

# THE MESSENGER

Weekly Worship Guide of The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, Atlanta, Georgia

**Sunday, December 16, 2018 - Κυριακή, 16 Δεκεμβρίου 2018**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke Κυριακή ΙΑ' Λουκά**

The Prophet Haggai (Aggaeus), The Righteous Theophania the Empress, Modestus, Archbishop of Jerusalem, Nicholas, Patriarch of Constantinople, Memnonus, Archbishop of Ephesus



**We are Blessed to have serving the Divine Liturgy today,  
our Hierarch and Spiritual Father,  
His Grace Sebastian Bishop of Zela**



## Today's Memorials

16 Year Memorial for John Papadopoulos  
25 Year Memorial for Chris Andros  
(*Brother of Georgia McClure & Perry Andros*)

## 40 Day Blessing

Baby of James & Sherry Stratis

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT**

Our Annual Nativity Pageant will be held today  
in the Cathedral following Divine Liturgy

*Participants will meet in the upstairs Sunday School hallway. If your children are not receiving Holy Communion, please bring/ send them immediately following the Lord's Prayer. If your children are receiving Holy Communion, please bring/ send them IMMEDIATELY after they receive. \*Signs will be posted so you know which room to go to.*

## **The Prophet Haggai (Aggaeus)**



The Prophet Aggaeus, whose name means "festive," was born in Babylon at the time of the captivity Of the Jews. He began to prophesy in Jerusalem after their return thereto, and to admonish the people to rebuild the Temple, in the days of Zorobabel, the second year of the reign of Darius Hystaspes, King of Persia, about the year 520 before Christ. His prophecy, divided into two chapters, is ranked tenth among the minor Prophets.

## **St. Theophania the Empress**



Saint Theophania, who was born in Constantinople, was of royal lineage. Instructed in letters, and adorned with many virtues, she was united in marriage to Emperor Leo the Wise (reigned 886-912). But counting the glory of the earthly kingdom as nought, she spent her nights and days in serving God with psalms and hymns and prayers, working various good deeds until she surrendered her spirit to God in peace, while still in her youth, being, according to some, about twenty years of age, according to others, twenty-seven. Her holy relics are still preserved in the patriarchal church in Constantinople as a source of healing for those that draw nigh with faith and longing.

She was also the builder of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropigeal Monastery of St. Anastasia the Protector from Potions in Chalke (883).

**(From the website of the Orthodox Church of America)**

# ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

## Απολυτίκιον

## Απολυτίκια

### Αναστάσιμον Απολυτίκιον. ᾠχος δ'.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριαι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### Απολυτίκιον τῶν Προπατόρων. ᾠχος β'.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, ὅτι ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλεῆς, ἡ ἀσπόρως τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### Κοντάκιον τῶν Κεκοιμημένων. ᾠχος πλ. δ'.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἤμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος καὶ τοῖς μεταστασι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

### Απολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. ᾠχος δ'.

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

### Κοντάκιον. ᾠχος γ'.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

### Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 4.

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

### Apolytikion for the Forefathers. Mode 2

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

### Kontakion for the Departed. Mode pl. 4

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

### Apolytikion of the Church. Mode 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which was hidden from eternity. The Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announces the grace of this Good News. Let us also join with him, calling to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace; the Lord is with you.

### Kontakion. Mode. 3

On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God.



# 11th Sunday of Luke—Κυριακή ΙΑ' Λουκά

TODAY'S EPISTLE READING IS FROM:  
ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS 3:4-11  
READER: JEROD SPETSERIS

PROKEIMENON: *BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD, THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS.*  
VERSE: *FOR YOU ARE JUST IN ALL YOU HAVE DONE.*

**B**rethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## TODAY'S GOSPEL READING LUKE 14:16-24

**T**he Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

*"Take up and read, take up and read."* St. Augustine, *Confessions XII*

**DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 51 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK**





### ACOLYTES METROPOLITAN'S GROUP

Athanasios Grivakis  
Evangelos Katsoudas  
Gus Karas  
Jack McClure  
Jerod Spetseris  
John Xides  
Matthew Davis  
Niko Reynolds

Niko Skiouris  
Pano Karatassos  
Pete Constantinides  
Peter Kessler  
Platon Constantinides  
Robby Keenan  
Spears Vavalides  
Teddy Gassert

### HANDMAIDENS METROPOLITAN'S GROUP

Bella Reynolds  
Elena Karas  
Elli Moraitakis  
Gabriella Pappas  
Marcella Vlahos

Paulina Katsoudas  
Penelope Melissas  
Reece Hughes  
Zoe Franklin

The following Parish Council members will be on duty today during the Service:  
Group: St. Gregory the Theologian

Costa Panos  
Al Galloway

Ned Biehler  
Scott Davenport

Sandy Papadopoulos  
Noula Zaharis

## GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

*Holy Communion* is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion. Please let parents with their babies and the elderly approach first. Thank you.

## **WELCOME EVERYONE!**

Welcome everyone! We extend a warm welcome to our visitors worshipping with us today in our Cathedral. You are invited to join us for our fellowship following the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy in Carlos Hall next to the Church. Thank you for your visit! Please stop by our hospitality table and sign the register in the Narthex.

*“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,  
And put your trust in the LORD.” Psalm 4:5*

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Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, *Dean*  
Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, *Presbyter*  
Elias Lampropoulos, *Pastoral Assistant*

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