



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

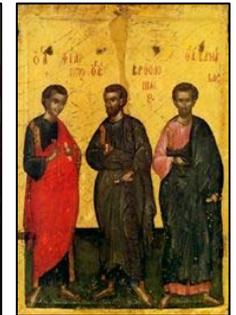
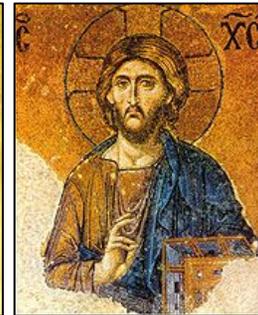
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 25, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE NINTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the return of the relics of St. Bartholomew the Apostle (+839); Holy Apostle Titus of the 70, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete, Disciple of St. Paul (+107); Holy Fathers Menas, Epifanios, Gennadios, and John, Archbishops of Constantinople; and Holy Father John of Carpathia. *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 (Plagal of the 4th Tone) – (Hymnal-pp. 126-7):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

3. Hymn for Apostles Titus & Bartholomew – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O Holy Apostles, intercede to merciful God that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

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 Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.228-231):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus free from the stain of sin, we, your people, honor your birth, crying out to you: A woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our life.

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 20:19-31)

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.’ When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.’ A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (I Cor. 3:9-17)

For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building

on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:22-34)

Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning He came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

(1 Cor. 3:16-17)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Living in a Plastic Bubble

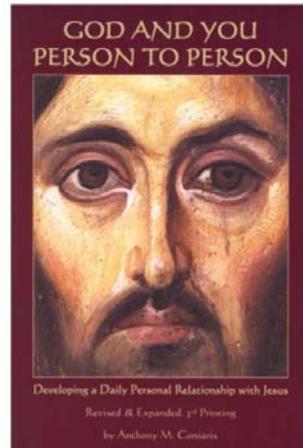
Someone once shared: I feel as though I live in a plastic bubble. It surrounds me, but it cannot be seen. I see everyone around me, I hear them speak. Behind their words, they hide from me. They look at me and think they know me. But they don’t see my bubble, they don’t look long enough to see it. I try to talk with them, to share myself, but my words return, unlistened to. And nobody hears.

I move through the days insulated in my protective bubble. I reach out to ones that I love, but they don’t notice. They don’t feel my need. When I extend my hand, no one takes it. Heavy hearted, I withdraw it, vowing never to offer it again. I call to those around, I beg, “Please, help me. Please touch me. Please love me.” And nobody hears.

Though not made of plastic, my bubble is real. It is comprised of many things. The sting of harsh words, spoken thoughtlessly. The heartache of love unrequited. The disappointment of a trust broken. The guilt of past mistakes. The terror of, again, being rejected. These things envelop me, isolate me; in my torment I scream, but it is silent. And nobody hears.

I sought escape from my invisible prison. I looked for someone, some person who would see my bubble and free me of it. I searched for years, to naught. *And then, when all seemed hopeless, I turned my eyes in a new direction. There He stood, arms outstretched, beckoning me. He spoke to me. He touched me.*

Then I understood what I should have always known. Through all the empty years and broken dreams, I never had been alone. He was always there, just waiting for me to call. I closed my eyes and whispered, “God, please help me. Please touch me. Please love me.”



And he heard.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, late this afternoon, we will begin reviewing the book, *God and You: Person to Person*, to help us develop a daily personal relationship with Jesus Christ. If you can, we hope you can join us as we too, seek to build and strengthen our spiritual life with our Lord, God, and Savior. Feel free to bring non-fasting food to share during dinner.

And on this *the four hundred and seventy-fourth* 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 25 (9th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 am Orthros Service

- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes
- 11:45 am Let's EAT™ - open to all for fun, food, and fellowship
- 2:30 pm Trisagion for Carla Sharpe (at John & Carla's home: 475 Harris Road, Fayetteville, GA 30215)
- 5:00 pm Book Club Dinner Discussion (at Costas & Tammy Soulakos' Home, 207 Woodruff Way, PTC, GA 30269)

Wednesday, August 28th, Eve of Feast of Beheading of St. John the Baptist:

- 5:00 pm Great Vespers Service
- 5:45 am Divine Liturgy/Community Dinner (bring lenten food)

Thursday, August 29th:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, September 1st (Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Ice Cream Sundaes Sunday Reception
No Religious Education/Hellenic Language Classes (Holiday Weekend)



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.



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

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

GreekFest 2013

**Saturday
September 21st**

Menu

Spanakopita
Tirpopita
Dolmathes
Greek salad
Lemon chicken
Greek potatoes
Pastitsio
Gyros
Baklava
Kourabiethes and more!
All you can eat!
Soft Drinks
Beer and Wine
Live Music and Dancing!

6:30pm Appetizers
7:30pm Dinner

Individual Tickets
\$50.00

Dixie Wing Commemorative
Air Force Hangar
Falcon Field Airport
Peachtree City

*For Ticket and Sponsorship
information contact:
Costas or Tammy Soulakos 770-487-1004
Or 404-625-4663*

Individual Ticket Order Form	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____ _____ _____
Phone:	# of tickets _____
	X \$50.00 = _____

*Mail reservation form and check to:
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church
313 Dividend Dr, Suite 210, Peachtree City, GA 30269.*