



# The Messenger

Sunday, November 19, 2023  
Κυριακή, 19 Νοεμβρίου

9th Sunday of Luke  
Κυριακή 9' Λουκᾶ

## Weekly Worship Guide

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation • Atlanta, GA

Obadiah the Prophet, Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea, Martyr Heliodorus  
Anthimos, Thallalaeos, Christopher, Euphemia & her children, the Martyrs

### Today's Memorials

Service can be found on p. 127  
of the Divine Liturgy Book

1 Year Memorial for Nick Lambros  
3 Year Memorial for Maroulla Ioannou  
5 Year Memorial for Nick (Nikitas) Loumakis

### Baby Blessing

Daughter of Stephen & Jenny Halkos

## The 40 Day Fast for the Nativity

The Orthodox Church prepares its faithful to welcome the Nativity of Christ in a worthy manner by means of a 40-day Nativity fast, which lasts from November 15th to December 25.

Besides generally known reasons, the Nativity fast is also undertaken by Orthodox Christians in order to venerate the suffering and sorrow undergone by the Holy Mother of God at the hands of the scribes and the Pharisees just prior to the sacred event of Christ's Nativity.

Holy Tradition tells us that shortly before the righteous Joseph and the Holy Virgin set off for Bethlehem, they were subjected to the following tribulation. A certain scribe by the name of Ananias, entering their home and seeing the Virgin pregnant, was severely distressed and went to the High Priest and the entire Jewish council, saying: "Joseph the carpenter, who has been regarded as a righteous man, has committed an iniquity. He has secretly violated the Virgin Who was given to him from the temple of God for safekeeping; and now she is with child." Then the High Priest's servants went to Joseph's house, took Mary and Joseph, and brought them to the High Priest, who began to denounce and shame the Most-blessed Virgin Mary.

But the Holy Virgin, crying in deep sorrow, replied: "The Lord God is my witness that I am innocent and have known no man." Then the High Priest accused the righteous Joseph, but the latter swore on oath that he was not guilty of this sin. Yet the High Priest did not believe them and subjected them to the trial that was customary in those times. However, the trial just served to confirm the innocence of the Holy Virgin and the righteous Joseph. All those present were amazed at this, unable to understand how a Virgin could simultaneously be with child and yet remain inviolate.

After that the High Priest allowed the holy couple to go home in peace. The righteous Joseph took the Virgin Mary and went to his house, joyously glorifying God. But this was not the end of the Holy Theotokos' trials. It is well known that afterwards she shared with Joseph the toil of a three-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. And in Bethlehem there was no place for the Holy Virgin either in an inn, or in some home, and since night was already approaching. She was forced to seek shelter in a cave which served as a resting and feeding place for cattle. In this most humble of shelters the Most-blessed Virgin remained in prayer and divine contemplation. It is here that she painlessly gave birth to our Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world.

We can see from all of the above that the days immediately preceding the Nativity were not days of rest and comfort for the Holy Mother of God. In those days she suffered various sorrows and trials, but did not leave off her prayers and contemplation. The Holy Church appeals to the faithful to participate, at least to some small degree, in the Holy Theotokos' spiritual labor, constraining one's flesh during the Nativity fast and nourishing one's soul with prayer. However, the Church warns us that external fasting only is not enough. We must also apply ourselves to internal fasting, which consists of shunning malice, deceit, wrath, worldly bustle, and other vices. During this fast, as at all times, we must show works of love and mercy to others; doing all we can to help those who are in need and in sorrow. Only then will our fasting be genuine, God-pleasing, and only then will we know the true joy of the bright feast of Christ's Nativity.

# Order of Hymns Following The Small Entrance

## Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος βαρύς.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον· ἠνέφξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον· τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Προφήτου. Ἦχος β'.

Τοῦ Προφήτου σου Ἀβδίου τὴν μνήμην, Κύριε, εορτάζοντες, δι' αὐτοῦ σε δυσωπούμεν, Σώσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἦχος 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· Χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

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

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

## Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος δ'.

*Ὁ ὑψωθείς ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ.*

Ὁ καθαρῶτατος ναὸς τοῦ Σωτῆρος, ἡ πολυτίμητος παστὰς καὶ Παρθένος, τὸ ἱερόν θησαύρισμα τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ, σήμερον εἰσάγεται, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ Κυρίου, τὴν χάριν συνεισάγουσα, τὴν ἐν Πνεύματι Θείῳ ἦν ἀνυμνοῦσιν Ἄγγελοι Θεοῦ· Αὕτη ὑπάρχει σκηνὴ ἐπουράνιος.

## Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode grave.

By your cross, O Lord, you destroyed death; to the thief you opened paradise. The myrrh-bearers' sorrow you transformed into joy, and you sent your apostles forth to proclaim that you had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world your great mercy.

## Apolytikion of the Prophet. Mode 2.

As we celebrate the memory of Your Prophet Obadiah, through him we importune You, O Lord, that You save our souls.

## 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 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.

## Kontakion. Mode 4.

*You who were lifted.*

The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.

# Readings

8th Sunday of Luke  
Κυριακή Η' Λουκά

**Epistle** (St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22)

Reader: John J.W. Godwin

**PROKEIMENON:** The Lord will give strength to his people.

**VERSE:** Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

**Brethren,** Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**Gospel** (Luke 12:16-21)

**The Lord said this Parable:** "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And 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. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 51 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK

### Reminders for Receiving Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and/or 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.

Thank you.

# Support our Cathedral

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.

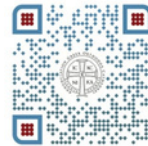
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### Acolytes

#### Group 4

Alex Simitzes  
Constantine Dallis  
Yanni Kitas  
Demetre Lignos  
Matthew Simitzes  
Luke Simitzes  
Peter Soulimiotis  
Lucas Tiliakos  
Niko Tiliakos

### Handmaidens

#### Group 4

Gabriella Mayes  
Marina Dallis  
Stavroula Dallis  
Anna Koulouris  
Kat Leitourgis  
Saiah Murray  
Maria Nikolov  
Zoe Tiliakos

### Parish Council

#### St. Gregory the Theologian

Michael Missailidis  
George Karolis  
Peter Zaharis  
Victor Ellis  
Kappy Lawandales  
Pete Vallianatos

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