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas, "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, Who were circumcised in the flesh. We sing to You: Alleluia.

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Basil the Great – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

6. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

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.

7. Kontakion Commemorating our Lord's Circumcision – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: As the Master over all has undergone circumcision, so He cuts away the sins of humankind in His goodness. On this day, upon the world He bestows

salvation. And on high does the Creator's hierarch Basil now rejoice, for he is known as a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301):

Today, instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”, we sing: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you

9. Special Hymn for St. Basil at the Diptychs – (not in Hymnal):

Following the Megalynarion, we sing: Let us all extol the great Basil, revealer of heavenly things, initiate of the Master, the star shining from Caesarea and the town of Cappadocia, honoring and magnifying him.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<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. - St. John Chrysostom</i>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 10:1-9)

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what He was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Col. 2:8-12)

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in Him, Who is the head of every ruler and authority. In Him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in

the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, Who raised Him from the dead.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 2:20-21 & 40-52)

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now every year His parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents did not know it. Assuming that He was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for Him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, Your father and I have been searching for You in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand what He said to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

And on this 21st Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and St. Basil 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, December 31st (Eve of Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil/New Year's):

4:00 p.m. Orthros Service

5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil/Blessing & Cutting of the Vasilopita

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!