



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

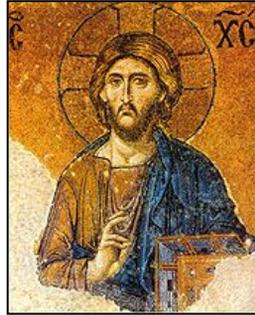
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, November 17, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE NINTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Gregory the Wonderworker and Bishop of Neo-Caesarea; Gennadios I and Maximus, Patriarchs of Constantinople; and Righteous Mother Hilda of Whitby. *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 (Plagal of the 1st Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Gregory – (see handout):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. By your accomplishments, you earned the name that you bore, for you were vigilant in prayer and diligent in working miracles. Therefore, holy father Gregory, intercede with Christ our God, that He illumine our souls, lest we fall asleep in sin unto death.

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 for Feast of the Theotokos (11/21) – (Hymnal-pp.236-239):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Behold the temple of the Savior, His precious bridal chamber. Behold the virginal and sacred vessel of God's glory. Today she enters into the house of the Lord, bearing within her the grace of the Holy Spirit. For this, the angels exclaim: She is indeed the heavenly tabernacle.

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 21:15-25)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to Him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this He said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to You? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to You?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Epistle Reading (Gal. 6:11-18)

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be

circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 12:16-21)

¹⁶Then He told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

"For, 'Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.'" (Romans 10:13)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Phil. 2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility

regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

As we have begun the Nativity Fast this past Friday in preparation of the Incarnation of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the Feast of His Holy Nativity, let us remember in our personal prayers as well as our efforts to prepare ourselves leading up to this blessed celebration:

- that we are blessed to serve as parents, religious educators, youth workers, ministry leaders, and instructors
- that through our One God in Three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), we are God's One Holy People
- that we should never be a party to any division within the Body of Christ. Rather, our goal is to be perfectly united in mind and heart with all others who follow our Incarnate Lord.
- that we should always strive not to misplace our loyalties with this person or that one

- that Christ, of whom we are a part, is not divided. He is of one mind. So, let us and all His people be together and in agreement.
- that we should seek to be like-minded, having the same love, one in spirit and purpose.
- And through the Name of Jesus Christ, the source of our unity and salvation, we can easily accomplish these things and more *for His Glory and not ours.*

May the loyalty of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Wise Men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always. Amen.

On November 15, we remembered the Holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus: Patrons of Honorable Marriage *(continued from back cover)*

Patrons of Honorable Marriage



After the death of the Saints, numerous miracles were wrought by them for those who entreated their help with faith and love. Once, a certain Gothic soldier, sent to serve at Edessa, took the pious virgin Euphemia as his wife. Before this the barbarian vowed to her mother Sophia at the graves of the Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus that he would do his spouse no harm,

and would never insult her, but would always love and cherish her.

At the completion of his service in Edessa, he took Euphemia with him back to his native land. It turned out that he had deceived her, for he already had a wife at

home, and Euphemia became her slave. Her evil husband threatened to kill her if she revealed to anyone that they were married. Euphemia suffered much abuse and humiliation. When she gave birth to a son, the jealous Gothic woman poisoned him. Euphemia turned with prayer to the holy Martyrs Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, the witnesses to the perjurer's oath, and the Lord delivered Euphemia from her suffering and miraculously returned her to Edessa, where she was welcomed by her mother.

After a certain while the Goth was again sent to serve in Edessa. The whole city learned of his misdeeds after he was denounced by Sophia. The Goth was executed by order of the prefect of the city.

In an Akathist, the Holy Church addresses the martyrs: "Rejoice, Gurias, Samonas and Habibus, Heavenly Patrons of honorable marriage." We pray to them for deliverance from family turmoil, and from marital difficulties, especially where one spouse hates the other without cause.

On this *the 780th* 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!



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

Sunday, November 17 (9th Sunday of St. Luke)

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)*

11:30 am Philoptochos Bake Sale Melomakarona & Kourambiedes Prep

11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

“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!

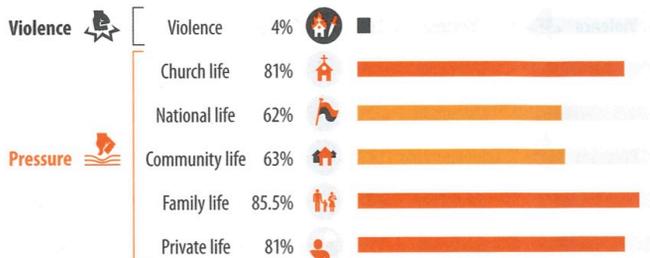


Brunei

Source of persecution Islamic oppression
Population 434,000
Christians 57,400
Main religion Islam
Government Sultanate
Leader Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah

Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



Sharia law and illegal conversions

In Brunei, conversion from Islam is illegal, so Christian converts are pressured to return to their former faith. When one family member converts to Christianity, families are forced to split up, making expression of the Christian faith an incredibly difficult decision. All of society is impacted by the continued introduction of Sharia laws—including Christians who are forced to adhere to Islamic customs and rites.

Prayer points

- Pray that God will give Christians wisdom and courage to stand out as lights for Christ in this strict Islamic culture.
- Pray for underground believers who feel persecution strongly because the country is so small, and there is nowhere to run if their faith in Christ is exposed.
- Pray for Muslims who turn to Christ and now face strict punishment under Sharia law.