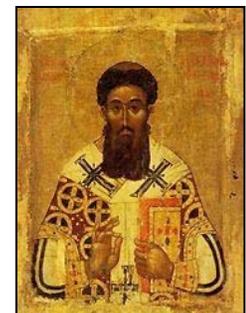
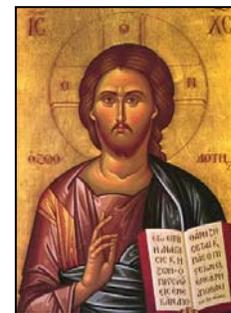




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, March 24, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT AND HOLY LENT, WE CALL TO MIND OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS, GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKI (+1360). (*SEE TRIODION INSERT INSIDE.*) WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Forefeast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos; Artemon the Presbyter; Our Holy Father Theonas, Archbishop of Thessolonica; and Zachariah the Recluse. *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.

TODAY'S Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

Since 1268, the *Second Sunday of Lent* is dedicated to the memory of *St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki* (1296-1359). This commemoration forms a continuation of last Sunday's celebration: Gregory's victory over the *heretics* of his time is seen by the Church as a renewed triumph of Orthodoxy.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Gregory Palamas – (Hymnal-pp.132-135):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. O light of Orthodoxy, O pillar of strength and teacher of the Church! Glory of monks and nuns, and of theologians the protector invincible! O wonderworker Gregory, pride of Thessalonika and preacher of grace, intercede without ceasing for the salvation of our souls.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion sung for Lenten Sundays – (Hymnal-pp. 268-271):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to 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 21:1-14)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat,

dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 1:10-2:3)

And, "In the beginning, Lord, You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak You will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will never end." But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet"? Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him,

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 2:1-12)

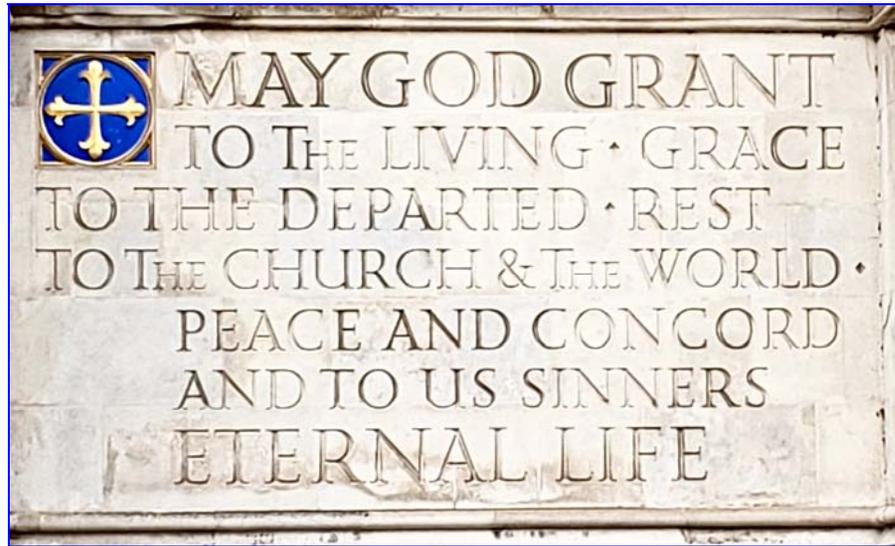
When He returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and He was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in His spirit that they

were discussing these questions among themselves; and He said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

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

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’” (Mark 2:5)

A Prayer Shared During Great Lent Travels...



Special thanks to Kirk, Dedee, and Maria Panayis who shared this photo from London during their visit this weekend. We pray for their safe travels. Fr. George also thanks our parishioners for praying for his older brother, Nicholas, who has been diagnosed with a heart tumor. He will undergo surgery at the University of Alabama in Birmingham Medical Center to remove it. We are praying for his recovery and for the healing of all who are sick and suffering. *Lord, have mercy.*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

“Here’s a little something for your supper,” the lady said.

“Thank you very much,” said Gus. On arrival home, he opened the package and told his brother, “Isn’t that marvelous, a delicious apple pie!”

“What’s so wonderful about that?” said Mark. “You can get one bigger than that at the bakery for a couple dollars.”

“I know, but this was for nothing, and it was baked especially for me. It makes me happy all over. It’s wonderful to me.”

“Well, I don’t see anything wonderful about a little pie.”

“You just don’t get it,” said Gus.

One of the heartbreaks of life is that many folks just don’t get it. That is, the kindness of neighborly consideration and the appreciation of the efforts of others for all the little things that make life worthwhile.

As we travel in our cars, we often fail to see the inventor, the laborer, the mechanic, the distributor, the road builder, the traffic policeman and the road cleanup crew. As we enter the bakery and order our favorite desert, we don’t see the farmer, the harvester, the flour maker, the baker and the clerk.

May we live each day seeing how many others contribute to our health and happiness; may we give thanks to God for His kindness. Instead of waiting to Thanksgiving and Christmas to express our joy and gratitude, we can express the words of the Psalmist: *“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.”* (Psalm 34:1-2)

“World Watch List of 2019” – 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!

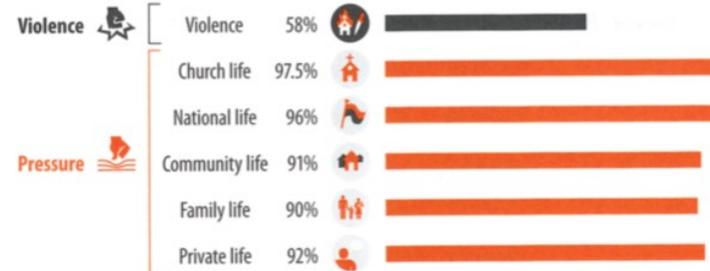


Libya

Source of persecution Islamic oppression
Population 6,471,000
Christians 37,900
Main religion Islam
Government Transitional
Leader Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj

Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



Chaos and violence for Christians

After the ouster of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi, Libya plunged into chaos and anarchy, which has enabled various Islamic militant groups to control parts of the country. Converts to Christianity face abuse and violence for their decision to follow Christ. Libya is also home to many migrant workers who have been attacked, sexually assaulted and detained, which can be even worse if it is discovered they are Christians.

Prayer points

- Pray for the isolated Christian converts in Libya, that they would find other believers and be encouraged in their faith.
- Pray for the protection of migrant workers, especially for those who are Christians and face double persecution.
- Pray for stability in Libya, and that the rule of law would improve and enable more rights for religious minorities.

Today's Adult Religious Education Class

March 24, 2019: "The Annunciation in Early Christian Art".
Fr. George will teach this lesson today with the assistance of Katie Wilson... come and join us!



 **"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page.** *Check for updates and photos.*

On this the 748th 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!

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

Sunday, March 24th (2nd Sunday of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 am Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)*
- 11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting

All Sundays in March:
Holy Cross School of Theology

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts offers graduate programs leading to advanced degrees in Divinity and Theology.



At Holy Cross, the only Greek Orthodox School of Theology in the United States, education is an **integration of learning and faith**. Its programs reflect the religious and cultural values of the Hellenic Orthodox tradition.

Holy Cross strives to fulfill the need to educate the **next generation of leaders, clergy, and laypersons** who will exemplify the values and spirit of Orthodox Christianity in their chosen professions. Learning, teaching, service, and worship activities develop the intellectual and spiritual potential of students. The School affords the faculty with **academic freedom** to pursue teaching and scholarship.

"Hands of Love", a ministry of our **Philoptochos Society** will be accepting **monetary donations** to benefit the School.

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!