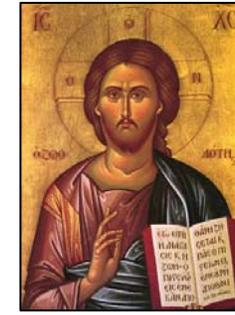




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, June 29, 2014

ON THIS DAY, WE COMMEMORATE the Holy Glorious and All-famed Chiefs among the Apostles, Peter and Paul. 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.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./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.

3. Hymn for Saints Peter and Paul – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. First in honor of the Apostles, and teachers of the world, O pray to Him Who is master of all to grant to the world peace, and to our souls, grant the Great Mercy.

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.

6. Communion Hymn – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "Their proclamation has gone out to all the earth, their words to the limits of the universe. (Psalm 18[19]) Alleluia. (3)"

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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 (2nd Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9)

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone dares to boast of — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman — I am a better one: with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be He forever!) knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows — was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a

thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 16:13-19)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

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

“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13)

And on this *the five hundred and sixteenth* 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, June 29th (Apostles Peter & Paul):

9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Note earlier starting time)

9:30 am Fr. George will be away from Atlanta until July 13th

Sunday, July 6 (Attend Services at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta)

Sunday, July 13th (Service Schedule Resumes as Normal – check website)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



Thoughts on American Independence Day

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!

Thomas Jefferson



Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!

*Samuel F. Smith, America
(My Country, 'Tis of Thee)*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

*Abraham Lincoln
The Gettysburg Address, 1863*

In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.

John F. Kennedy

So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

Martin Luther King, Jr.





And I'm proud to be an American,
where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died,
who gave that right to me.

Lee Greenwood

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never
had it taken from you.

Dick Cheney

Freedom is never free.

Author Unknown

Prayer from the Doxology on the Fourth of July:

O Lord, our God, You hold together the universe by Your power, and by Your divine and almighty will You govern the world; You created from one blood all nations of mankind that inhabit the face of the earth, and have assigned to each its boundaries; You have conferred special blessings on this our country America, and helped it develop into the foremost nation of the world, a true champion of freedom and democracy, and the haven for the oppressed and those who look for the opportunity to live in dignity. You kept it free for more than two centuries by Your divine grace, and You

preserved and saved it through many wars and world upheavals.

*Do You, Yourself, all-holy Master,
accept our prayers of thanksgiving
for our country America. Give rest
to the souls of your fathers,
mothers, brothers, and sisters who
nobly fought and gloriously died for*



God Bless America

*its freedom. Make us all worthy of freedom and aware of the
responsibilities that flow there from, preserve us in peace
and concord, and guide us to every good work that is
pleasing to You. Give steadfastness to every authority and
power in the nation and make them favorably and well-
disposed towards the God-given rights of all Your people.*

*For You are the prince of peace and the Savior of our souls,
and to You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of
ages. Amen.*

***(On behalf of our parish, Fr. George thanks our LORD for our
freedom and prays we all have safe travels on 7/4 and always.)***