



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.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, October 20, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Artemius the Great Martyr of Antioch (+363); Matrona the Righteous of Chios (+1462); Righteous Gerasimus of Cephalonia (+1579), and Andronicus the Righteous Martyr. *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. Artemius – (see handout):**

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.

### **4. 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.

### **5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf

make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

## **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 20:1-10)**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

### **Epistle Reading (Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2)**

*<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. <sup>6</sup>My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 8:26-39)**

*Luke 8:26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. Luke 8:27 As He stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met Him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me" — 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. 32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So He got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that He might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.*

### **THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

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

Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.'" Then the devil left Him, and suddenly angels came and waited on Him. (Matt. 4:10-11)

# St Demetrios the Great Martyr, celebrated October 26

*(continued from back cover of bulletin)*

## **1. The first adornment: “a stable faith”**

Faith is not a theoretical teaching, nor a philosophical system with high concepts. Nor is it another mental function derived from human reason.

Faith is life and is directly linked to the source of life, who is Christ. It is union with Christ and the manifestation of Christ within the area of our heart. This experience is particularly highlighted by our Church immediately after our participation in the Mystery of life, namely the Divine Eucharist. That is, once we commune of the Immaculate Mysteries, we repeat with the chanters the moving hymn: “Having seen the true light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, having found the true faith.”

“We believe in God and we believe God,” stressed Saint Gregory Palamas. And he goes on to say: “The one is different from the other. ‘I believe God’ means that I consider certain and true the promises He has given us. ‘I believe in God’ means that I think about Him correctly.” Faith therefore is a divine gift and revelation of God within the pure heart of people. This is what Saint Demetrios sought in his life.

This was given to him as a gift.

This he kept as something invaluable.

This he sealed with his blood.

## **2. The second adornment: “the boundless gift of grace”**

For one to keep the treasure of faith in earthen vessels, according to the expression of the Apostle Paul, and to “tread on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy,” the grace of God is needed. “If sin accomplished so much... grace, indeed the grace of God, not only that of the Father but also of the Son, does it not accomplish more?” asks Saint John Chrysostom.

In this, namely the grace of God, everything is benefited. This forgives us and justifies us, it does not abolish our free will, but it shows us to have trust in the philanthropy of God. It is the greatest weapon, according to the golden nightingale

of the Church: “It is an unbreakable wall. It is the unshaken pillar”... “Everything is accomplished through the grace of God” (Saint John Chrysostom). If we did not have God’s grace, we would not have the presence of the Martyrs, their confession and their miracles, the asceticism and tears of the Venerable Ones, we would not have the presence of Saint Demetrios. The words of Saint Nestor, his disciple, alone, “God of Demetrios help me!” with his myrrh-flowing and grace-streaming relics, show the indwelling grace of his heart which is also in his martyric relics until today.

### **3. The third adornment: “the undiminished wealth of godlike virtues”**

All the virtues, according to our Orthodox tradition, are enhypostatic. They are associated with the person of Christ and are the result of the life in Christ (Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos). They are not abstract values and ideas, but Christ Himself. They who have love, have the unique love which is Christ.

Virtue is the road to Heaven, stresses Saint John Chrysostom. It is conquered with pain and tears. It is difficult, but above all pleasant. It is the natural state of the soul, while wickedness is against nature. Just as health is according to nature, so illness and disease is unnatural.

Virtue will help us travel to eternal life: “Only virtue knows and is able to travel with us. Only virtue can pass to eternal life” (Saint John Chrysostom).

And to enter triumphantly into the Kingdom of Heaven, “let us acquire the virtues in the time we have left.”

Saint Demetrios, adorned with all the virtues, becomes a fervent preacher and teacher to our sinful era. He is a brave athlete and an excellent champion, a caring father and the leader of Thessaloniki. May he raise his hands of entreaty to the Throne of the Slain Lamb, that we may have:

Stability in faith,  
the boundless grace of God,  
as well as the wealth of the godlike virtues.



# “World Watch List of 2019”

*This week we continue reviewing the 50 countries where it's most dangerous to follow Jesus. May we offer prayers in support of their efforts and pray for God's peace and good will to prevail!*

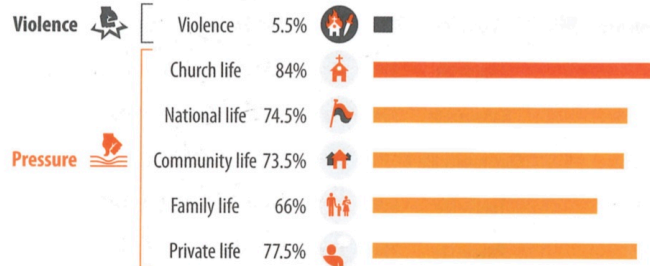


## Bhutan

**Source of persecution** Religious nationalism  
**Population** 817,000  
**Christians** 30,000  
**Main religion** Buddhism  
**Government** Constitutional monarchy  
**Leader** King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

### Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



### Buddhist nationalism makes no room for Christianity

Buddhism is part of the national fabric of Bhutan, and no Christian congregation has ever been allowed to build a church structure. The government is intent on maintaining a strong national identity and unity by suppressing “foreign” elements, including Christianity.

According to the government, the definition of Bhutanese identity is Buddhism, and it works to eliminate groups perceived as threats. Due to this, all Christian fellowship remains underground.

### Prayer points

- Pray God will protect and strengthen believers who violate anti-conversion law by leaving the Buddhist faith.
- Buddhism is enshrined in Bhutan's constitution. Pray the Holy Spirit would loosen the hold of Buddhism on the country.
- Pray with Christian converts who face strong pressure from family, friends and neighbors to recant their faith.

## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Perhaps Daniel Defoe gave us some good advice through his fictitious character Robinson Crusoe. The first thing that Crusoe did when he found himself on a deserted island was to make out a list. On one side of the list he wrote down all of his problems. On the other side of the list he wrote down all of his blessings. On one side he wrote: I do not have any clothes. On the other side he wrote: But it's warm and I don't really need any. On one side he wrote: All of the provisions were lost. On the other side he wrote: But there's plenty of fresh fruit and water on the island. And on down the list he went. In this fashion he discovered that for every negative aspect about his situation, there was a positive aspect, something to be thankful for. It is easy to find ourselves on an island of despair. What if we were to sit down and take an inventory of our blessings?

Why wait until the American tradition of Thanksgiving to express our thanks to God? Perhaps we're overdue in doing so. Notwithstanding, today and every day is a day the Lord has made, let us *"thank the LORD for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind."* (Psalm 107.8)

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On this the 777<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!



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

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## **COMMUNITY SCHEDULE (CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)**

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):**

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|-----------------|---|
| <b>7:45 am</b>  | <b>Orthros</b>  |
| <b>9:00 am</b>  | <b>Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship</b>               |
| <b>10:45 am</b> | <b>Religious Education Classes (for all ages)</b>     |
| <b>11:30 am</b> | <b>Appreciation Luncheon for GreekFest Volunteers</b> |
| <b>12:30 pm</b> | <b>Philoptochos Board Meeting</b>                     |

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