

**PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE AND SELF-CENTERED. FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY. IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES. BE KIND ANYWAY. IF YOU ARE HONEST, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU. BE HONEST ANYWAY. IF YOU FIND HAPPINESS, PEOPLE MAY BE JEALOUS. BE HAPPY ANYWAY. THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY MAY BE FORGOTTEN TOMORROW. DO GOOD ANYWAY. GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND IT MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH. GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY. FOR YOU SEE, IN THE END, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD. IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**

**—MOTHER TERESA**



## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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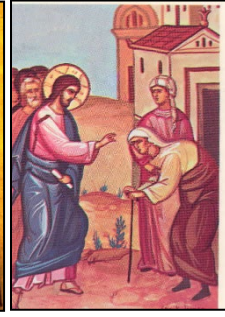
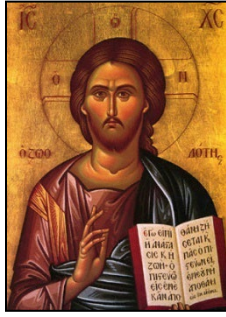
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*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, December 7, 2025

**ON THIS DAY, THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (+397); Athenodoros the Martyr of Mesopotamia; & Righteous Father Gerasimus, Ascetic of Euboia (4<sup>th</sup> cent.). *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

### **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 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 24:1-12)**

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 5:8-19)**

*Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but*

*instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 13:10-17)**

*Luke 13:10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. 11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. 12 When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." 13 When He laid His hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. 14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." 15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter*

*of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” 17 When He said this, all His opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that He was doing.*

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE**

"and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."  
(Ephesians 4:32)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Today, I kindly ask you to consider this parable about hidden needs. A nurse asked the doctor treating a patient, “Should I replace the bandage on his ankle? It looks well enough to be removed now.”

The physician replied, “Yes, give him a new bandage. He doesn’t really need it there, but I want him to come back, so I can check up on something else about him. Without the bandage he won’t return.”

Many times patients are brought to the doctor by members of their family for some hidden reason because the patient will not

come for the true reason. This is done to avoid unnecessary rebellion or anxiety. It is important that the trouble be ascertained, and the cure administered.

People sometimes come into our midst for some selfish reason, but whatever brings them to us can lead to a good result. When they meet us at church, many ask the question, "Why did this happen to me?" Defeats sometimes set the stage for victory. Those who suffer great sorrow may become equipped to give understanding, love and help to others. The alcoholic may be more willing to receive assistance from one who suffered the same failing.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, thousands of good deeds are performed daily in patterns that circumvent the barriers of human pride. Each of us may ask, "What hidden blessings has God in store today?" Challenging difficulties can cause us to build character and faith or give us opportunity to serve others in Christ's spirit.

This is the message the Apostle James was teaching when he offered, *“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (James 1:2-4) Amen!

**On this the 1080<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! On behalf of our parish, we thank you.

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

**A Call to Christmas Philanthropy:**  
*Offering Back to God and Those in Need*

Beloved in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate the Holy Nativity of our Lord, let us remember that Christmas is not only about receiving gifts—it is about giving back to God and sharing His love with those in need. The weeks before Christmas offer us a sacred opportunity to reflect Christ’s generosity through acts of philanthropy.

***Why is our support needed?***

Many families in our community and beyond face hardships—struggling to afford food, shelter, and necessities. By offering our blessings to others, we become instruments of God’s mercy and light. As St. Paul reminds us:

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt...”*  
 (Colossians 4:6)

and let your actions reflect that same grace. Every gift we share—whether time, resources, or prayer—becomes a living testimony of Christ’s love.

***How can you help?***

- **Donate** non-perishable food items, warm clothing, or gift cards for families in need.
- **Volunteer** your time to assist with parish outreach programs.
- **Offer financial support** for our Metropolis Philoptochos initiatives and local charities.

Here are three local charities in Peachtree City, GA, that welcome volunteers, talents, and financial support—perfect for parish involvement this holiday season:

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### 1. Midwest Food Bank – Georgia Division



- What they do: Distributes donated food to nonprofits and disaster relief efforts at no cost.
- Why help matters: Families here face rising food insecurity; this pantry ensures steady, dignified access to meals.
- Get involved: Donate non-perishables, pack orders, or help with delivery logistics.
- Contact:  
220 Parkade Ct, Peachtree City, GA 30269  
(770) 486-1103

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### 2. Real Life Center



- What they do: Offers holistic care—food, rent/utilities assistance, counseling, education, and more—for Fayette & Coweta families.
- Why help matters: Their support keeps families housed, nourished, and stable—especially critical during winter.
- Get involved: Volunteer at the mobile pantry; donate groceries or funds.
- Contact:  
(770) 631-9334 ext. 0  
rlc@reallifecenter.org

### 3. Clothes Less Traveled Thrift Shop



- What they do: Retail thrift store that donates 70+ local charities—focusing on mental health, foster care, special needs, housing, and more.
- Why help matters: Sustained financial support enables smaller ministries to serve those in need.
- Get involved: Drop off donations, shop to support the mission, volunteer with store operations.
- Contact:  
459 Highway 74 S, Peachtree City, GA 30269  
(770) 486-8517 | [info@clotheslesstraveled.org](mailto:info@clotheslesstraveled.org)

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Each of these ministries is meeting urgent needs—food, shelter, dignity—and your participation will help light up lives this Christmas season. May our parish be a blessing to others, as God richly blesses us.

Together, we can make this season a true celebration of God's love by lifting up those who need hope and joy. Let us give generously—not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for the greatest gift of all: Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." — Matthew 25:40*

May your offerings bring peace to others and blessings to your own heart. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ this period leading up to the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*- Fr. George, on behalf of our parish family*

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.

*Youth and Adults – join us for Religious  
Education combined session THIS SUNDAY for  
us to rehearse our lines and choose costumes.*

*Parents, please join us also to know how to rehearse  
with your children at home and learn their lines.*



Prayer Shawl Blessing  
December 14th

To bring comfort and joy to the  
women at Promise Place



*Christmas Luncheon*

*Please a Bring  
Lenten Dish  
to Share*

**December 21**

**After Christmas Pageant**



*The Angel Tree is here!  
Take a look in the back  
of the sanctuary  
and:*

*Take home an angel ornament from the tree  
as a keepsake to remind you to share your  
blessings this **Christmas!** You can also email me to  
Anna Naydenova : [anna\\_nayda@yahoo.com](mailto:anna_nayda@yahoo.com)*

*Take an angel, be an angel to a child this Christmas! Donate to  
or volunteer for a charity of your choice. These are some  
opportunities that come to mind:*

*USPSoperationSanta.com;*

*St.Nicholas-Tele-Santa.com and*

*Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots-ToysforTots.org*

[uspsoperationSanta.com](http://uspsoperationSanta.com)

Donor Name	
My name is _____	
on _____ who I want for _____	
Address is _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	
Phone _____	
E-mail _____	
Notes _____	
Date _____	

# 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**

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church's

# YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE KICKOFF

Parishioners and friends ages 18-35(ish) are invited to join us on Saturday, December 20 at 3-7 pm for our first YAL social at Angelique's house. RSVP for the address. Bring a drink or snack to share if you'd like!

Email Angelique (asoulakos77@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Join our GroupMe to stay connected!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL

## VASILOPITA !

LIVE AUCTION & DINNER!

**SATURDAY JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> : 5-8PM**

FREE ENTRY FEE!

**PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH FOR 8  
(MEATS, BEVERAGES, and DESSERT PROVIDED)**

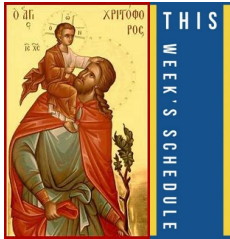
All proceeds will benefit:

**ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY, BLOOM OUR YOUTH & PARADISE 4 KIDS**

**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH- 149 EBENEZER ROAD**

## *Nativity Fast – Continues through December 24*

### Join Us Often with Your Family



#### **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves & December Commemorations

*(We thank Helen & George Psihountas for offering the 5 loaves)*

11:00 Religious Education (all ages) – youth and adults will rehearse Christmas Pageant

#### **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel

#### **Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – St. Lucia the Virgin Martyr**

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Sacrament of Holy Reconciliation (Confession) -no appointment needed. Come and pray as you wait.

#### **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Prayer Shawls

10:45 – 12:45 Parish Council Elections

11:00 Religious Education (all ages) – youth and adults will rehearse Christmas Pageant

11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting

12:00 Parish Council Meeting

*Here are four family reflection questions from Fr. George based on today's Epistle (Ephesians 5:8–19) and Gospel (Luke 13:10–17). They are designed to encourage family discussion and practical application in your spiritual lives.*

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### **1. Walking in the Light**

Saint Paul says in today's Epistle reading: *"Walk as children of light."*

**Question:** What does it mean for our family to "walk in the light" in our daily life? Can we name one habit or attitude we need to change this week to reflect Christ's light more clearly?

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### **2. Practicing Goodness**

The Epistle reading teaches that the fruit of light is **goodness, righteousness, and truth**.

**Question:** How can we show **goodness** to someone outside our family—especially someone who may have hurt us or is difficult to love? What is one concrete act of kindness we can do together this week?

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### **3. Making the Most of Time**

The Apostle Paul urges: *"Make the most of the time, because the days are evil."*

**Question:** How can we use our time during the Nativity Lent wisely? What is one spiritual practice (prayer, Scripture reading, attending a service) we can commit to as a family this week?

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### **4. Responding to Christ's Call**

In the Gospel reading for today, Jesus calls the bent-over woman forward and heals her.

**Question:** What "burdens" or "weights" keep us from standing upright spiritually? How can we bring these to Christ together—through prayer, forgiveness, or confession—so He can heal us?