

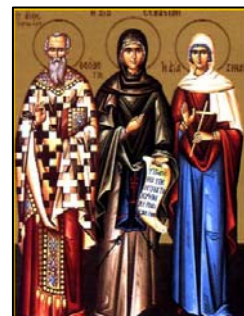
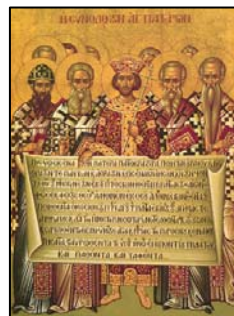
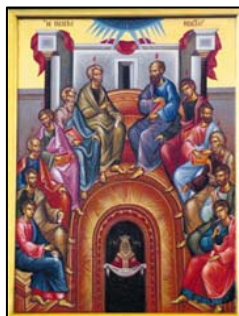
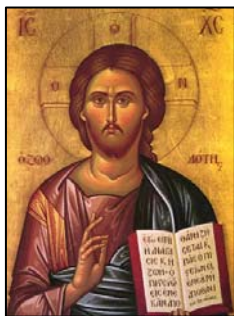


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

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

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

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Chancellor

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, June 7, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS PENTECOST, THE FIFTIETH DAY AFTER PASCHA. TODAY WE COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THE EPISTLE FOR THE FEAST. “THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”, THE COMFORTER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHO IS EVERYWHERE PRESENT AND FILLS ALL THINGS, AS THE BEAUTIFUL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH TO THE HOLY SPIRIT STATES. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council; Holy Priest-Martyr Theodotos of Ankyra (+303); Righteous Sebastiane; Holy Martyr Zenais the Wonderworker; Holy Women Esia and Sosanna, students of Pangratos, Bishop of Tavromenia; Holy Martyr Lykarion; Holy Martyrs Tarasios and John; Righteous Steven; and Righteous Anthimos. 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.

Take this Sunday Bulletin with you to *SHARE* with someone who is *not* here today.

From the Pentecostarion

Pentecost is the Greek word for "fifty," and it names today's Feast falling on the fiftieth day after Pascha. The day commemorates the events described in the Epistle for today's Feast, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere present and fills all things, as the beautiful prayer of the Church to the Holy Spirit states.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./3./5./11. Special Hymn Commemorating Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.172-173):

It is sung *after* the Doxology, *before* and *after* the Small Entrance, and *following the distribution of Holy Communion*.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made wise men of poor fishermen by sending down upon them Your Holy Spirit, and through them You caught the whole world. O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

2. Second Antiphon Today – (Hymnal-pp.28-29):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of the normal "Soson Imas": Save us, O Son of God, O Holy Counselor. We sing to You: Alleluia!"

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength! We will sing and chant the praise of Your might. O Holy Counselor, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!"

6. Hymn for Fathers of 2nd Ecumenical Council – (not in Hymnal):

O 150 divine and blessed hierarchs, interpreters, and counselors to the Second Ecumenical Council, who in wisdom preached the power of the Divine Spirit, deliver from harm and pain of heresy all who chant, “Glory to Him by Whom you became wondrous. Glory to Him by Whom you were magnified. Glory to Him Who, through you, confirmed the minds of the faithful.”

7. Kontakion for the Feast of Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.280-281):

When He came down and confused the tongues of men, the Most High divided the nations. But in sending forth parted tongues of flame, He called all mankind to unity, that with one accord we might glorify His all Holy Spirit.

8. Special Hymn instead of Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.292-293):

On the occasion of today’s feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: “As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)”

9. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.310-311):

Today, the following hymn is usually sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": You conceived and gave birth in virginity; the Word Who created all, through you became incarnate. O Mother who knew not man, Virgin Theotokos, the boundless One was held by you, the dwelling of your infinite Creator; we magnify you.

10. Communion Hymn for Feast of Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.322):

On the occasion of today’s feast, the following hymn is usually sung instead of “Aineite” or “Praise the Lord”: Let Your Good Spirit lead me along a path that is sure and straight. Alleluia. (Psalm 142[143]:10)

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 20:19-23)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After He said this, He

showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Epistle Reading (Acts 2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

Gospel Reading (John 7:37-52, 8:12)

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, He cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me, and let the one who believes in Me drink. As the Scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now He said this about the Spirit, which believers in Him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does He? Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” So there was a division in the crowd because of Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the temple

police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest Him?” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, which does not know the law — they are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.” Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

IF YOU WANT TO DEFEND CHRISTIANITY, PRACTICE IT!

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

“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

(continued from last week!)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Peace of Mind

Duke University did a study on “peace of mind.” Factors found to contribute greatly to emotional and mental stability are:

The absence of suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge was a major factor in unhappiness.

Not living in the past. An unwholesome preoccupation with old mistakes and failures leads to depression.

Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change. Cooperate with life, instead of trying to run away from it.

Force yourself to stay involved with the living world. Resist the temptation to withdraw and become reclusive during periods of emotional stress.

Refuse to indulge in self-pity when life hands you a raw deal. Accept the fact that nobody gets through life without some sorrow and misfortune.

Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues – love, humor, compassion and loyalty.

Do not expect too much of yourself. When there is too wide a gap between self-expectation and your ability to meet the goals you have set, feelings of inadequacy are inevitable.

Find something bigger than yourself to believe in. Self-centered egotistical people score lowest in any test for measuring happiness.

Message by His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for World Environment Day (June 5, 2009).

Today's World Environment Day is an opportunity as well as an invitation for all of us, irrespective of religious background, to consider the ecological crisis.

In our time, more than ever before, there is an undeniable obligation for all to understand that environmental concern for our planet does not comprise a romantic notion of the few. The ecological crisis, and particularly the reality of climate change, constitutes the greatest threat for every form of life in our world. Moreover, there is an immediate correlation between protection of the environment and every expression of economic and social life.

For our Orthodox Church, the protection of the environment as God's creation is the supreme responsibility of human beings, quite apart from any material or other financial benefits that it may bring. The almighty God bequeathed this "very beautiful" world (Gen. 1.26) to humanity together with the commandment to "serve and preserve" it. Yet, the direct correlation of this divine mandate for the protection of creation to every aspect of contemporary economic and social life, ultimately enhances the global effort to control the problem of climate change by effectively introducing the ecological dimension into every aspect of life.

With the opening of this third millennium, environmental issues – already evident since the 20th century – acquired a new intensity, coming to the forefront of daily attention. According to the theological understanding of the Orthodox Christian Church, the natural environment is part of Creation and is characterized by sacredness. This is why its abuse and destruction is a sacrilegious and sinful act, revealing prideful despise toward the work of God the Creator. Humanity, too, is part of this Creation. Our rational nature, as well as the capacity to choose between good and evil, bestow upon us certain privileges as well as clear responsibilities. Unfortunately, however, human history is filled with numerous examples of misuse of these privileges, where the use and preservation of natural resources has been transformed into irrational abuse and, often, complete destruction, leading occasionally to the downfall of great civilizations.

Indeed, the care for and protection of Creation constitutes the responsibility of everyone on an individual and collective level. Naturally, the political authorities of each nation have a greater responsibility to evaluate the situation in order to propose actions, measures and regulations that will convince our communities of what must be done and applied. Yet, the responsibility of each individual is also immense both in one's personal and family life but also in one's role as an active citizen.

Thus, we call everyone to a more acute sense of vigilance for the preservation of nature and all creation, which God made in all His wisdom and love. And,

from the See of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we invoke God's blessing for World Environment Day, offering praise to the Creator of all, to whom is due all glory, honor and worship.

On this the two hundred and seventy-fourth 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 8th Sunday of Pascha

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

7:45 am Orthros Service

8:45 am Divine Liturgy

10:15 am Vespers – 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 (Final Class of Series)

1:30 pm Religious Educators & Youth Workers Meeting

With Feast of Pentecost, fasting is suspended from Monday, June 8 – Saturday, June 13. Looking Ahead – Fast of the Holy Apostles – Monday, June 15 – Sunday, June 28.

Sunday, June 14 (Sunday of All Saints):

No Church Services in Peachtree City today. Fr. George and our Parish leadership will be attending the Biennial Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Assembly & Philoptochos Conference in Clearwater, Florida, from Thursday, June 11, - Sunday, June 14. We encourage you to attend services at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta.

8:15 am Orthros Service (Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta)

1:00 pm Philoptochos' "Sewing for Soldiers – Part 2" - Come join us at church in Peachtree City as we complete the remainder of the 14 quilts that we began in May. Seven quilts will go to the VA Hospital and seven will go to service families in need. Please bring your sewing machines if you have one and all other supplies will be provided. If you missed the first Sunday afternoon, we will teach you what to do - there is something for everyone - women and men! For further information, contact Presbytera Marinda Tshakis, 770/381-1842.

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!