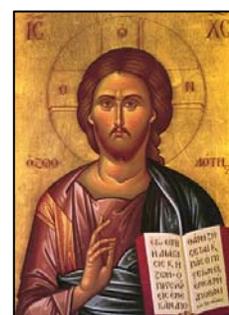




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
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, April 21, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE *FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT*, WE COMMEMORATE our Righteous Mother, St. Mary of Egypt (522 – *SEE TRIODION INSERT ON NEXT PAGE & FR. GEORGE'S REFLECTION*). WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Holy Priest-Martyr Januarius and Those with Him (+305); Holy Father Maximian, Patriarch of Constantinople and Righteous Father Anastasios of Sinai (+685); Theodore the Holy Martyr & His Mother Philippa of Perge (+183-161); Alexandra the Martyr (wife of Diocletian) (+303); Holy Martyrs Apollo, Issakios, and Kodratos. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our 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.

TODAY'S Spiritual Theme for the 5th Sunday of Great Lent:

On this *Fifth Sunday of Lent*, the Church commemorates *St. Mary of Egypt*, so that her example of sincere repentance and great virtues may strengthen the slothful and urge sinners to atone for their sins.

THIS WEDNESDAY – Tying of Palm Crosses:

This coming Saturday, we join His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios for the Consecration Service of Transfiguration Church in Marietta. Since this is also the Saturday of Lazarus, we will offer our parish's tying of palm crosses to be used on Palm Sunday after Wednesday's dinner and lenten program – at 7:30 p.m. *Everyone is invited to join us for this cherished family tradition.*

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *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.

3. Hymn for St. Mary of Egypt – (Hymnal-pp.140-142):

This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance: In you, holy mother Mary, the image of God shone forth, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh. Therefore your spirit rejoices with the angels forever.

4. 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.

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.

6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::

On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p>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</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)

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.

Epistle Reading (Hebrews 9:11-14)

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

Gospel Reading (Mark 10:32-45)

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death; then they will hand Him over to the Gentiles; they will mock Him, and spit upon Him, and flog Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise again." James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." And He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink You will drink; and the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you..."
(James 4: 7-8)



Helping Hands of Love

April, 2013

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology,
Brookline, MA

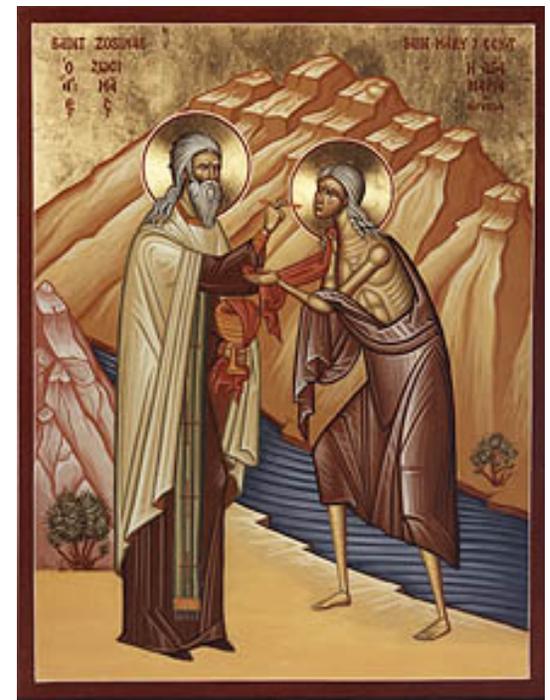
*(our graduate theological school that trains our clergy
and lay teachers and church workers)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

St. Mary of Egypt

The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Once, during Great Lent, a certain Priest-Monk named Zosimos, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan, a twenty-day trek. Suddenly, he caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body whose hair was as white as snow and who began to flee from the sight of Zosimos. The elder ran for a long while until this person crouched down in a brook and cried out: "Abba Zosimos forgive me for the sake of the Lord. I cannot face you for I am a naked woman." Zosimos then tossed his outer garment to her which she wrapped around herself and then showed herself to him. The elder was frightened upon hearing his name spoken from

the mouth of this woman he did not know. Following his prolonged insistence, the woman related her life story. She was born in Egypt and at the age of twelve began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria where she spent seventeen years in this perverted way of life. Driven by the adulterous flame of the flesh, one day she boarded a boat which was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City of Jerusalem, she wanted to enter the Church in order to venerate the Honorable Cross but some invisible force restrained her and prevented her from entering the church. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the All-Holy Mother of God in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross, all the while confessing her sinfulness and uncleanness and promising that she would go wherever the All-Pure One would direct her. She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!" Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan River. She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She fed on vegetation. Afterward, when she stood for prayer, Zosimos saw her levitate in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the following year on the shore of the Jordan where she would then come to receive it. The following year, Zosimos arrived on the shore of



the Jordan in the evening with Holy Communion. He wondered how this saint would cross the Jordan. At that moment, in the light of the moon, he saw her as she approached the river, made the sign of the cross over it and walked upon the water as though upon dry land. After Zosimos administered Holy Communion to her, she begged him to come the following year to the same brook where they had first met. Zosimos came and discovered her lifeless body on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zosimos, bury the body of the humble Mary on this site; render dust to dust. I died on April 1, the same night of the saving-suffering of Christ, after having received Communion of the Divine Mysteries." From this inscription Zosimos first learned her name and the other and awesome miracle was that, she, on that same night the previous year, when she received Holy Communion, arrived at this brook which took him twenty days to travel. Thus, Zosimos buried the body of this wonderful saint, Mary the Egyptian. When he returned to the monastery, Zosimos related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify repentant sinners. In addition to April 1st, the day of her repose, St. Mary is also commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D. *[Adapted from The Prologue by Ochrid]*



For information on scheduled Holy Week and Easter Services, visit the parish's website at www.saintchristopherhoc.org.

Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

Next Sunday, April 28, 2012

Immediately following the Distribution of Palms – Join us!

And on this the four hundred and fifty-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

Today is the 5th Sunday of Great & Holy Lent

Sunday, April 21 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting/GOYA Meeting

Wednesday, April 24 (5th Wednesday of Great Lent):

- 5:00 p.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy
- 6:15 p.m. Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program (*Please bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series that concludes each Wednesday by 7:30 p.m. We will focus on the book, "Turning the Heart to God" – chapters 12-14. You & your family are encouraged to attend.*)
- 7:30 p.m. Tying of Palm Crosses (*everyone invited*)

Thursday, April 25:

- Afternoon Holy Confession by Appointment
- 6:30 p.m. – Choir Practice

Friday, April 26:

- 7:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Reception of the Holy Relics of the Martyrs (Marietta), followed by a lenten reception (no charge)

Saturday, April 27 (Saturday of Lazarus):

- 8:00 a.m. Orthros Service (Marietta)
- 9:00 a.m. Consecration followed by Divine Liturgy (Marietta) & lunch (*purchase tickets ahead of time for luncheon*)

Sunday, April 28 (Palm Sunday):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service, followed by Blessing of Palms
- Afternoon Holy Confession by Appointment
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, Distribution of Palms, Palm Sunday Luncheon
- 6:30 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!