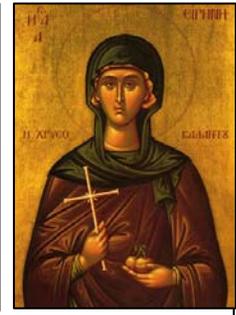
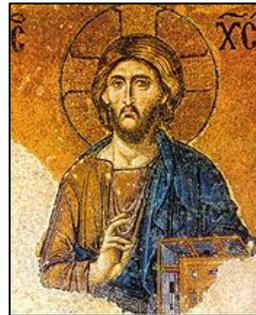




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
*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, July 28, 2013**

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon & Parmenas the Apostles and Deacons of the 70 (1<sup>st</sup> cent.); Irene the Righteous of Chrysovalantou (9<sup>th</sup> cent.); Righteous Father Paul of Xeropotamos, Mt. Athos (+820); Holy Martyr Efstathios of Ankara; Holy Martyr Akakios and the remembrance of the Consecration of the Church of the Most Holy Theotokos in Diakonissa; and Holy Martyr Drosis. *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 (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 for 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 (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.*

### **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.*

### **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.” *(Psalm 51:10)*



**Hands of Love  
Collection  
July, 2013**

Fayette County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

*We will be collecting gift cards (for Target, Wal-Mart, T.J. Maxx)  
& monetary donations.*

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

*“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3)*

Bickering. Backbiting. Selfishness. Grudges. Fighting over things that don't matter with family and friends — even in the church.

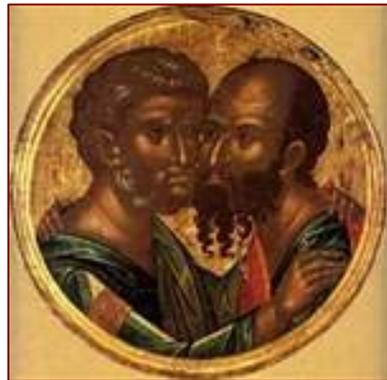
Disagreements happen. Arguments are inevitable. But our calling from God is to *oneness* — to unity with brothers and sisters in the Lord. Perhaps that is why King David wrote Psalm 133 above for his many sons, to instruct them and encourage them to dwell together in harmony. His admonition goes beyond simply not quarreling . . . it challenges us to a much deeper depth of relationship — *delighting in one another*.

The precious holy oil used in anointing that King David references, was strongly perfumed. The fragrance would have been pleasant and refreshing to everyone nearby. In the same way, the aroma of getting along with, and honoring, other Christian brothers and sisters, brings joyful blessing to those who see our love for one another.

It is interesting that when Jesus prayed for us in His great High Priestly prayer in John 17, He acknowledged that the world would hate those who trust and believe in Him. The clear message is that life would be hard — and requires us even to battle the “evil one”.

But in verse 21, He asks His Father “*that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in Me and I am in You, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.*” (John 17:21) Jesus understood that unity among His children would be a reality that convinces the unbelieving world of who He truly is — the Son of God.

Imagine the world if the following were reality: “To a true child of God, the invisible bond that unites all believers to Christ is tender, lasting, and precious. As we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother or sister, in a sense that is infinitely higher than all human relationships. This is the one and only way to bring the Disciples of Christ permanently together – to promote unity within His Holy Body.”



Differences in our backgrounds and personalities frequently cause us not to get along with everyone. That will happen. However, as the Apostle Paul addresses in Romans 12:18: “*If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*” Simply stated, let us press through the hard times with one another in a spirit of peace.

God always gives us windows to restore our broken and damaged relationships. Let us watch for them and, “. . . *whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*” (Galatians 6:10)

*Through a spirit of harmony . . . unity . . . accord – we CAN  
turn our life around. Amen!*



*Today, July 28<sup>th</sup> ...*

## **Lunch & Community Outing to Atlanta Botanical Garden**

*Offered by Fr. George Tsahakis*

*Today, join us for, lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Partners Pizza, followed by outing to Atlanta Botanical Garden (each participant pays for food/tour).*

Each day we hurry and seek to keep up with our fast-paced society. Walking and taking in nature's splendor slows us down and keeps us in touch with God's beautiful world. *On this special outing, we seek to slow down the pace of our life by spending time walking, reflecting, and sharing with each other. Parishioners in Fr. George's Adult Religious Education Class have chosen to visit the Atlanta Botanical Garden and lightly reflect on spiritual themes during our tour.*

All parish families are welcome to join us. After church today, we will gather for a quick lunch (*each participant pays for their own lunch*) at Partners Pizza at 11:00 a.m. in Peachtree City and then we will carpool to the Botanical Garden. Tickets will be purchased at the gate by each participant: adults are \$18.95, children ages 3-12 are \$12.95 and children under 3 are free.

Please bring comfortable hiking/walking shoes, and bring bug spray and sun screen. Again, we hope you, your family and friends will join us.

*Advance Preview for Today's Trip to  
Atlanta Botanical Garden*



**11:00 a.m. Lunch at Partners Pizza**

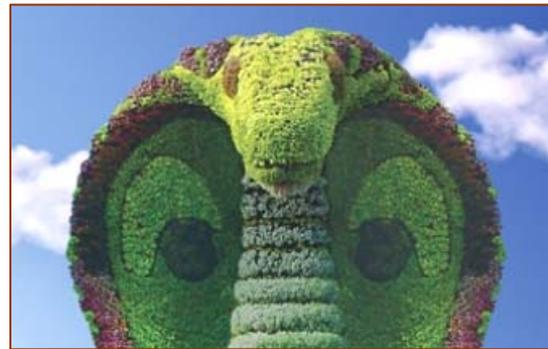
*(215 Northlake Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269)*

**After lunch, drive to Atlanta Botanical Garden**

*1345 Piedmont Avenue NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309*

**Tel. 404.876.5859**

*After lunch, since each of us drives at different speeds and will arrive at different times, rather than wait for everyone outside the Garden, let us maximize our tour by each participant purchasing an entry ticket on their own and then browsing the Garden, per their interests, with those they arrived with until 2:00 p.m.*



*At 2:00 p.m., let us ALL meet as a group at the entrance of the Imaginary Worlds exhibit (location will be on map you receive at entrance gate). Fr. George will offer spiritual highlights for today's tour. After an interactive discussion with all participants, we will continue our tour of the Gardens in designated groups, focusing on spiritual challenges we just discussed until 4:00 p.m.*

*At 4:00 p.m., let us ALL gather as a group for refreshments at MetroFresh in the Garden (use Garden map) and for concluding remarks and depart by 4:30 p.m. (Remember, food and drinks are NOT allowed to be brought into the Gardens. If you prefer, you may stay until Gardens close at 7:00 p.m.)*





Dear St. Christopher Church,

I truly enjoyed having your parishioners last year at my home in Salem, South Carolina, at the Metropolis Diakonia Retreat Center. You planted me and now I am inviting you to come see how large my vines and branches have become.



Over the summer, I felt the hills around me vibrate as many Orthodox youth participated in the St. Stephen's summer camps and as they were encouraged to follow Christ and live for Him. Without you, I never would have been able to experience them! But I and all my friends (plants, buildings, humans and animals) really

want to see you again.

Your friend, Danielle, is helping our parish plan a volunteer work weekend retreat up here for all of you on August 16th – 18th. So please, come escape the Atlanta Metro area in August. It's much cooler here in Salem in the evenings. I promise Danielle will allow time to enjoy a relaxing swim in the lake, time to canoe, or a walk on the hiking trail, after you help me with a few chores I cannot complete myself.



Just let Danielle know you are coming at danielledawkins83@gmail.com or (770) 827-3056 as soon as possible.

Thanks and y'all come back now!

### *The Vineyard*

And on this the four hundred and seventieth 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**

### **Sunday, July 28 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

**11:00 am Lunch & Community Outing to Atlanta Botanical Garden (*see inside bulletin for detailed information*)**

***Fast – Dormition of the Theotokos – Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>***

### **Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

### **Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

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

### **Sunday, August 4 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

**11:00 am GOYA Reunion Luncheon at Pascal's Restaurant & Special Activity (*to be announced by Jeanie Ellinas*)**

**11:00 am Tenth Anniversary Planning Meeting**

**11:30 am Hellenic Language Class**

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