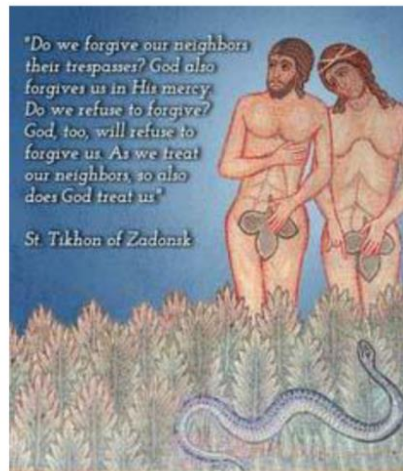




IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS, WE HAVE WITNESSED THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES WE NEED FOR OUR 40-DAY LENTEN JOURNEY... **HUMILITY, REPENTANCE, AND COMPASSION**. TODAY, WE ARE REMINDED OF **FORGIVENESS**... SEEKING OUR FATHER'S FORGIVENESS AND OFFERING OUR REPENTANCE TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

We must **fast** and **pray** with **humility**; we must **seek our Father's forgiveness** and **grant forgiveness to our brother and sister without reservation**, and we must show **compassion** to the least among us. Armed with these spiritual tools, we will be well-prepared for the awesome and spiritually rich journey that awaits us. — Metropolitan Alexios



"Do we forgive our neighbors their trespasses? God also forgives us in His mercy. Do we refuse to forgive? God, too, will refuse to forgive us. As we treat our neighbors, so also does God treat us."

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - Sunday of Forgiveness



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

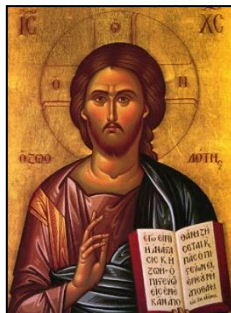
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, March 17, 2024

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, WHICH WE REFER TO AS CHEESEFARE SUNDAY AND THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS, WE CALL TO MIND the banishment of Adam and Eve, the first created from the joys of Paradise. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Alexios the Man of God; Patrick the Enlightener of Ireland; Marinos the Martyr; Theocteristos the Confessor; and Martyr Paul. *O Christ our God, through Your ineffable compassion, deem us worthy of the joys of Paradise, and have mercy on us, as the only Loving One. Amen. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

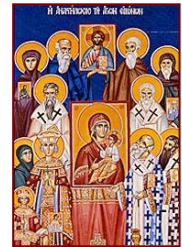
Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

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.

Reminder for Next Sunday

Each parishioner is encouraged to bring an icon to church next week for the Sunday of Orthodoxy and join us in the procession at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



TODAY's Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

The fall of our first parents, *Adam and Eve*, and their banishment from Paradise are commemorated on this day. Today is also the SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS as emphasized in the Gospel reading. *We are reminded, before we enter the Lenten fast, that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.*

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp. 126-7):

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 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.

4. Kontakion sung for Cheese Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp. 264-267):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O You Who are the source of all wisdom and discernment, instructor of the ignorant and champion of the poor; strengthen my heart, O Master, and grant me understanding. O Word of the Father, bring words to my lips, that nothing would keep me from crying out to You: In Your compassion have mercy on me, for I have fallen.

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 (Romans 13:11-14:4)

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 6:14-21)

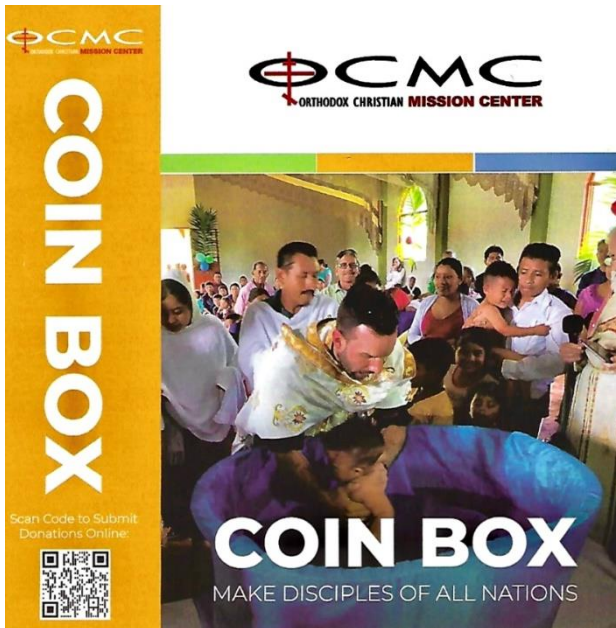
"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"How great is the mercy of the Lord, and His forgiveness for those who return to Him." (Sirach 17:29)

Today is Mission Sunday – Let Us Pray for Orthodox Missions and Missionaries!

Today, the last day before Great and Holy Lent begins, is **Mission Sunday**. As we begin our journey toward Christ's glorious Resurrection, the salvation He made possible is to be shared with the world. Let us pray for the workers of Orthodox missions and for those who hunger and thirst for Christ and those who have answered the call to carry the truth of the Orthodox Faith to the world.



Prayer for Missions

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear our prayer for those who do not know You. that they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our

faith when it is still fragile. Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church and raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world. Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith, for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Through the prayers of all the missionary saints, have mercy on us and save us. Amen. +Fr. George Tsahakis

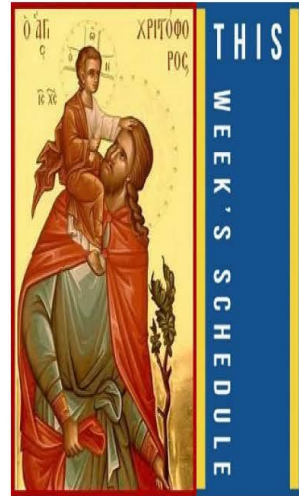
March 16, Saturday of the Souls

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service (*bring Koliva if you're able*)

March 17, Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Service of Forgiveness, followed by Philoptochos Membership Drive
11:00 Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
12:00 Philoptochos General Meeting



March 18, Clean Monday – 1st Day of Great Lent – Strict Fast Day

7:30 am Sacrament of Holy Unction (ends at 9:00 a.m.)

March 20, 1st Wednesday of Great Lent

8:00 Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, followed by “Lenten Renewal Series”. Church services will end by 9:30 a.m. for those who need to depart for work. For everyone else, Fr. George is offering a "Lenten Renewal Series" that includes a special textbook aimed at reminding us that God never abandons His people. *For those who are retired, work at home and can take a break, or homeschool, this is a great opportunity to worship and learn about our faith. Catechumens and others interested in Orthodoxy are encouraged to attend.*

March 22, 1st Friday of Great Lent

6:00 pm 1st Salutations Service

March 23, Saturday of the Souls

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial Service (*bring Koliva if you're able*)



Philoptochos Membership Drive



Join the energetic, creative, and compassionate women, assisted by our dedicated men, of St. Christopher Ladies Philoptochos, by registering on **March 3, 10 or 17**

How do I become a member?

Simply visit the Membership table to fill out a stewardship form. Prayerfully consider your time, talents and treasure. Or click [here](#)

Benefits of Membership:

- *Being part of a philanthropic movement*
- *Changing someone's life*
- *Developing friendships*
- *Expressing yourself*
- *Getting involved in your community*
- *Helping those in need*
- *Learning from others*
- *Making an impact*
- *Using your skills to help others*



"All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ." Mark 9:23

Καλη Τεσσαρακοστη! May God grant you a
blessed lenten journey!

Sunday of Orthodoxy March 24, 2024

Annunciation Cathedral

2500 Clairmont Road, N.E, Atlanta, GA

*Great Vespers for the
Feast of the Annunciation at 5:00 pm
Reception to Follow*



Guest Speaker
His Grace Bishop Neophytos
Called to Serve

New Bishop, New Diocese, New Challenges

His Grace Neophytos, the first Kenyan Bishop, serves the Diocese of Eldoret and Northern Kenya spanning over 50,250 squaremiles and is comprised of 60 parishes that are served by 53 priests, many traveling far from their village via motorcycle to minister to those in need.

His Grace is committed to establishing the bedrock of faith while simultaneously constructing the foundations of churches and schools, brick by brick; but such a task cannot be accomplished in isolation, it takes a village.

Simple tasks we take for granted such as running water, a safe kitchen to prepare food, and indoor dining facilities for school children are but dreams to his people. "Let us join hands to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide water for the thirsty" states His Grace.





["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page.](#) *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

On this the 996th 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!***



[Click QR code](#)
[to view](#)



**Support Our Efforts to
Build Our Church Complex**



FOR THE TWO
SATURDAYS OF THE
SOULS... BRING
PHOTOGRAPHS
OF YOUR DEPARTED
LOVED ONES TO
DISPLAY AT OUR
MEMORIAL
TABLE IN THE
NARTHEX.



Today is His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' Name Day.

May God grant Him many more years!

Εἰς πολλὰ ἔτη, Δέσποτα!

