



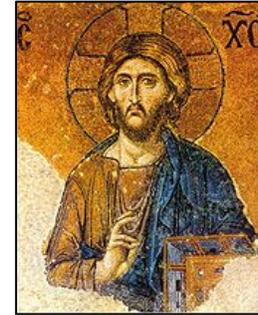
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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, September 1, 2013**

**ON THIS DAY, THE BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR, THE CHURCH ALSO COMMEMORATES** the Synaxis of the Recovery of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Miasenae; Jesus (Joshua) of Navi; Righteous Father Symeon the Stylite; Righteous Mother Martha, mother of Righteous Symeon (+459); Righteous Evanthia; 40 Holy Women Martyrs of Thrace and Ammoun the Deacon, their instructor; Holy Martyrs Calliste and Siblings: Euodus and Hermogenes; Righteous Meletius the New, The Struggler of the Muioupolis Mountain; Holy New-Martyr Angelis, martyred in Constantinople (1680); the revered icon called the “Pammakaristos”, of our glorious, most holy Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, emplaced in the Patriarchal Church of the glorious Great Martyr George, the Standard Bearer. *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 (First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.98-101):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Although Your tomb was sealed with a stone, O Savior, and Your most pure body was guarded by the soldiers, You rose on the third day giving life to all the world. Therefore, O giver of life, the powers of heaven praise You: Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Your kingdom. Glory to Your saving wisdom, O only lover of mankind.

### **3. Hymn for Beginning of New Ecclesiastical Year – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

### **4. Hymn for Recovery of Icon of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.212-215):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

**5. Hymn for Symeon the Stylite – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance. You became a pillar of patience and emulated the Forefathers, O righteous one: Job in his sufferings, Joseph in temptations, and the life of the bodiless while in the body, O Symeon, our righteous Father, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.*

**6. 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.*

**7. Kontakion for Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance. You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.*

**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>
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**Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 21:1-14)**

*After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to*

*haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.*

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Tim. 2:1-7)**

*2First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>Who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, Himself human, <sup>6</sup>Who gave Himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

#### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 4:16-22)**

*<sup>16</sup>When He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was His custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let*

*the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” <sup>20</sup>And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup>Then He began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from His mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph's son?”*

### **THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

**(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such hostility against Himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.” (Hebrews 12: 1-3)

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

*“O Lord, You are my God, I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Ps. 63:1)*

As we begin afresh in our new Ecclesiastical Year, I rejoice that God has blessed each of us along with our beloved parish of St. Christopher with an abundance of life and His countless gifts. Recently, we initiated our mutual efforts to develop and increase our daily personal relationships with our Lord.

When I consider Christ Jesus, I like to think of His Heavenly Kingdom. In describing the Kingdom that God has prepared for us, our Lord offered us a description of who He would welcome into it by His words in Matthew 25:35-36, 45: “<sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and

*you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave Me clothing, I was sick and you took care of Me, I was in prison and you visited Me... <sup>45</sup> 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me.'*"

To “jolt” us into considering the unlimited opportunities we have been given by our Lord Jesus Christ in serving *the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, and those in prison*, I would like you to consider how all of these needy sons and daughters of God are easily visible in what we call “third world” countries. Indeed, if we could pause and consider life from *their* perspective in this new year that the Lord has given to each of us to serve Him and His creation, imagine how differently we might discern new and creative ways to assist not only the pain and suffering of those in *third world* countries, but likewise, we possibly could use our unique perspectives gained from this reflection to respond to our personal and collective challenges within our homes, our workplaces, our parish, and our local, state, and federal settings.

Toward this aim, I implore you to consider nine (9) steps to identifying with the poor in *third world* countries. If you are willing, put yourself in their role – you are still a son or daughter of God, but one blessed differently than you are right now...

*First*, take out the furniture of your home; leave only a few old blankets, a kitchen table, maybe a wooden chair. You've never had a bed, remember?

*Second*, throw out your clothes. Each person in the family may keep the oldest suit or dress, and a shirt or blouse. The head of the family has the only pair of shoes.

*Third*, remember all kitchen appliances have vanished. Keep a box of matches, a small bag of flour, some sugar and salt, a handful of onions, and a dish of dried beans. Rescue the moldy potatoes from the garbage can; those are tonight's meal.

*Fourth*, dismantle your bathrooms, shut off all running water, take out the wiring and the lights and everything that runs by electricity in your homes, cars, computers, smartphones, and all your mechanical devices.

*Fifth*, move out of your house or apartment and re-locate the family into the tool shed or a similar structure.

*Sixth*, expect no more postmen, firemen, or any government services. The two-classroom school is three miles away, but only two of your seven children can attend anyway, and they walk to school.

*Seventh*, throw out your bankbooks, stock certificates, pension plans, and insurance policies. You now have a cash hoard of \$5.

*Eighth*, get out and start cultivating your three acres of land. Try hard to raise \$300 in cash crops, because your landlord wants one third and your moneylender 10 percent.

*Ninth*, find some way for your children to bring in a little extra money so you have something to eat most days. But it won't be enough to keep bodies healthy – so lop off 25 to 30 years of your life and the life of each of your family members.

*Now, let us give thanks to our Lord for this new ecclesiastical year, and in our personal relationship with Him each day, let us seek the means to do His will in all things... Amen!*

And on this the four hundred and seventy-fifth 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, September 1<sup>st</sup> (Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Ice Cream Sundae Sunday Reception**  
*No Religious Education/Hellenic Language Classes (Holiday Weekend)*

**Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> (Labor Day):**

**6:30 pm GreekFest Baking – Dolmathes**

**Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**6:30 pm GreekFest Baking – Dolmathes (if needed)**

**Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>:**

**9:00 am GreekFest Baking – Tiropita (come join us & help)**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos & Sunday before Feast of Holy Cross):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

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

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes**

**11:45 am Parish Council Meeting**

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

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**Hands of Love Collection for September 8, 2013**



September 8<sup>th</sup>: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox  
School of Theology

*We will be collecting monetary donations to benefit*

*Holy Cross School of Theology / Hellenic College.*



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