

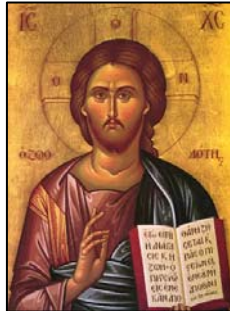


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 3, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE *THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA*, WE COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE MYRRH BEARING WOMEN (THEOTOKOS, MARY MAGDALENE, MARY, WIFE OF CLEOPAS, JOANNA, WIFE OF CHOUZA, SALOME, MOTHER OF THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE, MARY AND MARTHA, SISTERS OF LAZARUS, AND SUSANNA), AS WELL AS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, THE HIDDEN DISCIPLE, AND NICODEMUS, THE DISCIPLE WHO WENT TO THE LORD AT NIGHT. ON THIS DAY WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Martyrs Timothy and Mavra (+283), Xenia the Great Martyr of Kalamata (+306-316); Holy Martyrs Diodoros and Rodopianos the Deacon; Righteous Father Peter the Wonder Worker, Bishop of Argos (+950); Holy 27 Martyrs who died by fire; Oikoumenios, Bishop of Tricca; Righteous Luke; Father Theodosius, Abbot of Kiev Caves Lavra; Ahmet the Calligrapher & Martyr. *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.

DURING THE 40 DAYS FOLLOWING OUR LORD'S PASCHA/PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE, ORTHODOX FAITHFUL ARE ENCOURAGED TO GREET ONE ANOTHER UPON FIRST ENCOUNTER AS FOLLOWS:

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./11. Special Hymn for the Feast of Pascha (our Lord's passover from death to life):

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, He has trampled Death; and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of the Feast of Pascha, 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 - Second Tone (Today) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

Sung 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.

5. Hymn for Sunday of Myrrh Bearers – (Hymnal-pp.158-161):

Sung after the Small Entrance: The noble Joseph took Your most pure Body down from the tree. He wrapped it in clean linen, anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But on the third day, You rose, O Lord, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

6. Another Hymn for Myrrh Bearers Sunday– (Hymnal-pp.162-165):

Sung after the Small Entrance: The Angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the myrrh-bearing women: Myrrh would be fitting to anoint the dead, but Christ has shown Himself to be free from corruption. Therefore, proclaim that the Lord is risen, bestowing on all the world His great mercy.

7. 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.

8. Kontakion for Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

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.

9. 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. Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. Exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

10. 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 (Luke 5:14-19)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Epistle Reading (Acts 6:1-7)

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the

whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Gospel Reading (Mark 15:43-16:8)

Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph brought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

“Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.” (1 Chr. 16:10)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Last Sunday during Fr. George's Adult Religious Education Class, we discussed the following reflection following our Holy Week and Pascha shared experience. It is reproduced for those who were unable to join us so that together as a parish family, we can use it as we respond to our Risen Lord's gift to us in the weeks and months to come:

With Christ's Resurrection everything was made new again; everything was restored. From that point on, the question posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration. In the code language of Christianity, this call to participate is known by the term “repentance,” which . . . calls on us to make the effort to change by becoming new, through the process initiated by the events of Easter.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

From Facing the World: Orthodox Christian Essays on Global Concern, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press

On this the two hundred and sixty-ninth 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

Sunday, May 3 (Sunday of the Myrrhbearers):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Luncheon (Memorial Prayers will be offered for the servant of God, Nickolas Kazakos – beloved father of Angela Miles. Memorial Prayers also will be offered for the servant of God, Theodore Sarantis – beloved father of Steven Sarantis. A luncheon for all parishioners will be offered by both families. May their memory be eternal.

11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

12:30 pm Introduction to Orthodoxy Classes

1:30 PM – 6:00 pm Philoptochos Quilts for Soldiers Project

Friday, May 8 (Eve of Parish Name Day – please join us for worship on our Name Day):

6:00 pm Great Vespers Service

Saturday, May 9 (Parish Name Day – please join us for worship on our Name Day):

9:00 am Orthros Service

10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and all Orthodox Clergy/parishioners in Atlanta metro area.)

11:30 am Community Name Day Luncheon

Sunday, May 10 (Sunday of the Paralytic/Mother's Day):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Philoptochos Mother's Day Luncheon

11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

11:30 pm Hellenic Dance Practice

Wednesday, May 13 – Marriage Enrichment Seminar – Loving Your Wife,

Respecting Your Husband:

6:00 pm Come join our married couples and dress casually as Paula Marchman emphasizes successful traits and behaviors for our married families. Each couple is encouraged to bring a fasting food to share with one another for dinner. We will begin with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and conclude the program no later than 8:30 p.m.

Friday - Sunday, May 15-17 (Diakonia Retreat Center Volunteer Weekend):

Please telephone Fr. George, 770/381-1842 to share the names of your family members who will join us to offer simple yet needed volunteer work at our Metropolis Retreat Center. Families are encouraged to bring their children as we share fellowship and church services this weekend, including Sunday church services. There will be no services in Peachtree City on Sunday, May 17th, since Fr. George, the Parish Council, and our parishioners will all be in Salem, SC. We anticipate more than 50 of us there!

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!