

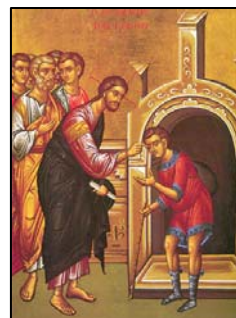
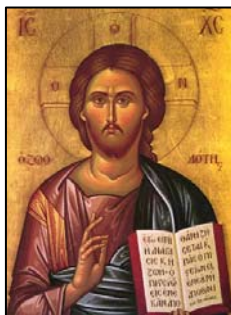


Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

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, May 9, 2010

ON THIS DAY, THE *SIXTH* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *the Holy, Glorious, Prophet Isaiah (742-700 B.C.) and Holy Martyr Christopher (+255), whose name our parish bears. We also remember the Holy Martyrs Epimachos and Gordianos; Holy Martyrs Kallinike and Aquilina, who through St. Christopher believed in Christ; and Priest-Martyr Nicholas the Younger of Bouneni. In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome to Bishop John of Amorion TODAY:

This morning, we welcome His Grace Bishop John of Amorion to our parish, along with all of our guests and parishioners as we celebrate our Parish's Name Day and Mother's Day. We are offering a special brunch in honor of our Name Day and Mother's Day following our church services. *There is no charge – we hope everyone will feel welcome and join us.* As communicated earlier this week, Metropolitan Alexios asked Fr. George to join him and the special clergy delegation from Greece in Charlotte, NC this morning and Fr. George deeply regrets he cannot be present with you on this splendid occasion. You are in his prayers and he joins Bishop John in congratulating our parishioners and mothers.

We hope you will join us on May 23rd for church services, followed by our "Mortgage Burning" at 10:30 a.m. and our "Lamb Chop Luncheon" (at no charge) at 11:00 a.m. in the PeachCity Event Center next door. If you know of any friends or relatives who were planning to attend this celebration this Sunday, please update them with our new date of May 23rd!

Again, Fr. George deeply thanks our parish leadership and parishioners for their kind understanding with this "last minute" change of schedule. While he will be away in Charlotte, NC all weekend, he is most thankful to our Risen Lord for our first Parish Name Day that falls on a Sunday, for this special day honoring all our mothers, and for each of you. We look forward to resuming our normal schedule after this weekend. Finally, Fr. George extends his warm welcome and respect to His Grace Bishop John for joining us today and for offering our church services in Fr. George's absence. May our Risen Lord grant His Grace "Many More Years!"

May our Lord grant His Grace many more years!

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.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

WISDOM OFFERED

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." (Proverbs 3:5) Trust in the Lord with all your heart. He has up to now delivered you times without number from your own understanding, from its illusion and falsehood and from the dangers into which it has led you. As a blind man before one with clear sight, so is your understanding before the understanding of God. Entrust yourself, a blind man, to your Guide. Trust in the Lord, and in Him alone, with all your heart!

(from The Ochrid)

Weekday Service This Week

We invite you to join us this Wednesday evening (May 12th) to celebrate the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord on its Eve – Orthros at 6:00 p.m. & Divine Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring non-fasting food to share for dinner fellowship.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (see music distributed):

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 Clergy:

On the occasion of the Paschal period, 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 (Plagal of 1ST) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *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.

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung in both Greek and English 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.

6. Kontakion of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

It is 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.

7. 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. Rejoice and exult, sacred gate of the Light, for Jesus Who went down into the grave has dawned again, O God-favored Lady, shining more brightly than the sun, and filling all the faithful with light.

8. 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

Epistle Reading (Acts 16:16-34)

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer

called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
³¹They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)

As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT IT TO MEMORY):

Related to today's Gospel theme of "blindness" (1 John 2:11): "But whoever hates another believer is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness."

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



The relationship between mothers and their first-born child is absolutely unique. Think about this: on the day a first child is born, *two* birthdays are established and should be celebrated.

First, it is, of course, the birthday for the new child.

But, it is also the birthday of another new person: a mother.

The moment a child is born, which in medical terms is called "parturition," a mother is born also.

Mother's Day is indeed a birthday celebration. A mother is born at childbirth.

The baby Jesus "gave birth" to the Theotokos – Mary, the Mother of God, just as she gave birth to baby Jesus. Two new, miraculous creations emerged out of one event. Indeed, with every birth, two new lives are born – a baby, who is wholly without worries, and a mother, who will never again be without worry.

There is nothing else like feeling the wonder of new life coming from within. Ask any new mother, who has been transformed into a wholly new being by the arrival of one tiny new being.

This morning, we celebrate an important, albeit often unnoticed birthday: the birthday of a new creation that issues from the flowing waters of new life – the birthday of mothers at childbirth. GLORY TO GOD!

Rejoice, Bride of God, who carried in your womb the healer of the human race. Rejoice, O mystical rod that blossomed the flower that will never wilt. Rejoice, O Lady, through whom we are filled with joy and inherited eternal life. Most holy Theotokos, intercede to God for us. Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers!

We congratulate each of our mothers to our parish this morning and the support that you provide them each day! Likewise, on this day when we celebrate our Name Day, I thank each of you for your support and encouragement in growing and maintaining our parish. If you are visiting, we trust you will enjoy your visit with us. Please take time to get to know us and take advantage of the resources which are available to assist you in your spiritual life.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ came as God's gift to the world. He came with a message of Good News. In believing and obeying His message, we discover real life and a promise of life eternal.

If you are looking for a church home, I invite you to worship with us. We have a variety of ministries to serve children, youth and adults. I believe you will find our parish to be a warm, friendly place where you can grow in your faith and discover more of God's plan for your life. We look forward to having you worship with us!

The Mission of our parish is to renew and share the Orthodox Christian Faith to all who join us by nurturing a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ within His Church, by reaching out to inactive Orthodox Christians and to the un-churched, and by meeting the needs of those inquiring about the Orthodox faith. As Archbishop Demetrios has said, *"It is the Parish, it is the local community which has been, is, and will forever be the central, indispensable agent for offering our Orthodox faith to contemporary America ."* We seek to answer that vocation by providing a loving, caring, and welcoming environment that encourages all visitors and parishioners to grow in the Orthodox faith through worship, service, witness, and fellowship.

As the presence of the Universal Church , our parish is called to witness to those within and those outside the community of believers. We seek to respond to the great responsibility our Lord gave us in Matthew 28:18-20 - the Great Commission - to share it with all people. *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

On behalf of St. Christopher Church, I invite you and your family to join us often and grow in the love of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please visit our website for further information on the Orthodox faith and our ministries (www.saintchristopherhoc.org) and always feel free to contact me to

answer any questions. Our web calendar is updated regularly, and additional resources also are being added, so please check back often.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26) *May God bless you and your family always.*

Faithfully yours,

+Fr. George Tsahakis

And on this the three hundred and eighteenth 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 6th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday, May 9 (Sunday of the Blind Man/Name Day of Parish/Mother's Day):

9:00 am Divine Liturgy, with Bishop John of Amorion officiating

10:30 am Parish Name Day & Mother's Day Brunch (*everyone is invited*)

Wednesday, May 12 (Eve of the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord):

6:00 pm Orthros Service (Evening)

**7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Evening), followed by Community Dinner
(non-fasting)**

Sunday, May 16 (Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception

10:45 am Religious Education classes – for youth and adults

11:30 am GOYA Meeting

11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!