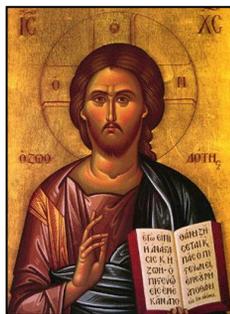




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 9, 2020

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 Leave-taking of the Presentation of our Lord and Savior in the Temple; Nicephoros the Martyr of Antioch; Markellos, Philagrios, & Pankratios the Hieromartyrs; and Teilo, Bishop of Llandaff. *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. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.28):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas, "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, Who was held in the arms of the righteous Symeon, as we sing to You, Alleluia."*

### **2./5. Hymn for the Feast of the Presentation – (Hymnal-pp.212-215):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.*

### **3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His justice before the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, Who did rise from the dead, as we sing to You, Alleluia."*

### **4. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord – (Hymnal-pp.250-253):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

**8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed..."* Theotokos, as the hope of us Christians, one and all, guard and shelter and protect those who put their hope in you. O believers, come let us perceive a type in the law, and the shadow and the letter. Every male that opens the womb shall be holy to God. So the unoriginate Father's firstborn Logos and Son, who is the firstborn of the Mother who knew not man, we magnify.

**9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p.324):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord":* "I will lift the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115[116]). Alleluia."

**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 During Divine Liturgy (2 Timothy 3:10-15)**

*Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (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):**

**“O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever.” (1 Chronicles 16.34)**

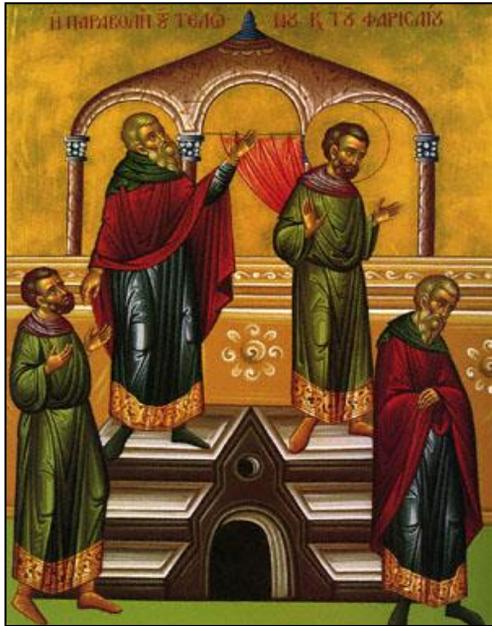
# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2020

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 9th</b>	 <p><i>TRIDION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14</p>	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>	 <p><b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32</p>	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <p><b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:9-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46</p>	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 1st</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <p><b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21</p>	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 8th</b>	 <p><i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32:12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51</p>	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 15th</b>	 <p><b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10:2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12</p>	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 22nd</b>	 <p><b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14:5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34:9:1</p>	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 29th</b>	 <p><b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13:20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31</p>	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 5th</b>	 <p><b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45</p>	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 12th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <p><i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18</p>	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 17th</b>	 <p><b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE</p>	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 19th</b> NO FASTING!	 <p><i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17</p>	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

# PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

*(Excerpt from the Canon of the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee)*



Sixth Ode: AS I LOOK UPON THE RAGING SEA OF LIFE, WITH ITS ROUGH WATERS OF TEMPTATION, I RUN TOWARDS YOUR CALM HAVEN AND CRY ALOUD TO YOU: LEAD MY LIFE FROM CORRUPTION, GREATLY MERCIFUL ONE!

*GLORY TO YOU, OUR GOD, GLORY TO YOU!*

The Publican and Pharisee both ran in the race of life, but the one was overcome by foolish pride: He was brought to a shameful shipwreck, while the other was saved by humility.

Changing to a righteous course of life, let us emulate the wisdom of the Publican:

Let us run from the hateful conceit of the Pharisee, so letting ourselves attain to life.

Let us eagerly follow the ways of Jesus the Savior, and His humility, in our desire to attain the eternal dwelling of joy, and to find rest in the land of the living.

You have shown Your disciples, Master, the humility that raises men on high: girding Your loins with a towel, You washed their feet, preparing them to follow Your example. The Pharisee spent his life in virtue, and the Publican in sin; but the one was foolishly brought low through his pride, while the other in his humility of mind was raised up to the heights.

Theotokion: I was created naked in innocence and simplicity; then the enemy clothed me with the garment of sin and passionate flesh. But now I am saved, O Maiden, through your intercession.

LET US, BELIEVERS, CLAP OUR HANDS IN GLADNESS, FULFILLING THE MOST PRECIOUS FEAST. BY KNOWING GOD THROUGH THE THEOTOKOS, LET US GLORIFY HIM WHO WAS BORN OF HER.

From Back Cover: The Ladder of Divine Ascent by St. John Climacus:  
**“Step 9: On the Remembrance of Wrongs”** *(continued)*

10. Remembrance of wrongs is an interpreter of Scripture of the kind that adjusts the words of the Spirit to its own views. Let it be put to shame by the Prayer of Jesus which cannot be said with it.
11. When, after much struggling, you are still unable to extract this thorn, you should apologize to your enemy, even if only in word. Then perhaps you may be ashamed of your long-standing insincerity towards him, and, as your conscience stings you like fire, you may feel perfect love towards him.
12. You will know that you have completely got rid of this rot, not when you pray for the person who has offended you, nor when you exchange presents with him, nor when you invite him to your table, but only when, on hearing that he has fallen into spiritual or bodily misfortune, you suffer and weep for him as for yourself.
13. A malicious anchorite is an adder hidden in a hole, which carries about within itself deadly poison.
14. The remembrance of Jesus' sufferings cures remembrance of wrongs which is mightily shamed by His forbearance.
15. Worms grow in a rotten tree, and malice finds a place in falsely meek and silent people. He who has cast it out has found forgiveness, but he who sticks to it is deprived of mercy.
16. Some, for the sake of forgiveness, give themselves up to labors and struggles, but a man who is forgetful of wrongs excels them. If you forgive quickly, then you will be generously forgiven.
17. The forgetting of wrongs is a sign of true repentance. But he who dwells on them and thinks that he is repenting is like a man who thinks he is running while he is really asleep.
18. I have seen resentful people recommend forgiveness to others. Yes, and being put to shame by their own words, they rid themselves of the passion.

19. Let no one regard dark spite as a harmless passion, for it often manages to reach out even to spiritual men.

***The ninth step. Let him who has reached it boldly ask the Savior Jesus for release from his sins for the future.***

From *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, translated by Archimandrite Lazarus Moore (Harper & Brothers, 1959).

 **"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page.** *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

On this the 792<sup>nd</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!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING THROUGH  
END OF MONTH



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 2nd, our parish began collecting money and canned food for those in need being served by Fayette Samaritans. ***Additional donations will be accepted throughout the month of February.***

## **COMMUNITY SCHEDULE**

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

**Sunday, February 9 (Sunday of Publican & Pharisee; Triodion Begins):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Sacrament of Holy Chrismation
- 10:35 a.m. General Parish Assembly & Reception Honoring Our Newest Family

**Note: Sunday, 2/9 through Saturday, 2/15 is a fast-free week.**

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