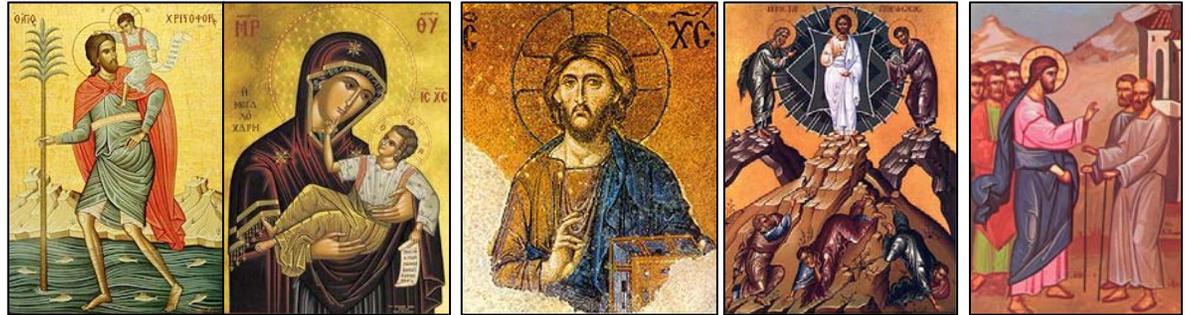




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, August 11, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Euplus the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Cantania (+304); Holy Father Niphonus, Patriarch of Constantinople (+1508); Commemoration of St. Spyridon's Miracle in Corfu against the Turkish invasion of 1716; the narrative of the Icon of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, not fashioned by the hands of men; remembrance of the consecration of the revered and ornate church of the most Holy Theotokos of Eleoussa; and Holy Martyrs Neofitos, Zenon, Daius, Mark, Makarios and Dainus. *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. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (pg. 28 of Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas, "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor, as we sing to You, Alleluia."

2./4. Hymn for Feast of the Transfiguration – (Hymnal-pp.220-221):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. When You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, You showed Your disciples Your glory as far as they could bear. So now, for us sinners also, let this same eternal light shine forth through the prayers of the Theotokos. O .Giver of light, glory to You.

3. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second 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.

5. 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.

6. 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

<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>

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 During Divine Liturgy (Rom. 15:1-7)

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ³For Christ did not please Himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me.” ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (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):

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

(Romans 12:2)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

(The Orthodox Church uses Holy Scripture in many of its prayers and hymns offered to God. After reading St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 3:14-16, I modeled the following prayer from its words, thereby asking for God's guidance in responding to St. Paul's counsel to his parishioners in early Christianity.)

Our Heavenly Father,

We ask you to provide us with a graciousness by which we shall know how to behave ourselves in Your household, the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Help us to dedicate ourselves individually to the truth that the Church at large will be a bastion of truth, and will be known by the world to be what it claims to be.

Keep our focus of truth always on the central mystery of our religion: *that Christ was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, and taken up in glory!*

Nourish us with Your Holy Word and enable us to use our faith and Your teachings to do Your will. Guide our minds to stay away from silly and godless myths and dedicate our lives to Your service.

For to You we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we continue to reflect and celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we thank Him for the strength that He gives us to share and minister to others. May we acknowledge His blessings in providing us the many talents by which we may help others.

In spite of our wrongdoings against Him and our neighbors, may He show us great mercy in overlooking our ignorance and unbelief. May our Transfigured Lord provide us with opportunities and encouragement to serve Him and His creation.

Through our faith and our response to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we beseech Him to overflow in each of us the faith and the love that are available in Him. And may we always proclaim the truth that our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to save humankind. Glory to Him forever! Amen.

Prayer Shawls Blessing Today

Guatemala may not flash into the mind as a hot bed for the Orthodox faith. However, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has two teams of missionary priests and their Presbyteras who are trying to change this situation. This year, the OCMC has asked that we share our prayer shawls with the Guatemalan mission as they share the word and love of Christ. For more information on the OCMC efforts, check out this interesting website: <http://www.thewordfromguatemala.com/>. Be prepared to laugh as you read about the efforts and activities of Presbyteras Sandy. To learn more about the full efforts in Guatemala, check out http://www.ocmc.org/about/active_missionaries.aspx and scroll down to Guatemala. Today, Fr. George will bless our prayer shawls as we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Although Guatemala is in Central America, it gets cold in the mountain area where the OCMC efforts take place. For this reason, shawls have been made with wool yarn. Please contact Susan Kleto at sbkleto@gmail.com or 770.253.8469 to become a

participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, a Prayer Guide, or if you have questions.



Hands of Love Collection for August, 2013

The Loaves & Fishes Program –

We will be collecting non-perishable food items (especially canned foods) & monetary donations to support.



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 seventy-second 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

Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos continues through August 14th

Sunday, August 11 (7th Sunday of St. Matthew):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Blessing of New School Year & Blessing of Prayer Shawls/Coffee Fellowship**
- 11:00 am Open House for New Religious Education Classes**
- 11:30 am Parish Council Meeting**

Monday, August 12th:

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

Wednesday, August 14th (Eve of Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos)

- 5:00 pm Great Vespers Service**
- 5:45 pm Divine Liturgy/Community Dinner (*fasting – fish permitted*)**

Thursday, August 15th:

- 6:40 pm Choir Practice**

Friday - Sunday, August 16th to 18th DRC Volunteer Work Weekend

Sunday, August 18 (8th Sunday of St. Matthew):

Today we will worship at the Diakonia Retreat Center Chapel - join us!

- 7:45 am Orthros Service (Diakonia Retreat Center)**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Religious Education/GOYA (DRC)**

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!