

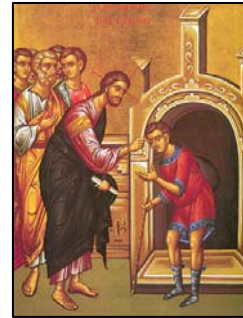
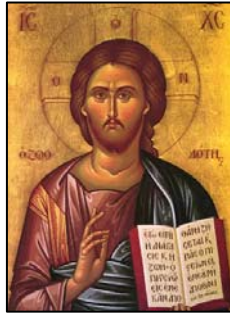


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlanta.goarch.org](http://www.atlanta.goarch.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, May 24, 2009

**ON THIS DAY, THE *SIXTH* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *our Righteous Father Symeon of the Wondrous Mountain (+596); Righteous Niketas (+1186); Holy Martyr Meletios the Commander and his Companion Martyrs (2<sup>nd</sup> cent.); Gregory, Archbishop of Novgorod. In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.***

## **Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission 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.*

### **FROM THE PENTECOSTARION**

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

### **WISDOM OFFERED**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." (Proverbs 3:5) Trust in the Lord with all your heart. He has up to now delivered you times without number from your own understanding, from its illusion and falsehood and from the dangers into which it has led you. As a blind man before one with clear sight, so is your understanding before the understanding of God. Entrust yourself, a blind man, to your Guide. Trust in the Lord, and in Him alone, with all your heart!

*(from The Ochrid)*

### **Weekday Service This Week**

*We invite you to join us this Thursday evening (May 28<sup>th</sup>) to celebrate the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord – Orthros at 6:00 p.m. & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.*

*Please bring non-fasting food to share for dinner fellowship.*

### **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

**1./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.152-153):**

*Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion:* Christ is risen from the dead. By death trampling down upon Death, and to those in the tombs, bestowing life.

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

*On the occasion of the Paschal period, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance:* “In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel’s wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!”

### **4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of 1<sup>ST</sup>) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):**

It is sung *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.

### **5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):**

*It is sung in both Greek and English 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.

### **6. Kontakion of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

### **7. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):**

*Today , the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...":* The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the

tomb on the third day. Rejoice and exult, sacred gate of the Light, for Jesus Who went down into the grave has dawned again, O God-favored Lady, shining more brightly than the sun, and filling all the faithful with light.

### **8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. 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 (John 20:11-18)**

*“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”*

### **Epistle Reading (Acts 16:16-34)**

<sup>16</sup>*One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by*

fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. <sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup>He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

### **Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)**

*As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."*

*They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."*

*The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and*

*that he was born blind; but we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”*

*So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.*

*Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE** (SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT IT TO MEMORY):

*Related to today's Gospel theme of "blindness" (1 John 2:11): "But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness."*

## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*This week I read a beautiful prayer from the Old Testament Book of Proverbs that I would like to share with each of you to consider:*

### ***Proverbs 30:8-9***

<sup>8</sup>Remove far from me falsehood and lying;  
give me neither poverty nor riches;  
feed me with the food that I need,  
<sup>9</sup>or I shall be full, and deny you,  
and say, "Who is the LORD?"  
or I shall be poor, and steal,  
and profane the name of my God.

## **Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!**

*(Languages of our Parishioners)*

Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Bulgarian: Hhristos Vaskrese! Naistina Vaskrese!

English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

French: Le Christ est Resurrecté!

En Verite, il est Resurrecté!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Romanian (Vlkah): Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

Spanish: Cristo esta resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado!



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday

*...for the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. (The Great Litany)*

**May 24, 2009, The Sixth Sunday of Pascha**

The Hierarchs of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops  
in the Americas

To all the Clergy and the Laity of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the  
Americas

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen!

We, the Hierarchs of SCOBA, have, by the grace of God, been blessed to designate the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, this year on May 24, 2009, to be **Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday** in all Orthodox parishes of North America. Although Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the youngest Agency of SCOBA, it fulfills the direct and clear Evangelical command of the Lord, *I was in prison, and you came unto Me* (St. Matthew 25:36). Nevertheless, even if we all do not or cannot visit those in prisons, we all can participate in this healing ministry through our participation in the Divine Liturgy.

When, in each Divine Liturgy of our Church, we pray "for the captives and for their salvation," we have the opportunity to be mindful of the prisoners who are serving sentences in jails and penitentiaries throughout this nation. There are those who become captives as a result of their own sins. The prisons of our Nation are filled to overflowing. In fact, there are now more people incarcerated in the United States of America than in any other nation in the

world, at any time in history. Many prisoners sincerely seek to be delivered from the chaos of their lives and be healed of their addictions, and they embrace repentance. They look to God for meaning and restoration. The Holy Orthodox Church offers the Life that gives meaning to all life, and is able to restore broken humanity to its original beauty.

This is where OCPM fulfills a vital and truly compassionate service of the Church. This ministry reaches into the dark corners of America's penal system to find captives who are looking for their salvation.

When we, the Members of SCOBA ask all of our parishes to find ways to support OCPM and encourage this work, we invite you to be active agents of compassion, true servants and missionaries who work for the salvation of those held captive by sin and evil which result in death. With such an understanding, let us listen to the voice of the Lord saying, *I was in prison, and you came unto Me* (St. Matthew 25:36), and join our prayers together *for the captives and for their salvation*.

With paternal blessings and love in the Risen Christ,

**+Archbishop DEMETRIOS, Chairman**  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

**+Metropolitan PHILIP, Vice Chairman**  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America

**+Metropolitan CHRISTOPHER,**  
**Secretary**  
Serbian Orthodox Church in North and  
South America

**+Metropolitan NICHOLAS of Amissos,**  
**Treasurer**  
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox  
Diocese in the USA

**+Archbishop NICOLAE**  
Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the  
Americas

**+Metropolitan JOSEPH**  
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church

**+Metropolitan JONAH**  
Orthodox Church in America

**+Metropolitan CONSTANTINE**  
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

**+Archpriest Alexander Abramov**  
Acting Representative of the Moscow  
Patriarchate in the USA

**+Bishop ILIA of Philomelion**  
Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America

On this the two hundred and seventy-second 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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Today is the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha

### **Sunday, May 24 (Sunday of the Blind Man):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**
- 10:45 am Introduction to Orthodoxy Class (*Special Make-up Class*)**
- 11:30 am GOYA Meeting**

### **Thursday, May 28 (Feast of the Ascension of our Lord):**

- 6:00 pm Orthros Service (Evening)**
- 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Evening), followed by Community Dinner (non-fasting)**

### **Sunday, May 31 (Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Coffee Fellowship Reception**
- 10:45 am Religious Education classes – for youth and adults**
- 11:30 am Philoptochos General Assembly**
- 12:30 am Religious Education & Youth Workers Meeting**
- 1:30 pm Education, Youth, & Culture Diakonia Meeting**

### **Saturday, June 6 (Saturday of the Souls before Feast of Pentecost):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 8:45 am Divine Liturgy – Saturday of the Souls before Feast of Pentecost –  
*offer the names of your deceased for Fr. George to pray during  
Memorial Service to follow. We also will offer a 40-Day Memorial  
Service for Voula Farmakis along with her husband, Steve Farmakis.***
- 10:15 am Light Brunch in memory of Voula and Steve Farmakis**

### **Sunday, June 7 (Feast of Pentecost – Trinity Sunday):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 8:45 am Divine Liturgy**
- 10:15 am Vespers – the Feast of the Holy Spirit (Kneeling Service)**
- 10:45 am High School Graduate Sunday Presentation**
- 11:30 am Hellenic Language Class**
- 12:30 pm Introduction to Orthodoxy Class (Final Class of Series)**

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