



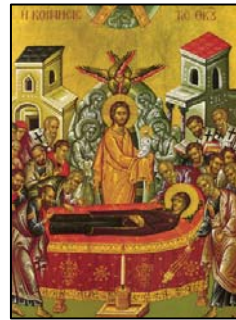
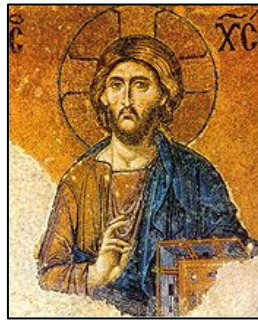
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 23, 2009

ON THIS DAY, THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY. THE CHURCH ALSO COMMEMORATES our Holy Priest-Martyr Ireneaus, Bishop of Lyons (+202); Holy Priest-Martyr Ireneaus, Bishop of Sirmios; Holy Father Kallinikos, Patriarch of Constantinople; Luppus the Martyr & Slave of St. Demetrios of Thessaloniki (+303-305); Righteous Father Nicholas of Sikelion; Righteous Father Dionysios of Olympus; and the 38 Martyrs of Thrace. *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./3. Hymn for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.222-223):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. In giving birth you remained a virgin, and in your dormition you did not forsake this world, O Theotokos. For as the Mother of Life, you have yourself passed into life. And by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung before and 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.

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 for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.288-289):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. She is our vigilant intercessor, the Theotokos, our sure hope and protection. Neither death nor tomb held any

power over her, for as the Mother of Life, she was taken into life by that very one who deigned to dwell in her ever virgin womb.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in New Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed..." All the generations, we praise you, the only Theotokos. The laws of nature have been overcome in you, O pure Virgin, for virginity remains after childbirth, and life becomes betrothed to death. You are a virgin after giving birth and alive after death, O Theotokos. You save your inheritance forever.

7. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.324):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "I will lift the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115[116]). 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 21:15-25)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to Him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten

a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this He said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to You? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to You?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 9:2-12)

²*If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk? ⁸Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? ⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹²If others*

share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 18:23-35)

Matt. 18:23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name’s sake.” (Psalm 79:9)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Last Sunday, we were blessed to have many of our youth and a large number of our adults present as I offered the Annual Blessing of the new education year 2009 - 2010 for our parish. With the petitions to God which I offered on everyone's behalf and with your affirming responses for our Lord to have mercy on our efforts, we received our Lord's blessings upon our ongoing Religious Education program as well as our HOPE, JOY, GOYA, and Hellenic Language and Dance programs the next twelve months. By implicit reference, ALL the ministries of our parish were blessed last Sunday, since through our Parish Council, Chantors, Choir, Altar Boys, Myrrh Bearers, Philoptochos, Bookstore, Newsletter, Outreach, GreekFest and many other indispensable ministries not noted here, **we are educating all of our youth and all of our adults on the "ways of the Lord" and encouraging one another to follow His teachings and commandments.** *"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name's sake."* (Psalm 79:9)

As your Priest and as one of the members of our Parish Council, I feel very fortunate and blessed that the officers and members of our Parish Council, as well as the ministry leaders of our Religious Education, Youth, and Hellenic Culture diakonias, and in fact, ALL of our ministry leaders, support and participate fully with the programs noted above. On behalf of you and myself, I commend each of them for sacrificing their personal time and offering their talents and blessings to support these essential ministries of our parish. A couple of Sundays ago, we met and prioritized our calendar for the 2009-2010 year and it is available for your personal review and future calendar planning at <http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org/index.php?pr=Calendar>. Finally, I thank each of you for your ongoing participation, ideas, and encouragement as we share together the ministry of our Lord's Church of St. Christopher in Peachtree City, GA with one another and all those God sends our way! Glory to God always!

On this the two hundred and eighty-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

Sunday, August 23 (11th Sunday of St. Matthew)

7:45 a.m. *Orthros Service*

9:00 a.m. *Divine Liturgy/40-Day Memorial Service for Andromache Poulos (beloved grandmother of Angela Miles). We thank Angela and Rick Miles for offering the special coffee fellowship reception in her memory.*

10:45 a.m. *Religious Education Classes*

11:30 a.m. *GOYA Meeting*

Saturday, August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist - Strict Fast Day)

7:45 a.m. *Orthros Service*

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

10:30 a.m. *Greek Fest Baking - Kourambiedes*

Sunday, August 30 (12th Sunday of St. Matthew)

7:45 a.m. *Orthros Service*

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

10:45 a.m. *Religious Education Classes*

Monday, August 31 (Eve of New Ecclesiastical Year on September 1st)

7:00 p.m. *Vespers for the Protection of the Environment* - Join us as we offer prayers of supplication to our loving God and Savior Jesus Christ for the protection of the environment and stability in all creation. This service is in preparation for the new ecclesiastical year, September 1st, when our world-leader, His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew has asked us to pray for the environment on this occasion.

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!