



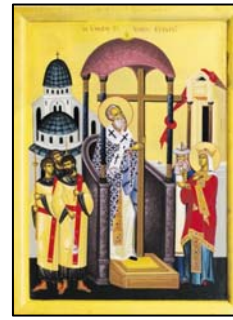
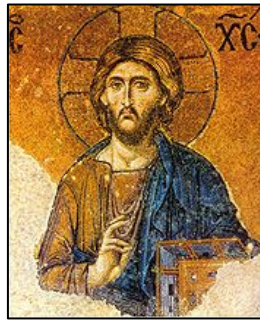
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 13, 2009

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, we commemorate the Dedication of the Holy Church of the Resurrection of Christ our God (+335); Holy Martyr Cornelius the Centurion (+82); Martyr Aristeides; Righteous Hierotheos the Younger of Iviron Monastery on Mt. Athos (+1745); Holy Martyrs Kronides, Leontios, Serapion, Straton, Selefcos, Makrovios, Gordianos, Zotikos, Elei, Lucian, and Valerian; and our saintly father, Peter of Agrea. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Mission 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 First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

3. Hymn for the Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. The life-giving Cross which in Your goodness You have given us, though unworthy, we offer You in intercession. Save our rulers and Your city, keeping them in peace through the Theotokos, loving Lord.

4. Hymn for the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Like the splendor of the upper firmament, You demonstrated the beauty of the earthly holy dwelling place of Your glory, O Lord. Keep it firm from age to age, and accept our prayers unceasingly offered up in it, at the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You are the Life and Resurrection of all.

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 the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. You have made of the Church a resplendent Heaven, enlightening all the faithful: wherefore we stand in the midst of this holy dwelling-place and cry out to You: “Make firm this house, O Lord!”

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 (Mark 16:9-20)

Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the

good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.

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.* ¹³*Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh.* ¹⁴*May 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.* ¹⁵*For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!* ¹⁶*As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.* ¹⁷*From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.* ¹⁸*May 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.* ¹⁴*And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,* ¹⁵*that 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:

[His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America held a Memorial Service this past **Friday, September 11, at 2:30 p.m. at Ground Zero** on the site of **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in New York City**, the only religious edifice destroyed in the 9/11 attacks. The location where the service was held is near Gate 7, corner of Greenwich and Liberty Streets at Ground Zero. *In recognition of the eighth anniversary of this national tragedy and the loss our country sustained, I would like to share with you the following prayer offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, at the Prayer Services at Boston City Hall on September 13, 2001.*]

Prayer Remembering September 11, 2001

Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Benevolent Lord, Creator and Sustainer of us all, hear us, Your children, at this time of national crisis and unbearable pain. We come to You because You are our Savior and Benefactor Who grants peace and solace to peoples and nations. It is You Who bore our sins on Your precious Holy Cross. It is only You that can heal our wounds and ease our suffering.

You have blessed our nation abundantly and guided us in times of sadness and despair. Yes, You have blessed America. “You have stood beside her, and guided her through the night with a light from above.”

Protect, we pray, our nation and its citizens at this time of tragedy of trial and crisis. Shield us under the shadow of Your Cross. Grant to us Your peace, Your love and help. Bestow solace and strength to the families of the innocent victims of the barbaric acts of violence in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Open Your loving arms and welcome into Your tender embrace our brothers and sisters, our relatives, our friends and neighbors. . .the countless anonymous innocent who (in but an instant) were consumed in the horrific holocaust of hate.

Strengthen, we pray, our brave police and firefighters, the doctors, the nurses, and rescue workers who have rushed to the side of the victims. Their eyes have seen unspeakable violence, human pain and tragedy.

We pray for our President, the members of Congress and all in Public Service. Guide them and inspire their decisions at this time of national trial and travail.

Help us and people throughout the world to comprehend that we are all Your children. We are all brothers and sisters created in Your image and likeness. Guide us to live in harmony with one another, respectful of each other's human rights and human dignity. We ask this of You, for You are a benevolent and loving God and to You do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GreekFest 2009

*Seymour Hangar, Hangar B-4, Falcon Field Airport, Peachtree City, GA
September 19, 2009, 6:30 p.m. Appetizers, 7:30 p.m. Dinner*

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

As we approach our GreekFest event this Saturday night, I hope you will give 100 percent participation and support as our community leaders call upon us to step forward with any "last minute" preparations and scheduled set-ups, etc. I realize some of us will be out of town, but if not, I humbly ask for your assistance. For all those responding, I thank you on

behalf of our Greek Fest Chairman, Stephen Butler and all our parishioners. You are key! We are so grateful for his and your support these past few months and thank you dearly.

For further information, contact our Chairman, Stephen Butler, 770/461-1800 or email steve@butlerusa.org.

Faithfully yours, +Fr. George

On this the two hundred and eighty-seventh 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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 13 (Sunday Before the Elevation of Holy Cross):

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 a.m. Philoptochos "Hands of Love" – *collection for Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Dance Practice
- 11:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting

Monday, September 14 (Evening– Feast of the Elevation of Holy Cross):

Please bring freshly cut basil leaves/stems if available by 5:30 p.m. for preparation for Service of the Holy Cross to be offered at the end of the Orthros Service.

- 6:00 p.m. Orthros & Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross
- 7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy/Community Dinner (*Strict fast all day*)

Wednesday, September 16 – Saturday, September 19:

GreekFest preparations – *time to be announced . . .* join us for our 6th Annual Greek Fest on Saturday, September 19th.

Thursday, September 17:

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, September 20 (Sunday after Holy Cross/OCF Sunday):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:30 a.m. GreekFest Community Clean-up at Seymour Hangar

We need everyone's help - Please join us as we "wrap-up" our 2009 Greek Fest program by cleaning the hangar and returning our supplies to storage. All parishioners who assist will be provided a complimentary GreekFest meal for lunch today.

Monday, September 21:

7:00 p.m. Religious Educators & Youth Workers Meeting

8:00 p.m. Education, Culture, & Youth Diakonia Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 24:

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, September 25:

5:00 p.m. HOPE/JOY Outing for our Youth (grades K-6) & Parents

Saturday, September 26:

8:00 a.m. International Festival/Dragon Boat Races – *schedule and details to be announced for you to assist with our parish's food entry at the 50th anniversary founding celebration of Peachtree City, GA*

Sunday, September 27 (1st Sunday of St. Luke):

7:30 a.m. Orthros Service (*note earlier starting time*)

8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Religious Education Classes

11:15 a.m. GOYA Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!