



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

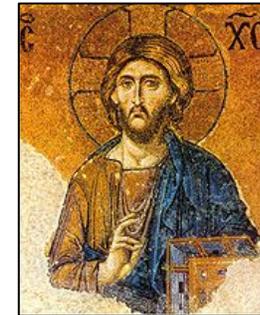
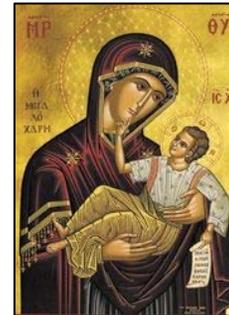
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*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, August 18, 2013**

**ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, AND THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Floros & Lauros the Monk-Martyrs of Illyria (+324); John & George, Patriarchs of Constantinople; Relics of Arsenios the Righteous of Paros; the memory of the holy multitude of the poor who destroyed the idols and were burned to death; Holy Martyrs Hermes, Serapion, and Polyanos; Holy Martyr Juliana and Holy Martyr Leon; and the four ascetics in the desert who died in peace. *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./3. Hymn for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.222-223):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance.* In giving birth you remained a virgin, and in your dormition you did not forsake this world, O Theotokos. For as the Mother of Life, you have yourself passed into life. And by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

#### **2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):**

It is sung 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.

#### **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 Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.288-289):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* She is our vigilant intercessor, the Theotokos, our sure hope and protection. Neither death nor tomb held any power over

her, for as the Mother of Life, she was taken into life by that very one who deigned to dwell in her ever virgin womb.

### **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 20:11-18)**

*“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”*

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 1:10-17)**

<sup>10</sup>*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.* <sup>11</sup>*For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.* <sup>12</sup>*What I mean*

is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:14-22)**

<sup>14</sup>When He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” <sup>19</sup>Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>22</sup>Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name’s sake.” (Psalm 79:9)

## PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Amidst our daily life, I encourage us to “praise” God for being a part of the majesty of His Kingdom, and glorify Him for His countless blessings that we often take for granted and perhaps which we are even unaware. Indeed, our LORD loves it when we praise Him.

In Psalm 22:3 (KJV), we read: “*But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*” In this verse, we see a picture of “God inhabiting the *praises* of His people”. The Hebrew meaning of “inhabitest” is a depiction of the Lord *sitting down and dwelling*. This notion is even clearer in the contemporary *New King James translation* for this same verse: “*But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.*” Think about that – our Lord fully embraces and willingly unites with our voices of praise – an awesome privilege for us His servants . . . beyond compare more valuable than having an audience with any famous world leader or popular Hollywood star of today.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, the word “praise” occurs nearly 300 times in Holy Scripture. Interestingly, a vast majority of those references are in the *Old Testament Book of Psalms*, including:

*“I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High.”* (Psalm 9:2 NRSV)

*“I will tell of Your Name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.”* (Psalm 22:22 NRSV)

*“You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him; stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!”* (Psalm 22:23 NRSV)

“Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.” Psalm 33:1 NRSV)

“He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.” (Psalm 40:3 NRSV)

“Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the Name of the LORD.” (Psalm 113:1 NRSV)

Today’s news reports, daily communications, and conversations with our friends and family often seem to emphasize catastrophic and evil events that paint the world as a hopeless place to live. *Think about your own experience . . . Are the waters too deep for you? Are you lonely? Discouraged? Do you find yourself even doubting whether or not God hears your prayers or cares about your troubles?* Every time you try to “look on the bright side,” is a dark future all you see? Maybe it is time to *praise* God and ask Him to *come and dwell in your life*. How about taking this step right here, right now, and yes, committing to it forever?

My friends, when it begins to rain in your life, *praise* God. When you feel like giving up, *praise* Him. I assure you that He is always in the midst of it all; indeed, God is always with us! In any storm that occurs in our life, **God is still God**, no matter where we find ourselves or how much we may fear, doubt, or worry. By praising God in the midst of our struggles, we will encounter the presence of the One Who fully embraces and unites with us through our voices of praise to Him.

Someone once observed: “*The ornaments of your house will be the guests who frequent it.*” I promise you that when God “*inhabits*

*your praise*” (Psalm 22:3 KJV), He will turn your life around.  
Amen!

And on this the four hundred and seventy-third 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, August 18 (8<sup>th</sup> 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)**

**Thursday, August 22, Choir Practice at 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 24, IOCC Atlanta 13th Annual Run/Walk 5K (3.1 mi),  
Piedmont Park, 8:45am - 11:00am**

## **SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

On behalf of our parish, I thank His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and Fr. Vasile Bitere, Executive Director of the Diakonia Retreat Center and his staff, for enabling our parish to serve this weekend at our precious Diakonia Retreat Center. I thank the many benefactors *who have, are, and will support* this precious institution that is visited by thousands of our faithful each year. I commend our St. Christopher parishioners for giving of their time and talents to improve the property and its facilities at no charge this weekend. I thank our parish for supporting the ministries and programs offered throughout the year at the Diakonia Retreat Center.

In grateful thanksgiving for these and all our blessings from God, I offer the following hymn for the “protection of the precious environment” in this holy, beautiful, and inspiring place as well as throughout God’s world that we have been charged to oversee:

*“Almighty Lord, Who created all things in wisdom and by Your almighty arm govern and maintain them, grant stability, that all creation may well endure and remain unharmed from all adverse acts. For You, O Master, have commanded that the works of Your hands remain steadfast until the end of time; for You spoke and it came into being, and they await mercy to avert all evil, and salvation for the human race, which glorifies Your most praised Name.” Amen!*

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



**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.*



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*Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*