



Sunday, December 21, 2025



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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, December 21, 2025

ON THIS DAY, THE FOREFEAST AND SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST WHICH WE REFER TO AS THE SUNDAY OF THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST, WE COMMEMORATE all of our Holy and God-bearing Fathers and Mothers who have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam to Joseph, the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos Mary, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke has recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38), as well as, the Holy and Righteous Prophets and Prophetesses of God, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Youths. Today, we remember the following people who lived during Old Testament times. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Juliana of Nicomedia and her 630 Companion Martyrs (+309); Themistocles the Martyr of Myra (+251); and St. Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow. *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 SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

3. Hymn for Preparation of the Nativity – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

4. Hymn for Sunday of the Genealogy of Christ – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

5. 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.

6. 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

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 (Luke 24:36-53)

While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led

them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebr. 11:9-10, 32-40)

By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matt. 1:1-25)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of

Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,


and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

“You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at His birth, for He will be great in the sight of the Lord.” *(Luke 1:14-15)*

Pastoral Reflection from Fr. George:

Save the Date



**The Night *That*
Changed *Everything***

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Today, journey to Bethlehem through the eyes of Aaron, a young shepherd who witnesses the miraculous birth of Jesus.

St. Christopher Church
Peachtree City, GA
Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:30, a.m.

**You’re Invited to Our Annual
Nativity Play & Community
Potluck Luncheon Today!**

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord through a beautiful Nativity pageant written by **Fr. George Tsahakis**, designed to help our youth and adults memorize and share the timeless story of Christ’s birth.

After the pageant, stay for our **Community Potluck Luncheon!**

Let’s come together in faith, fellowship, and joy as we honor the true meaning of Christmas.

Please know if you did not remember to bring something today, no worries... we thank Philoptochos for providing the entrée and our parishioners who are sharing with everyone. No charge except the time you offer for fellowship!



Holy Nativity Vigil/Services

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!

Wednesday, December 24 (Vigil of Nativity of Christ):

8:00 a.m. Service of Great & Holy Hours

9:00 a.m. Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil

Thursday, December 25 (Nativity of Christ):

8:00 a.m. Orthros of the Nativity

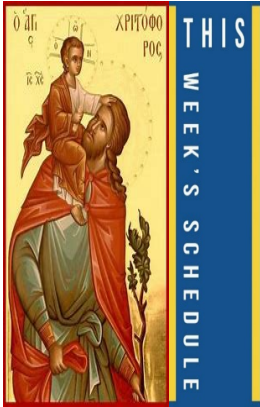
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy for Holy Nativity

On this the 1082nd 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! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



Service of the Blessing of the Foundation of our New Church: His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos will visit our parish on Sunday, February 22nd for church services, community lunch, and the Blessing of our New Church Construction on Ebenezer Road. [The previous date of February 15th was not possible.] We encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us on February 22nd as we pray for God to bless His new church as it is being built.

Join Us Often with Your Family



Sunday, December 21st – Sunday Before Holy Nativity

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Annual Christmas Pageant, & Community Luncheon

5:00 Candlelight Service & Christmas Concert (Pan-Orthodox) at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

8:00 Great & Royal Hours of the Nativity & Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Thursday, December 25th (Christmas – The Nativity of our Lord)

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Fast Free Period from December 25th to January 4th

Saturday, December 27th – Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr

8:30 Sacrament of Baptism and Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 27th – December 30th – Metropolis of Atlanta Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta

Sunday, December 28th – Sunday After Holy Nativity

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:30 Let's EAT! (at Broadway Diner)

We thank you for your Stewardship and Building Fund Donations Pledged and Offered in 2025. We encourage you to continue your faithful efforts in 2026 and commend you.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH THIS CHRISTMAS!

Looking for meaningful gifts that celebrate the true spirit of the season? Visit our **PARISH BOOKSTORE** and explore a beautiful collection of **RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND GIFTS** for youth and adults.



- Books for worship and learning to deepen your Orthodox faith
- Bible storybooks for youth to help them grow closer to God
- Specialty items and unique gifts available through catalogs

This year, let your Christmas gifts reflect **FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE IN CHRIST.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO BECKY BUTLER for curating such a rich collection that gives glory to God and offers something for everyone!

PAN-ORTHODOX CANDELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT



presented by the
Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association (AIOPA)
Sunday, December 21
5:00 pm

Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia



Homily Offered by Fr. Elias Dorham
Melkite Catholic Church

"O Bethlehem Prepare: Welcoming Christ into Our Hearts"

Featuring Choirs from

Annunciation Cathedral Men's Choir

Annunciation Cathedral Mixed Choir

Holy Transfiguration Mixed Choir

St. Elias Mixed Choir

Sts. Constantine and Helen Mixed Choir

St. John the Wonderworker Mixed Choir

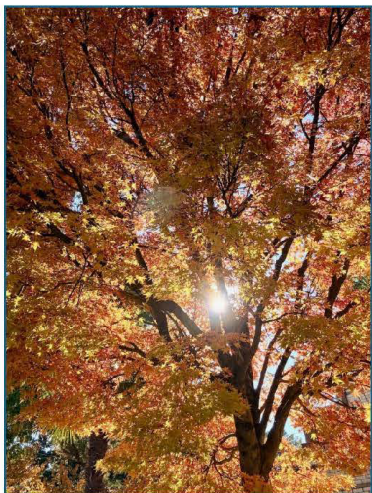
St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church Mixed Choir

Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene Mixed Choir



Refreshments to Follow in Carlos Hall

A Prayer for the Departed and the Bereaved



O Lord of mercy and compassion, receive the soul of Your servant into Your heavenly kingdom and grant rest where the light of Your countenance shines. Comfort those who mourn with Your peace that surpasses all understanding and strengthen them with the hope of the Resurrection. O Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Grant peace to those who are troubled and courage to those who seek to help. Fill our hearts with compassion and wisdom, that we may be instruments of Your love and

hope. For You are our life and our salvation, and to You we give glory, now and forever. Amen.

Again, if you or someone you know is in crisis or having thoughts of self-harm, please seek help immediately:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Dial **988** (available 24/7)
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text **HELLO** to **741741**
- Speak with your priest or a trusted friend—never carry this burden alone.
- **Holy Scripture reminds us:**
 - *"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)
 - *"Encourage one another and build each other up."* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - *"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7)

With love in Christ, Fr. George Tsahakis

The Night That Changed Everything

Fr. George created this Christmas Pageant based on Ron Jowers' Even A Shepherd. He is grateful to Ron for his inspiration.

Act I: The Shepherd's Witness

Scene 1: The Shepherd's Field

Setting: *Dim lighting, stars overhead, sheep props, campfire center stage.*

Narrator:

Long ago, in the hills outside Bethlehem, a young shepherd named Aaron watched his flock. He dreamed of something more—something beyond the stars.

Aaron:

The stars are so bright tonight. I don't know why, but... something feels different.

Shepherd 1:

You always say that, Aaron. Maybe the sheep will start singing next!

Shepherd 2:

Or maybe you'll finally stop dreaming and help us keep watch.

Aaron:

Maybe. But I feel like something big is coming.

Narrator:

And Aaron was right. That night, the heavens would open.

Music Cue: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Scene 2: The Angel's Announcement

Setting: *Spotlight on angel, glowing backdrop.*

Narrator:

Suddenly, the sky lit up with a brilliant light, and an angel appeared before them.

Angel:

Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy. Tonight, in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born—Christ the Lord!

Aaron:

The Messiah... it's really happening.

Angel:

You will find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Narrator:

And the sky filled with angels, praising God.

Offstage Chorus:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom
His favor rests!

Music Cue: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Scene 3: Journey to Bethlehem

Setting: *Lantern-lit path across stage.*

Narrator:

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, hearts pounding with hope.

Aaron:

If this child is truly the Messiah... everything will change.

Music Cue: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Scene 4: The Manger

***Setting:** Stable scene with hay, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*

Narrator:

And there, just as the angel said, they found the baby lying in a manger.

Aaron (kneeling):

He's so small... but I feel peace just looking at Him.

Mary:

He is the Prince of Peace.

Joseph:

You are welcome here. Come and worship.

Narrator:

Aaron's heart was full. He had seen the Savior. And he would never be the same.

Aaron:

I was just a shepherd. But now... I am a witness.

Music Cue: "Silent Night"

Act II: The Magi's Journey

Scene 5: The Magi's Discovery

Setting: *Study room with scrolls, star chart, telescope.*

Narrator:

Far from Bethlehem, wise men studied the stars. They saw a new light in the sky.

Magi 1:

This star... it must mean something divine.

Magi 2:

The prophecy speaks of a King born in Judea.

Magi 3:

Let us prepare gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Narrator:

And so, they began their long journey.

Music Cue: "We Three Kings"

Scene 6: Herod's Palace

Setting: *Regal throne room.*

Narrator:

The Magi arrived in Jerusalem and met King Herod.

Herod:

A new king? Where is he to be born?

Scribe:

In Bethlehem, according to the prophets.

Herod:

Go and find him. Then return to me, so I may worship him too.

Narrator:

But Herod's heart was dark. He feared losing his throne.

Scene 7: The Visit

***Setting:** Home in Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus present.*

Narrator:

The star led the Magi to the house where Jesus lived.

Magi 1 (kneeling):

Gold—for His royalty.

Magi 2:

Frankincense—for His divinity.

Magi 3:

Myrrh—for the sacrifice He will one day make.

Mary:

Thank you. Your gifts honor Him deeply.

Narrator:

Warned in a dream, the Magi returned home by another path. And

so, the child's story spread far and wide, making its way to us to cherish and respond to God's call to live forever with Him. The shepherds represent the humble and local witnesses to Jesus's birth, while the Magi represent distant nations recognizing His kingship. Their arrival marked the broader revelation of Christ to the world.

Music Cue: "Joy to the World"

Entire cast and crew come together for group photo.

Music Cue:

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς
ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς
ὁ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς
ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος
ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν
ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ
γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν.
Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has
caused the light of knowledge to rise upon
the world. For therein the worshippers of
the stars were by a star instructed to
worship You, the Sun of Righteousness,
and to know You as Orient from on high.
Glory to You, O Lord.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν
ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ
πήλαιον, τῷ ἀππροσίτῳ προσάγει.
Ἄγγελοι, μετὰ ποιμένων
δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δέ, μετὰ
πέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ
ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ
αἰώνων Θεός.

On this day the Virgin gives * birth to the
Super-essential. * To the Unapproachable,
* earth is providing the grotto. * Angels sing
and with the shepherds offer up glory. *
Following a star the Magi are still
proceeding. * He was born for our
salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-
eternal God.

Our 2025 Nativity Pageant Participants

We are grateful to all of you!



Director: Katie
Wilson

Narrator: Fr.
George



Magi 1: Alexios

Magi 2: George

Magi 3: Bill



Aaron the
Shepherd:
Kollin



Herod: Stephen

Scribe:
Alexander

Shepherd 1: Luciano

Shepherd 2: Nicholas

Sheep: Lucy



Choir: Jeannie,
Lydia, Eleni,
Jackie, George,
John, Becky



Angel: Evie

Stage Crew: Steven, Ivey
(offered artwork), Kirk, John S.

Backstage

Presbytera Marinda, Holly,
Susan, Sofia S.



Star: Ana

Mary: Sophie

Joseph: Andrew



*We thank all who assisted and
apologize for any omissions!*

Family Reflection Questions

As we return home, take time to reflect together on the meaning of faith and the mystery of Christ's birth:

- 1. What does the Incarnation—God becoming man—teach us about God's love for each of us?**
How can we respond to that love in our daily lives?
- 2. When have we experienced the power of faith in our own family?**
Share a moment when trusting God helped you overcome fear or uncertainty.
- 3. What lessons can we learn from the humility of the manger and the simplicity of Christ's birth?**
How can we practice humility and gratitude during this Christmas season?
- 4. How can our family strengthen its faith together in the coming year?**
Consider prayer, worship, acts of service, and participation in parish life.