



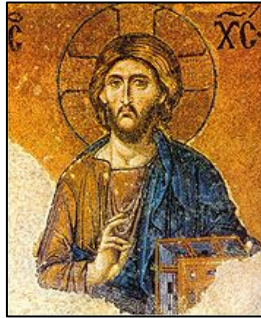
**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA**

*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, July 5, 2009**

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE our Righteous God-Bearing Father Athanasios of Mt. Athos (+1003); Righteous Father Lampados of Eirenople (10<sup>th</sup> cent.); the Recovery of the Holy Relics of our Righteous and God-Bearing Father Sergios, Abbot of Radonezh, the Wonderworker (who died in 1392 and whose Holy Relics were recovered in 1422); Righteous Kyprianos the New Martyr of Koutloumousiou Monastery (+1679, Mt. Athos); and the Synaxis of the 23 Martyrs of Lesbos. 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.*

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

### **1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

### **3. Festal Hymn for St. Athanasios of Athos – (not in Hymnal):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The ranks of Angels were amazed at your life in the flesh, O ever glorious, for how could you with a body enter into struggle with the unseen, and decidedly wound the phalanx of demons. Wherefore, O Athanasios, Christ rewarded you with bounteous gifts. O Father, intercede to Christ that our souls may be saved.

### **4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):**

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.

### **5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance:* O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

## **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 (Gal. 5:22-6:2)**

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. <sup>6</sup>My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

## **Gospel Reading (Matthew 8:5-13)**

<sup>5</sup>When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, appealing to Him <sup>6</sup>and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, “I will come and cure him.” <sup>8</sup>The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard him, He was amazed and said to those who followed Him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup>I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup>while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup>And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

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

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” (Mt. 21:22)

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

Have you ever wondered about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence? They were lawyers, judges, merchants, farmers and plantation owners mostly well-educated and prominent in their communities. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well what the price of failure would be. Many of them did pay the price - some were captured by the British, had their homes looted and burned, lost children and spouses, property and wealth.

There is a story about the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Though they were honorable men and dedicated to liberty, to sign the Declaration of Independence was treason, and the consequences of treason were torture and death. So the debate went on and on, with no

resolution in sight. At that point, an elderly man arose to speak, reminding them of all the tribulations that had brought them to this moment: *"They may turn every tree into a gallows, every hole into a grave, and yet the words of that declaration can never die. To the mechanic in the workshop, they will speak hope; to the slave in the mines, freedom. Sign it. Sign, even if the next moment the noose is around your neck, for it will be the textbook of freedom, the Bible of the rights of man forever."*

Moved by his eloquence, the delegates signed the Declaration of Independence. When they turned to thank him for his inspirational words, he was not to be found, nor could they find anyone who knew him or how he had come in or left through the locked and guarded doors.

By their courage and sacrifice, and the courage and sacrifice of many ordinary men and women, they bequeathed to us the precious gift of freedom. Sometimes it seems that we take all this for granted...and we shouldn't.

So, while we are enjoying our 4th of July holiday, let us take a few moments and give thanks to Almighty God who guided and inspired those brave men on that hot day in Philadelphia, *"to pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor"* in the cause of liberty and freedom.

*It's not much to ask, is it?*

On this the two hundred and seventy-seventh 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**

**Sunday, July 5 (4th Sunday of St. Matthew):**

7:30 a.m. *Orthros Service*

8:45 a.m. *40 Day Service of Churching - Melanie & Alexander Brantley Carter/Valerie & Isabella Maria Ellinas*

9:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship*

10:45a m. *Religious Education Classes*

11:30a.m. *Land/Building Finance Committee & Property Development Committee Combined Meeting*

**Saturday, July 11 (Greek Fest Baking Date - come join us!)**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Appetizer Preparation for Greek Fest – Spanakopites (All parishioners are invited to join us as we prepare Spanakopites for our 2009 Greek Fest. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until we finish (no later than 3:00 p.m.). Please bring a bag lunch and your pastry brushes and aprons. For further information or to volunteer, please telephone Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis, 770/381-1842.)*

**Sunday, July 12 (5th Sunday of St. Matthew):**

7:30 a.m. *Orthros Service*

9:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy/Baptism of Isabel Sophia Ballard*

10:15 a.m. *Ice Cream Sunday*

10:30a m. *Triple Baby Shower Sponsored by Philoptochos (Join our parishioners as we celebrate the newest and youngest members of our parish - Isabel Ballard (who will be six months at this date), Carson Nicholas Dobur (who will be three months at this date), and Sophia Miles (who will be two months at this date). Na Zisoun!)*

11:45 a.m. *Parish Council Meeting*

**Saturday, July 18 (Greek Fest Baking Date - come join us!)**

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Appetizer Preparation for Greek Fest – Tiropites (All parishioners are invited to join us as we prepare Tiropites for our 2009 Greek Fest. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until we finish (no later than 3:00 p.m.). Please bring a bag lunch and your pastry brushes and aprons. For further information or to volunteer, please telephone Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis, 770/381-1842.)*

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