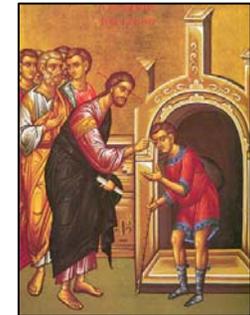
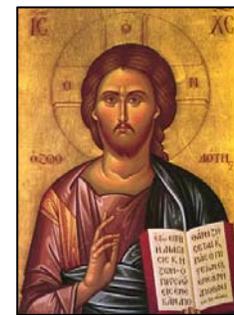




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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, May 17, 2015

**ON THIS DAY, THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *Andronikos the Apostle of the 70 and Junia the Martyr (1<sup>st</sup> cent.); Holy Martyr Solochon, and his Companions Pamfamy and Pamfylos; Holy Theophanis and Nectarios, builders of the Holy Monastery of Varlaam in Meteora; Theodotos the Martyr of Ancyra and the Seven Virgin-Martyrs; Athanasios, Archbishop of Christianopolis (+1735), and the New Martyrs of Batak, Bulgaria. In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.***

## **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.*

### **FROM THE PENTECOSTARION**

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

### **Holy Ascension – This Week**

*We invite you to join us this Wednesday evening (May 20<sup>th</sup>) to celebrate the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord and Saints Constantine and Helen on its Eve – Great Vespers at 5:00 p.m. & Divine Liturgy at 5:45 p.m.*

*Please bring non-fasting food to share for dinner fellowship.*

### **SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE**

#### **1./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (see music distributed):**

*Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.*

### **3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Clergy:**

*On the occasion of the Paschal period, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: “In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel’s wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!”*

### **4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of 1<sup>ST</sup>) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):**

It is sung *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.

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

*It is sung in both Greek and English 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 of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.*

### **7. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):**

*Today , the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Rejoice and exult, sacred gate of the Light, for Jesus Who went down into the grave has dawned again, O God-favored Lady, shining more brightly than the sun, and filling all the faithful with light.*

## **8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. 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*

### **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:11-18)**

*"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that He had said these things to her."*

### **Epistle Reading (Acts 16:16-34)**

<sup>16</sup>*One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.*

<sup>17</sup>*While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation."* <sup>18</sup>*She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.*

<sup>19</sup>*But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.*

<sup>20</sup>*When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are*

*disturbing our city; they are Jews<sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.”<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.<sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.<sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

*<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.*

### **Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)**

*As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were*

saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him,

*“You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.*

*Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT IT TO MEMORY):**

*“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things...” (Psalm 119:18)*

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

Too often we fail to see God. We miss out on seeing the sacred that He has placed right in front of us.

Helen Keller, whose only ability to “see” was through touch once, wrote:

*I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch.*

*I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf.*

*I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a silver birch, or the rough shaggy bark of a pine....*

*I feel the delightful, velvety texture of a flower, and discover its remarkable convolutions; and something of the miracle... is revealed to me.*

*At times my heart cries out with longing to see these things. If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight.*

*Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action which fills the world is taken for granted....*

*It is a great pity that, in the world of light, the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience rather than as a means of adding fullness to life.”*

The gift of sight is being able to “see” what’s around us, and more importantly, spiritually seeing our Risen Lord.

On a flight to New England a few of years ago, as we began our final approach, I glanced out of the window. The late afternoon sun highlighted fall’s vivid colors across the mountains and valleys. I put away my magazine, and took in the breathtaking canvas that only our Creator-God could paint.

Unfortunately, the urgency of life, and the pressure of deadlines have caused us to miss many “God-moments”.

Romans Chapter 1 contains a profound truth. *“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world His eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has made.” (Rom. 1:19-20)*

In short, in these two verses, St. Paul encourages us to approach life with a “spirit of expectation” — *to see Him through His invisible attributes* – His Eternal Power and His Divine Nature. They are clearly evident and visible in His creation.

***“The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)***

Has the pace of life robbed you of enjoying His handiwork? Are your daily pressures stealing His eternal power from your soul? Has pain left you feeling that His divine nature could never fill your hurting heart?

If so, slow down. No – STOP! Whatever you are doing, right now, just stop.

Go outside and experience His creation with your family and friends. Enjoy His handiwork. Psalm 46:10 says, “*Be still and know that I am God*” — because He is. Allow the precious gift of sight to *add fullness to your life*. It just might turn your life around. Amen.



## Hands of Love: May, 2015

“For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do his word which says, ‘You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land.’ “ Deuteronomy 15:11

**We are collecting non-perishable food items, personal care items, and office supplies for Fayette Samaritans.**

### GOYA News

Our next GOYA outing/meeting will be at the Chattahoochee Bend State Park on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am. It will be an afternoon of picnicking and hiking along the river. Bring your gear! The GOYANS would also like to extend an invitation to the parish community to join us for a day of fellowship and fun.

Please contact GOYA Co-Advisor Anna Pelky, [afp171@aol.com](mailto:afp171@aol.com) or (404) 819-6206, if you have any questions and also to let us know if you will be attending. We need a committed head count for planning purposes.

Sheryl Vasiliadis and Anna Pelky  
GOYA Advisors





Office of the Secretariat

2015 Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday Encyclical

*“...Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God  
and the prisoners were listening to them...” Acts 16:25*

To all the Clergy and the Laity of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States:

Beloved in Christ: Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has designated the Sixth Sunday of Pascha, Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, to be Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) Awareness Sunday in all parishes.

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Our parishes are on an inevitable encounter with jails and prisons. Orthodox men and women have been incarcerated and others discover the fullness of the Orthodox Faith even in these dark places. The Holy Orthodox Church offers them the Life that gives meaning to all life and that Life is able to bring healing to a broken humanity. We should all see people not as they are but as they could become through the Holy Orthodox Faith. OCPM is busy training clergy and laypeople to meet the needs of those in prison and those coming out of prison. There are currently hundreds of Orthodox catechumens in jails and prisons. OCPM has published many books and pamphlets distributing more than one million copies. Over two million icon prayer cards have been printed and distributed. OCPM is working to get the Holy Orthodox Faith recognized as a legitimate religion in every state prison system. Jesus told His sheep: “I was in prison and you came to Me” (Matthew 25:36). Not all of us can go into the prisons directly, but we can all support those who do this work. When someone from OCPM goes into a prison, we who have financially supported this ministry, also go into that prison. This vital ministry of the Orthodox Church needs our financial assistance to do this work. Therefore, we ask you to please pass a second offering tray on Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and send these gifts to OCPM - Post Office Box 1597 - New York, NY 10025

+Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia, the Orthodox Church in America  
*Liaison to OCPM from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America*

The Reverend Stephen Powley  
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## **Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for AHEPA Sunday - May 17, 2015**

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ἀνέστη!

In the light and joy of this blessed season of the Resurrection of our Lord, we give praise and thanks to God who meets all of our needs according to the abundance of His glory. Through Christ we have received life, and through His grace and our faith we will have life eternal in His glorious presence.

Today we celebrate a wonderful miracle, the healing by Christ of a man who had been blind since birth. (John 9:1-38) This is a strong declaration of the great healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

This day is also our annual commemoration of AHEPA Sunday in recognition of the members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and their vital work around the world. Through housing for senior adults, scholarships for youth, and many charitable and educational programs, the AHEPA family has been generously and compassionately meeting needs. In the spirit of Christ Who said to His disciples, *Let your light so shine before the people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16), the members of AHEPA are offering light, hope, and opportunity to many.

This is especially visible in the vital work of AHEPA in providing medical and food relief for the people of Greece. During the current crisis the AHEPA family has participated in the relief effort through donations to food charities, gifts of medical equipment, and facilitating regular shipments of medical supplies. This reveals the compassionate character of AHEPA members and their longstanding willingness to respond to urgent needs.

On AHEPA Sunday I ask all of our parishes throughout the Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to recognize the members, work, and mission of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. In addition, please encourage and support the work of the local chapters as they contribute to these efforts and assist with the work of our parishes. Many members of AHEPA are leaders and benefactors in our communities, and they offer a vital witness of the strength and importance of our Hellenic ideals, our Orthodox faith, and the power of the Resurrection in meeting the needs of others.

With paternal love in our Risen Lord,

†DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

And on this 557<sup>th</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!



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## **WORSHIP & COMMUNITY SCHEDULE**

Today is the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha

**Sunday, May 17: (Sunday of the Blind Man):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Coffee Fellowship
- 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting

**Monday, May 18:**

- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Wednesday, May 20 (Eve of Holy Ascension and Ss. Constantine & Helen):**

- 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers
- 5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening) followed by Community Dinner/Program  
(*please bring non-fasting food and your Being Bread books*)

**Thursday, May 21 (Feast of Holy Ascension and Ss. Constantine & Helen):**

- Note: Church Services offered on Eve of Feast – May 20<sup>th</sup> – join us!
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

**Sunday, May 24: (Sunday of the Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council):**

- 7:45 a.m. Orthros
- 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 11:00 a.m. GOYA Meeting and Picnic Outing (*see insert inside bulletin*)

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