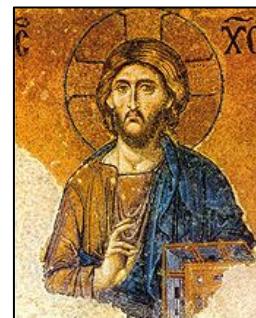




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, June 27, 2010

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE our Righteous Father Sampson the Innkeeper of Constantinople (6<sup>th</sup> cent.); Joanna the Myrrhbearer (1<sup>st</sup> cent.); Holy Martyr Anektos; and Luke the Hermit. *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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

### **3. 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.

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

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: O unflinching 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**

<p><i>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.</i> – St. John Chrysostom</p>
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### **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)**

*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. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has*

*appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

**Regular Epistle Reading for Today (Romans 10:1-10)**

*Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I can testify that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.*

**Regular Gospel Reading for Today (Matthew 8:28-9:1)**

*When He came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met Him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, "What have You to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged Him, "If You cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And after getting into a boat He crossed the sea and came to His own town.*

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

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (*Psalms 51:10*)

**ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS’ JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> ENCYCLICAL:**

*Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

On this annual observance of Independence Day, we give thanks to God for the spiritual freedom we have in Christ and for the freedom we have in this nation in which we live. As people of faith we are recipients of the grace of God, which frees us from the bondage of sin and death and enables our ascent to restoration and eternal communion with Him. As citizens and residents in the United States of America, we are beneficiaries of a form of government that recognizes both the political and social freedoms inherent to each of us as human beings.

One of these freedoms is religious liberty. Over two centuries ago, many of the framers of our political system realized that this was a necessity for the stability and function of the new government and that it was a right belonging to all in relation to freedom of conscience and the pursuit of truth. In the process of establishing the new nation, it was apparent to the framers that the country had many different religious groups. They were well aware of the dangers of adjoining one religious tradition with the power of the state. These modes of governance that were based on coercion often resulting in oppression and exclusion, had led many to leave their homelands and come to America. The framers also believed that freedom of conscience expressed in religious belief, speech, and association was not a threat but a right of each and every person and should be protected from the power of government. None of this was an attempt to inhibit the vitality of religion, as in fact many of the framers recognized the moral and communal role of religious faith in contributing to a strong citizenry. The primary motivation was religious liberty—the freedom of each and every person to choose, to believe, to practice, and to offer and share with others without fear of the interference or oppression of government.

As Orthodox Christians living in this nation, we have and continue to share in this freedom. We gather as communities, worship and minister freely, build churches and schools, and share our faith with others. In addition to our faithfulness to God and our determination to cherish and share what He has given us, religious liberty has contributed to the vitality of Orthodox Christianity in America. May we give thanks for this, and may

we use our freedom as an opportunity to participate fully in our faith and to share the Gospel with all.

May we also be mindful of those who labor for faith and ministry within societies that have a problem with religious liberty either as a right or as an essential element of a free society. This is the political context that continues to challenge and heavily press our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate and especially His All Holiness our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Governments, commissions, and world leaders have addressed these issues and continue to champion the necessity of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. However, more must be done.

As Orthodox Christians in America and as beneficiaries of religious liberty, many of you have offered warm prayers and precious services to our Ecumenical Patriarchate recognizing its needs as well as the importance of religious freedom. I give thanks to God for your precious contribution and pray for His continued guidance and strength in these efforts. Let all of our faithful throughout the United States, all of us who live in a free society and cherish religious liberty, pray and continue to increase our assistance. Now is a critical time to voice our support, to encourage leaders in government, and to guide awareness into action. May we do this in gratitude for the freedom we have, for the sake of the Church and the Gospel which we are called to share, and for the glory of God.

With paternal love in Christ,  
†DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America

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

*(Today, Fr. George will offer the "Doxology for July 4<sup>th</sup>." The following prayer is part of this short service and offers us a wonderful means to reflect on the blessings our Lord has given our great country – The United States of America. Please share this prayer with your family and friends, and encourage them to take time as a family on July 4<sup>th</sup> to give thanks to God for His countless blessings on us and the land we have been entrusted.)*

*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 humankind 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 a 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 our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters who nobly fought and gloriously died for its freedom. Make us all worthy of freedom and aware of the responsibilities that flow thereto; 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.*

And on this the three hundred and twenty-fifth 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**

*Fast of the Apostles continues through June 28<sup>th</sup>*

### **Sunday, June 27 (Fifth Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Doxology for July 4<sup>th</sup>/Coffee Fellowship**

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes**

**11:30 am RSVP Deadline to Fr. George for Spiritual Nature Walk on 7/10/10** (Check payable to Church for \$15, which includes \$10 park entry fee and \$5 for lunch that will be provided.)

**11:30 am Greek Fest Meeting (entire parish invited to join us)**

**11:30 am Building Fundraising Committee "Make-Up Session"** (Conf. Rm.)

*For those who could not join us for our "Mortgage Burning Event" on Pentecost, May 23rd, Costas Soulakos, Building Fundraising Chairman will offer a "make-up" session of his Powerpoint Presentation outlining the progress we have shared to date and our goals for our newly-paid property's development. The session will be in the Conference Room following Religious Education classes. For further information, contact Costas Soulakos, 770/757-3859.*

### **Monday, June 28 (Eve of Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul the Holy Apostles):**

**6:00 pm Orthros Service (Evening)**

**7:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Evening)**

**8:15 pm Community Dinner (*Please bring non-fasting food. Note; we end our Apostles Fast at the conclusion of church services tonight.*)**

**Thursday, July 1:**

**7:00 pm Choir Practice**

**Saturday, July 3:**

**TBA Peachtree City's "4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade" – join us and encourage our St. Christopher Church float entry in this annual parade. *For further information, contact Tammy Soulakos, 770/487-1004.***

**Sunday, July 4 (Sixth Sunday of St. Matthew/Independence Day):**

*Church Services at Atlanta Cathedral today in commemoration of the Clergy Laity Congress that is taking place in Atlanta, from Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will preside, and he will be joined by the Patriarchal Representative, and the Metropolitans and Chancellors of the Archdiocese, along with selected Senior Clergy. Following church services, a festive luncheon and concert will be held in the Hellenic Community Center. The Cathedral Orchestra will provide patriotic entertainment while everyone dines on delicious pit-cooked barbeque with all the fixings Special activities for children. Donation: \$20 for Adults & \$10 for Children – 12 & under.*

8:30 a.m. Orthros

9:30 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy/Reception

**Thursday, July 8:**

**7:00 pm Choir Practice**

**Saturday, July 10:**

**10:00 am Spiritual Nature Walk - RSVP Deadline to Fr. George for Spiritual Nature Walk by 6/27/10 (*Check payable to Church for \$15, which includes \$10 park entry fee and \$5 for lunch that will be provided.*)**

**Sunday, July 11 (Seventh Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – Emanuel Ellinas (5 Years) & Sylvia Ellinas (40 Days)/Coffee Fellowship**

**11:45 am Parish Council Meeting**

**3:00 pm Wedding - Nicholas & Ashley Kristina invite our parishioners to join them as Fr. George offers them the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.**

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