



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, September 8, 2013

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY *BEFORE* THE FEAST OF THE UNIVERSAL CELEBRATION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the Nativity of our Most-Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary; the Holy Siblings Rufus and Rufianos; St. Severos; St. Artemidoros; Holy New-Martyr Athanasios, martyred in Thessaloniki (1774); and St. Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia. *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 Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.176-177):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. Your birth, O Theotokos, has filled the world with joy, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He destroyed the ancient curse and replaced it with a blessing, thus confounding death by giving us eternal life.

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. 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.

5. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed..." Virginité is alien to motherhood and childbearing foreign to virginité, but in you, O Theotokos, both were made possible. Wherefore, we the races of the earth ceaselessly magnify you.

6. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.324):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "I will lift the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115[116]). Alleluia."

**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

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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 1:39-49, 56)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked

with favor on the lowliness of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 6:11-18)

¹¹*See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand!*
¹²*It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. ¹⁷From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. ¹⁸May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.*

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 3:13-17)

¹³*No one has ascended into Heaven except the One Who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*

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

“He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.’” (Mark 8:34)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Last Sunday, we celebrated the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year. As we contemplate the priorities for our spiritual lives these next twelve months, consider the counsel of St. John Chrysostom on how we should shape our lives in Christ:

“We often speak of human emotions as having dimensions. One person is said to have deep feelings, while another is said to be shallow in their emotions. One person is said to have a wide and open heart, while another is said to have a heart which is narrow and closed. Of course, these are simple images; yet what do these images truly convey? When our emotions are deep toward a person or an event, it means that we cannot ignore that person or event, but must remain closely involved. When our emotions are wide and open, it means that we can respond to many people and events, not just a few. Jesus had deep emotions of love toward people, and he prayed deeply about every event in their lives; and he also had wide emotions, loving everyone

he encountered with equal depth. *This is how we must aspire to become.* Shallow emotions lead to apathy and complaining; so they make us indifferent toward other people and toward the events which shape their lives. And narrow emotions enable us to ignore the cries of pain and suffering that we hear all around us. To be a Christian means to extend one's heart both downward and outward."

Hands of Love Collection for September 8, 2013



September 8th: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox
School of Theology

We will be collecting monetary donations to benefit

Holy Cross School of Theology / Hellenic College.



["Follow" & "Like"](#) our new Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this the four hundred and seventy-sixth 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!

Get Your Aprons Out!!
The GreekFest Food Committee
Needs your help.....

We have food prep dates set for:

Monday, Sept. 9 – Dolmathes – 6:30 pm until finished

Tuesday, Sept. 10 – Dolmathes – 6:30 pm (if needed)

Saturday, Sept. 14 – Kouriabiethes – 10:30 a.m. until finished

Thursday, Sept. 19 – Galactobouriko – 5:30 until finished

Dates/times for set-up on Fri. Sept. 20 and Sat. Sept. 21 to be announced. Watch the calendar on our website.

Clean up will be held on Sun. Sept. 22
After the Divine Liturgy!

Let us come together in Christian fellowship to bring this important event together! Everyone is welcome to come to ALL the prep days

Thank you for your efforts and support!

And remember to sell tickets!!

Faithfully,

Julie & George Skouteris
Manny Haldopoulos
GreekFest – Tri-Chairs

COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 8th (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos & Sunday before the 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

Monday, September 9th (Labor Day):

- 6:30 pm GreekFest Baking – Dolmathes

Tuesday, September 10th:

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

Thursday, September 12th:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday, September 13th:

Before 4:00 pm Please bring freshly cut basil leaves/stems and leave in kitchen refrigerator for preparation for Service of the Holy Cross on Saturday.

Saturday, September 14th (Feast of Exaltation of Holy Cross/Strict Fast Day):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 8:45 am Service of the Holy Cross (*Bring basil on Friday, 9/13*)
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 am Greek Fest Baking - Kourambiethes (come join us and help)

Sunday, September 15th (Sunday after Feast of Holy Cross):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 am Philoptochos Board Meeting
- 11:30 am Hellenic Language Class

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!