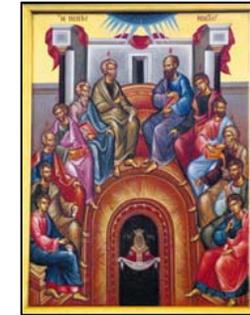
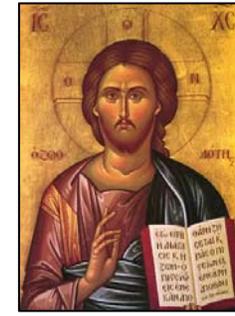




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, May 31, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS PENTECOST, THE FIFTIETH DAY AFTER PASCHA. TODAY WE COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THE EPISTLE FOR THE FEAST. “THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”, THE COMFORTER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHO IS EVERYWHERE PRESENT AND FILLS ALL THINGS, AS THE BEAUTIFUL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH TO THE HOLY SPIRIT STATES. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Martyr Hermias, and Eusebius and Haralambos the Monk-Martyrs. 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.

From the Pentecostarion

Pentecost is the Greek word for "fifty," and it names today's Feast falling on the fiftieth day after Pascha. The day commemorates the events described in the Epistle for today's Feast, the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere present and fills all things, as the beautiful prayer of the Church to the Holy Spirit states.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./3./5./10. Special Hymn Commemorating Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.172-173):

It is sung *after* the Doxology, *before* and *after* the Small Entrance, and *following the distribution of Holy Communion*.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made wise men of poor fishermen by sending down upon them Your Holy Spirit, and through them You caught the whole world. O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

2. Second Antiphon Today – (Hymnal-pp.28-29):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of the normal "Soson Imas": Save us, O Son of God, O Holy Counselor. We sing to You: Alleluia!"

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "Be exalted, O Lord, in Your strength! We will sing and chant the praise of Your might. O Holy Counselor, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!"

6. Kontakion for the Feast of Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.280-281):

When He came down and confused the tongues of men, the Most High divided the nations. But in sending forth parted tongues of flame, He called all mankind to unity, that with one accord we might glorify His all Holy Spirit.

7. Special Hymn instead of Trisagion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.292-293):

On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the Trisagion hymn: "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Alleluia. (3)"

8. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.310-311):

Today, the following hymn is usually sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": You conceived and gave birth in virginity; the Word Who created all, through you became incarnate. O Mother who knew not man, Virgin Theotokos, the boundless One was held by you, the dwelling of your infinite Creator; we magnify you.

9. Communion Hymn for Feast of Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.322):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is usually sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Let Your Good Spirit lead me along a path that is sure and straight. Alleluia. (Psalm 142[143]:10)

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 20:19-23)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Epistle Reading (Acts 2:1-11)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were

filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs — in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

Gospel Reading (John 7:37-52, 8:12)

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, He cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me, and let the one who believes in Me drink. As the Scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now He said this about the Spirit, which believers in Him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does He? Has not the Scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” So there was a division in the crowd because of Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him. Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest Him?” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, which does not know the law — they are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.” Again Jesus spoke to them,

saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

IF YOU WANT TO DEFEND CHRISTIANITY, *PRACTICE IT!*

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

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Pentecost (also called **Trinity Day** or **Descent of the Holy Spirit**) is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated fifty days after Pascha.

Day of Pentecost

Fifty days after the Resurrection, on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, while the disciples and many other followers of Jesus Christ were gathered together to pray, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of "cloven tongues of fire," with the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and they began to speak in languages that they did not know. There were many visitors from the Jewish Diaspora to Jerusalem at that time for the Jewish observance of the feast, and they were astonished to hear these untaught fisherman speaking praises to God in their alien tongues. This account is detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2.

The number fifty, as in the fiftieth day after Pascha, stands for eternal and heavenly fulfillment, seven times seven, plus one.

Feast of Pentecost

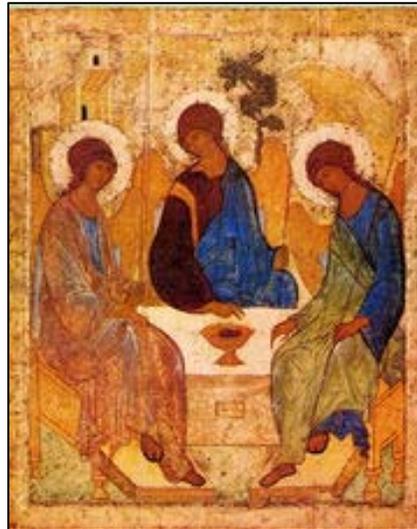
The Orthodox Church sees Pentecost as the final fulfillment of the mission of Jesus Christ and the first beginning of the messianic age of the Kingdom of

God, mystically present in his Church. It is traditionally called the beginning of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Besides celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit, the feast also celebrates the full revelation of the divine Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Hymns of the Church, celebrate the sign of the final act of God's self-disclosure to the world of His creation.

To Orthodox Christians, the feast of Pentecost is not just a celebration of an event in history. It is also a celebration their membership in the Church. They have lived Pentecost and received "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" in the sacrament of chrismation.

Celebration of the Feast



For the feast of Pentecost, the icon of the Holy Trinity, the three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham, is placed in the center of the church for veneration. This icon is used with the traditional Pentecost icon. The church building is decorated with flowers and the green leaves of the summer to show that God's divine breath comes to renew all creation. Green vestments and coverings are also used.

Left: Three angelic figures who appeared to Abraham

The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is offered with special hymns replacing the standard Antiphons. The hymns *O Heavenly King* and *We have seen the True Light* are sung for the first time since Pascha, calling the Holy Spirit to "come and abide in us," and proclaiming that "we have received the heavenly Spirit."

The Great Vespers of Pentecost (Sunday) which include the Service of Kneeling are offered immediately following the Divine Liturgy and features three long prayers at which the faithful kneel for the first time since Pascha.

After Pentecost

The Monday after Pentecost is the **Feast of the Holy Spirit** in the Orthodox Church, and the Sunday after Pentecost is the Feast of All Saints.

Even though the start of the Church year is considered to start in September, the liturgical center of the annual cycle of Orthodox worship is the feast of Pascha, preceded by Great Lent, and Pre-Lent, and followed by the fifty days of paschal celebration until the feast of Pentecost. Until the start of the next Great Lent, the Sundays and weeks following Pentecost, are numbered from Pentecost. Liturgical readings and hymns will be based on the “weeks after Pentecost” as listed in the *Octoechos*, *Apostolos*, and *Lectionary* arranged Gospel.

Praying for a Blessed Pentecost!

The staff, missionaries, and board of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) pray that you have a blessed Feast of Pentecost. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down like tongues _____ of fire upon the Apostles, empowering them to preach the Gospel and establish Christ’s Church. May the gifts of the Holy Spirit enable you and your community to continue this work by sharing the Orthodox Faith with people around the world!

And on this 559th 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!



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

WORSHIP & COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 8th Sunday of Pascha
The week following the Sunday of Pentecost is FAST-Free (until 6/6)

Sunday, May 31: (Holy Pentecost/Trinity Sunday):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Service of Kneeling (for Holy Spirit Monday)

11:45 am Let's EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, GA

Thursday, June 4:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, June 7: (Sunday of All Saints):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/High School Graduation Sunday

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



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.’ “
Deuteronomy15:11

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