



Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple  
(celebrated February 2 - 9)

**Liturgical Guide**  
**for Sunday, February 1, 2026**



## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

**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, February 1, 2026**

ON THIS DAY, THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE PERIOD KNOWN AS **TRIODION** BEGINS, WITH THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE PARABLE OF THE PUBLICAN (TAX COLLECTOR) AND THE PHARISEE TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Forefeast of the Presentation of our Lord and Savior in the Temple; Holy Martyr Tryphon (+251); Righteous Father Peter of Galatia; Righteous Father Bendimianos; Perpetua and her Companions (202-203); Righteous Timothy the Confessor; Bridget of Ireland; Righteous Father and Confessor Basil, Archbishop of Thessalonika (+950); Holy Martyr Theios, along with two children; Holy Martyr Karios; Holy New Martyr Anastasios of Navplion (1654); and Righteous David and Symeon. *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**

### **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 the Forefeast – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* The choir of heaven's hosts, from the vaults of the heavens, bends forward to the earth and beholds as an infant the first-born of all creation being carried in the embrace of His holy virgin Mother unto the Temple. And with us they sign today a fore-festal anthem, in awe and astonishment.

### **4. Hymn Commemorating Holy Martyr Tryphon – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save our souls.

### **5. 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.

### **6. Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Presentation of the Lord – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* With our hearts instead of arms today, believers, with most pure and righteous thoughts let us receive in our embrace the Lord and Master Who comes to us, and let us offer our forefestal hymns of praise.

## **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 (Matthew 28:16-20)**

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.*

### **Epistle Reading for Today (Romans 8:28-39)**

<sup>28</sup>*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.* <sup>29</sup>*For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn within a large family.* <sup>30</sup>*And those whom He*



*predestined he also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not with Him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God Who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, Who died, yes, Who was raised, Who is at the right hand of God, Who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **Gospel Reading for Today (Luke 18:10-14)**

*"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."]*

**MEMORY VERSE** (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

*"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'. " (Luke 18:13)*

## PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

**Tomorrow Morning - Monday, February 2,  
We celebrate the Feast of the Meeting  
of our Lord in the Temple:**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.



**On this the 1087<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!*

**Saint Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church  
Presents**

## **Lenten Retreat**

### **The Sublime Mystery of Christ's Passion**

All Christians in our community are warmly invited to join us for this Lenten Retreat as we reflect together on the mystery of Christ's Passion.

Speaker:

**Dr. Eugenia Constantinou**

Professor, Author, Speaker, Podcaster

Saturday March 28, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Venue: All Saints Anglican Church

149 Ebenezer Road

Fayetteville, GA 30215

We are inviting our sister Christian parishes in Fayette and Coweta Counties as an opportunity for shared prayer, learning, and fellowship during the Lenten season.

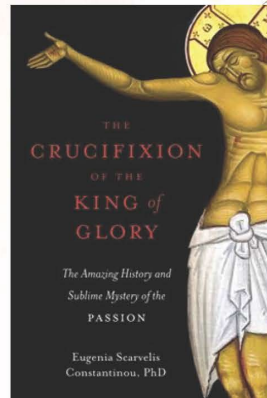
To register go to:

<https://forms.gle/nd8JgCH14wChNRxs6>

Or Scan the QR Code:



Contact: [StChristopher.Retreat@gmail.com](mailto:StChristopher.Retreat@gmail.com)  
or 770-347-7729.



Price/person \$25  
Lenten Breakfast and  
Lunch Included



Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D. will lead us through a first century exploration of the historical and religious context in which the Crucifixion of Christ took place.

Dr. Constantinou taught biblical studies and early Christianity extensively at Orthodox and non-Orthodox universities and graduate schools of theology, including Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

She is the host of Search the Scriptures LIVE on Ancient Faith Radio.

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/>

We are grateful to All Saints Anglican Church for hosting and to our sister Christian parishes for joining us in this journey of faith.

*Together in Christ's love and sacrifice.*

**METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA PHILOPTOCHOS SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

# Bearing Myrrh

Extending the beauty, compassion,  
and steadfastness of our faith into  
our daily lives



**METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA  
PHILOPTOCHOS**

## **SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

- Friday Night Salutations
- Excellent Sessions by our Speaker
- Lake Side exercise class
- Arts and Crafts
- Time for quiet reflection
- Opportunities for Confession
- Chapter Sharing
- Time by the fire pit in the evening

**MARCH  
20-22  
2026**

**ALEXIOS RETREAT CENTER**  
Salem, SC

**GUEST SPEAKER  
EDNA KING**

*Family Life Ministry of Atlanta  
Orthodox Author*



**REGISTRATION  
LINK AVAILABLE AT  
THIS QR CODE**

**TOTAL COST FOR  
RETREAT \$250**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** <https://atlmetropolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2026> [sarah.e.kalaris@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.kalaris@gmail.com)

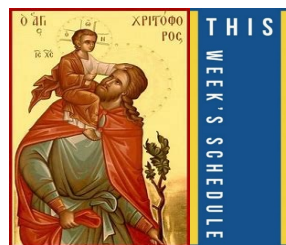


## **Join Us Often with Your Family**

**Sunday, February 1, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The**

**Publican & The Pharisee: Triodion**

**Begins Today**



8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves & February Commemorations (Thanks to Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi for offering the five loaves today.)

11:00 Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)*

**Sunday – Saturday, 2/1-7/26 – Fast Free Week**

**Monday, February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**

8:00 Divine Liturgy (Note early start time) & Blessing of the Candles - *May the blessed candles you receive today bring Christ's peace, guidance, and illumination to your homes and hearts.*



## The Light of Christ

*Tomorrow, February 2, the Church celebrates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also called the Meeting (Hypapante). When the infant Jesus was brought into the Temple, the Elder Simeon received Him in his arms and proclaimed Him to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel." Because He is truly "the Light of the people" (Luke*

*2:32), the Church honors this feast with blessed candles that symbolize Christ's light shining in our midst. Fr. George will bless candles for the faithful to take home and use with the following prayer:*

### **A Home Prayer with a Blessed Candle**

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world,  
 You revealed Yourself in the Temple as the Light for all nations.  
 As I light this blessed candle,  
 shine in my heart and in my home.  
 Grant me Your peace,  
 guard me from every darkness,  
 and guide me on the path of salvation.  
 Illumine my mind with Your truth,  
 warm my heart with Your love,  
 and strengthen me to serve You and my neighbor.  
 For You are the Light that shines in the darkness,  
 and the darkness has not overcome it. Amen.