



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, April 17, 2016**

**ON THIS DAY, THE *FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT*, WE COMMEMORATE *our Righteous Mother, St. Mary of Egypt (522) – SEE TRIODION INSERT ON NEXT PAGE*. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Symeon the Holy Priest-Martyr and Bishop of Persia and his companions, Audellus the Presbyter, Gothazet, Fousik and the remaining 1,150 (+341); Holy Martyr Hadrian (+251); Makarios, Archbishop of Corinth (+1805); Agapetos I, Pope of Rome (+536); and Righteous Martyrs of Artis, Teocharos and Apostle. *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.*

### **TODAY'S Spiritual Theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent:**

On this *Fifth Sunday of Lent*, the Church commemorates *St. Mary of Egypt*, so that her example of sincere repentance and great virtues may strengthen the slothful and urge sinners to atone for their sins.

*This coming Saturday, we commemorate the Saturday of Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary, were friends of Jesus. The weeping of Jesus over the dead body of Lazarus is a manifestation of Christ's mortal humanity, and his raising him from the dead, an act of immortal and divine power. Orthros will begin at 7:45 a.m. and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00 a.m. and be followed by a light lenten breakfast and our parish's tying of palm crosses to be used on Palm Sunday. Everyone is invited to join us for this cherished family tradition.*

### **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 St. Mary of Egypt – (Hymnal-pp.140-142):**

*This hymn is sung after the Small Entrance:* In you, holy mother Mary, the image of God shone forth, for you took up your cross and followed the Lord. By word and example you taught us to live in the spirit while still in the flesh. Therefore your spirit rejoices with the angels forever.

**4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):**

*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 – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.*

**6. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp. 298-301)::**

*On the first five Sundays of Great Lent when we use the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, a different hymn is sung instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”:* In you, O woman full of grace, all creation rejoices, the orders of angels and the race of mankind. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virginal souls, from you our God was incarnate and became a child, He who is God from all ages. By making your womb His throne He made you more spacious than all the heavens. In you, O woman full of grace all creation rejoices. Glory to you.

**SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY**

<p>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</p>
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**Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Mark 16:1-8)**

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side;*

*and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

**Epistle Reading (Hebrews 9:11-14)**

*But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!*

**Gospel Reading (Mark 10:32-45)**

*They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to Him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death; then they will hand Him over to the Gentiles; they will mock Him, and spit upon Him, and flog Him, and kill Him; and after three days He will rise again." James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Him and said to Him, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You." And He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant us to sit, one at Your right hand and one at Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink You will drink; and the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among*

*the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

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

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you...”  
(James 4: 7-8)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

This week I share a small parable. Once upon a time, there was a company who had two junior executives. One did everything by the book, was diligent and trustworthy, always made sure he was covered and, since he always went by the book, rarely made mistakes. The other also was a hard and diligent worker, but he often tested the rules, sometimes received some criticism, and sometimes made mistakes. One day an opening came up for a senior executive position, and the owner of the company promoted the one who made mistakes over the other. Of course Mr. “By the Book” was enraged and asked his boss why; after all, he had a better record, didn't he? He NEVER made mistakes. He ALWAYS followed the book. To which his boss replied, “Yes, but what will you do someday when something comes up that isn't covered by the book. You know the rules, but he knows what we are doing here, and why we are here. He UNDERSTANDS the company. And that’s why he was promoted over you.”

How do we obtain God's blessing? Well, the answer, of course, is that it's not something we obtain; it's not for sale. It's something He freely has given to each of us, but which we can only recognize when we accept it as a gift, and live in it as He has taught us. Today, why not ask yourself, "How am I living my life?" I know I am, and not just today, but every day. After all, it is a priceless gift.

### **Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon**

*Next Sunday, April 24, 2016*

*Immediately following the Distribution of Palms – Join us!*



## **PREVIEW...**

### **Adult Religious Education Class**

**Fr. George Tsahakis**

*Sunday, April 17, 2016*

**For today's lesson, Fr. George will review Chapter 6 of our Lenten Study Book, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives...* ON REPENTANCE.**

"There are many kinds of tears. Some people cry out of rage, some to spite another person, others because they have been offended. Some cry because they have been offended. Some cry because they have lost a loved one. There are many kinds of tears. There are also tears of repentance, when a

person's conscience tells him that he has omitted many sins. When he realizes his sinfulness, he weeps. That is an act of God's Grace, a soul repents, and the sin is washed away by tears. These are tears of repentance, and they are a gift from God. When a person realizes his sinfulness, he gradually frees himself from the cares of this world and from his own egoism and leaves all of his cares to the Lord. His soul is humbled, and when this occurs, it is in a state of Grace. Prayer requires a completely carefree life, for even the slightest worry disrupts our prayer, as the Holy Fathers say. Just as the slightest speck of dust can blur our vision, so, too, does the slightest worry interfere with our concentration in prayer. When we are united with the Lord, then our soul is at peace and Grace descends upon us. A person who dwells in a state of Grace is ready to weep for anyone. He weeps when he sees the suffering of an animal, a plant, a person.... Such a person is always ready to shed tears for the whole world. That means that the Grace of God is in that person and that his tears are a gift from God. Those are tears that save. They bring a soul to perfection. Perfection cannot be reached by worrying about the things of this world. The Lord has said that we are not to burden ourselves with food and drink and with the cares of this world."

*(Excerpt from Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives, pp. 103-104)*

*PREVIEW... (cont.)*

In follow-up to last week's Adult Religious Education lesson video, PISTEVO: I BELIEVE... dealing with the completion of the iconography program of The Church of Our Savior in Rye, NY, Fr. George will present a short video of DeDee Panayis' aunt and uncle witnessing how they used their faith to build a new parish. DeDee summed up her feelings well by sharing "All my life God has been a part of my life. This video makes me so happy." Fr. George invites you to witness the gifts that are in our midst... through the living witness of God's grace in our lives... yesterday, today, and always!



**Lenten Study Series** – During the Wednesdays of Great Lent, Fr. George will lead our faithful in a discussion of assigned chapters from "Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives". ***THIS WEDNESDAY, we will review Chapter 7: ON PRAYER!***

**Lenten Worship Services** – Our schedule on Wednesdays will be the Service of the 9th Hour/Presanctified Liturgy (Vespers/Communion Service) beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community lenten dinner beginning at 7:15 p.m. and followed by our Family Community Program using "Our Thoughts Determine Our lives." Our Bookstore is selling this text.

**Lenten Art Series** – Also, all persons who wish to ***learn step-by-step the basics of simple pencil drawing and its application to our lenten discipline*** from our wonderful teacher and parishioner, Jim Whitlock...

Each Wednesday, we invite you to bring fasting food to share. You and your family are encouraged to attend as much of the series as possible. We're grateful to those who participated. Join us for our last session... you'll be glad you did and will leave with a sense of awe and wonder at God's precious world.





**HANDS OF LOVE**

## Hands of Love: April

*\*For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land.\* (Deut. 15:11)*



**HANDS OF LOVE**

### All Sundays in April: Fayette County Division of DFCS

In order to assist the Fayette County division of DFCS, we will be collecting **gift cards** for food.

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is the part of the Department of Human Services (DHS) that investigates child abuse; finds foster homes for abused and neglected children; helps low income, out-of-work parents get back on their feet; assists with childcare costs for low income parents who are working or in job training; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help troubled families.



Georgia Division of Family and  
Children Services

Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator



# PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON



Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

Following the Divine Liturgy and Distribution of Palms

Main course of delicious fish will be provided by Philoptochos.

Please help by bringing:

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FOOD ITEM</u>
A - E	Drinks
F - J	Potatoes, Rice or pasta
K - O	Salad
P - S	Desserts
T - Z	Veggies

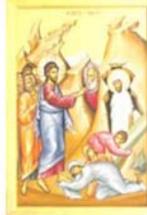
Please bring enough to feed your family and six others.

## **Flowers for the Kouvouklion**

A donations basket is on the table in the Narthex. All donations will be greatly appreciated and will help insure a beautiful Kouvouklion. The Kouvouklion will be decorated on Holy Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>,  
10:15 am - 1:30 pm.



# 2016 Holy Week Schedule



## Saturday of Lazarus, April 23

7:45 am Orthros  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy  
10:15 am Breakfast and Tying of Palm Crosses



## Holy Thursday, April 28

7:15 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil  
6:00 pm The Holy Passion Service & Procession of the Cross



## Palm Sunday, April 24

7:45 am Orthros  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy  
10:15 am Distribution of Palms  
10:30 am Palm Sunday Lunch (Sponsored by Philoptochos)  
6:00 pm Service of Bridegroom of Christ



## Holy Friday, April 29

9:00 am Service of the Royal Hours  
10:15 am Decoration of Kouvouklion  
3:00 pm Vespers (Unnailing of Christ from the Cross)  
7:00 pm Lamentations at Tomb of our Savior



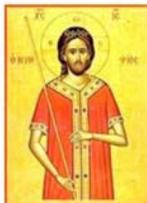
## Holy Monday, April 25

6:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ



## Holy Saturday, April 30

9:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil  
11:00 pm Preparatory Service- The Canon of Crucifixion



## Holy Tuesday, April 26

6:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ & Hymn of Kassiani



## The Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, May 1

12:00 am Proclamation of the Resurrection of our Lord  
12:30 am Resurrection Divine Liturgy  
2:00 am Traditional "Mayeritsa Apli" (lamb soup)  
11:00 am Great Vespers of Agape  
12:30 pm Parish Glendi (see page 9)



## Holy Wednesday, April 27

6:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ & Sacrament of Holy Unction





["Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page](#) – St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church.

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

And on this 603<sup>rd</sup> 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**

**Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great & Holy Lent.**

**Sun., April 17 (5<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Great Lent – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros Service**
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy**
- 10:30 a.m. GOYA Meeting**
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)**
- 11:30 a.m. Hellenic Dance Practice**

**Wednesday, April 20 (5<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Lent):**

- 6:00 p.m. Service of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy**
- 7:15 p.m. Community Family Dinner & Lenten Program (*Please bring fasting food to share and join us for our Family Lenten Program series. You, your family, and friends are welcome.*)**

**Thursday, April 21:**

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice**

**Friday, April 22:**

**Holy Confession offered to those who made appointments in advance**

**Saturday, April 23 (Saturday of Lazarus):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Lenten Breakfast/Tying of Palm Crosses – *all welcome!***

**Sunday, April 24 (Palm Sunday):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service, followed by Blessing of Palms**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, followed by Distribution of Palms**
- 10:30 am Palm Sunday Luncheon (sponsored by Philoptochos) *for all***
- 6:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ**

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!  
Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice to serve our Lord's Holy Church!  
Without your presence and support, we cannot fulfill our mutual goals to establish  
a permanent church presence in this community and bring His Good News to those  
who seek it. **Glory to God!*****