



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

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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, July 27, 2014

ON THIS DAY, THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon (+305); St. Nicholas of Novgorod, the fool-for-Christ; Anthoussa the Righteous Confessor; 153 Martyrs of Thrace who were drowned; Manuel the Righteous; and New Martyr Christodoulos. *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 DURING DIVINE LITURGY

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 2nd Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

3. Hymn of St. Panteleimon – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O victorious Healer, Saint Panteleimon, intercede to merciful God to grant forgiveness to our souls.

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 Feast of Transfiguration – (Hymnal-pp.284-287):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your disciples as much of Your glory as they could bear, so that when they see You crucified they will know that You suffer freely, and they will tell all the world that You are truly the radiance of the Father.

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 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading (2 Tim. 2:1-10)

2You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; ²and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. ³Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier’s aim is to please the enlisting officer. ⁵And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. ⁶It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things. ⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 9:27-35)

²⁷As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” ²⁸When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to

do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹Then He touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” ³⁰And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” ³¹But they went away and spread the news about Him throughout that district. ³²After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to Him. ³³And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.” ³⁴But the Pharisees said, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out the demons.” ³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

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

“Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed.”

(1 Peter 1:13)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Each day, we have an opportunity to manage our *time* in a way that is either “task-oriented” or as “a gift from God.” Without realizing it, we daily confront exciting intersections of “holy” time and “work” time. Simply put, I challenge you to contrast “getting something done” versus “spending time with people.” Consider the wonderful opportunity we gain when we surrender and allow God to give us new and beneficial insights in our unique and unexpected daily experiences.

Much of our focus in the Church is oriented to offering our time and talents to God for the benefit of His Kingdom and sharing His salvation with all we encounter. While we seek to make the world a place where our children are safe and our neighbors have the dignity of human rights,

we likewise strive to make our world peaceful and free of disease or hunger.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to remember that before we can *act*, we must open ourselves *to be acted upon*. The God of our salvation is the God of the Exodus, the God of the Cross, and the God of the Resurrection – acting in unimaginable ways in creation for our benefit.

Let us identify with Jesus' Disciples who needed to spend time with Him. We also can identify with the crowds coming to see Jesus the miracle worker. As Christians, we should realize that God gives us enough time to pray, enough time to work, enough time to play, enough time to reflect, and enough time to *just be*. In short, we all can claim the benefit of some "Jesus time."

When we draw apart from the demands of the world and claim the time God gives us, then we begin to understand what the crowds sought in Jesus. When we serve in our Lord's Holy Church and when we claim and witness God's love and presence in our lives, then His blessings pour forth in miraculous ways. Let us learn to claim the blessings that God has given us . . . *in His time* and *not* simply in hours, minutes, and seconds.

***"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in all ways.
The Lord be with all of you."** (2 Thess. 3:16)*



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this *the five hundred and nineteenth* 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, July 27th (7th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 am Orthros Service
9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am Let's EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009,
Fayetteville, GA 30214. It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all!

Thursday, July 31st:

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday, August 1st:

6:00 pm Paraklesis Service (*we will pray for the health and welfare of all*)

Sunday, August 3rd (8th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 am Orthros Service
9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
11:45 am Parish Council Meeting

Fast – Dormition of the Theotokos – August 1st – 14th

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

St. Christopher Philoptochos is hosting an **emergency** food drive for:

Wellspring Girls' Pantry

Bring in nonperishable food and personal care items on
Today and next Sunday, August 3rd

***For more information,
Call Dedee Panayis 817-690-6610***

[As we begin our August lenten period, let us pray for all those in need throughout our world during our Paraklesis Services. This week, Fr. George wishes to give emphasis to the Christians in Iraq who are suffering and fleeing from unspeakable persecutions. "Lord, have mercy."]

Purged by ISIS, Iraq's Christians Appeal to World for Help

Published July 23, 2014

Iraqi Christians are begging for help from the civilized world after Mosul, the northern city where they have lived and worshiped for 2,000 years, was purged of non-Muslims by ISIS, the jihadist terror group that claims to have established its own nation in the region.

Assyrian Christians, including Chaldean and Syriac Catholics, Syriac Orthodox and followers of the Assyrian Church of the East have roots in present day Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran that stretch back to the time of Jesus Christ. While they have long been a minority and have faced persecution in the past, they had never been driven completely from their homes as has happened in Mosul under ISIS. When the terror group ordered all to convert to Islam, pay a religious tax or face execution, many chose another option: flight.

"By 12 noon on Saturday, the Christians -- all of them -- left the city," Yousif Habash, an Iraqi-born bishop of the Syriac Catholic Church, told FoxNews.com.

Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, included 60,000 Christians in 2003. By last month, the number had dwindled to just 35,000. It now stands at zero, according to Ignatius Yousef Younan III, patriarch of the Syrian Catholic Church.

"We have to pray to wake our master, the Lord Jesus," a somber Younan, who was in Mosul earlier this month and has discussed the situation with the Pope, said Wednesday on Fox & Friends.

Habash, who roundly criticized the Obama administration and the United Nations, specifically, for what he called their "careless absence" in taking action against the militants, said such violent intolerance demanded action from the international community.

"Where is the conscience of the world? Where is the United Nations? Where is the American administration to protect peace and justice?" he asked. "Nobody has said a word."

Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, is the "first cradle of Christianity in Iraq," Habash said. But after Islamic militants seized the city on June 10, Arabic letters with a chilling ultimatum were left at the homes of Iraqi Christians.

“The letter said that if you don't convert or if you don't pay, there is a sword between you and us, meaning execution,” Habash said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki condemned ISIS's actions on Sunday, a day after Mosul's Christian population fled to other areas, such as the nearby self-rule Kurdish region.

“What is being done by the Daesh terrorist gang against our Christian citizens in Ninevah province, and their aggression against the churches and houses of worship in the areas under their control reveals beyond any doubt the extremist criminal and terrorist nature of this group,” al-Maliki said in a statement released by his office. “Those people, through their crimes, are revealing their true identity and the false allegations made here and there about the existence of revolutionaries among their ranks.”

Pope Francis also called for an end to Christian persecution in Mosul, holding a moment of silence Sunday in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

“Violence isn't overcome with violence. Violence is conquered with peace,” the pope told the crowd. “Our brothers and sisters are persecuted, they are chased away.”

The U.N. said on Sunday that at least 400 families from Mosul -- including other religious and ethnic minority groups -- had sought refuge in the northern provinces of Irbil and Dohuk.

Dr. Sallama Al Khafaji, a member of the Iraq High Commission for Human Rights, reportedly told a local news agency that ISIS militants forced their way into the home of an Assyrian family in Mosul, demanding a “jizya” or poll tax. When the family said they could not produce the money, three jihadist militants raped the mother and daughter in front of the husband and father, who later committed suicide, according to the report.

Mosul is home to some of the most ancient Christian communities, but the number of Christians has dwindled since 2003. On Sunday, militants seized the 1,800-year old Mar Behnam Monastery, about 15 miles south of Mosul. The resident clergymen fled to the nearby city of Qaraqoush, according to local residents.

Irbil's governor, Nawzad Hadi, has pledged to protect fleeing Christians and other minority groups. The territory is currently home to more than 2 million refugees and internally displaced people from Iraq and Syria, according to the United Nations.

Prayer Requests for Dormition of the Theotokos Fast
August 1 – 14, 2014

Names of the LIVING

(Please print names of those you wish Fr. George to pray for during our August Paraklesis Services on August 1, 4, 8, 11, & 13, and give to Fr. George.)

“We pray for mercy, life, health, peace, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of sins, of the servants of God...”

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(Name of Family Submitting List)