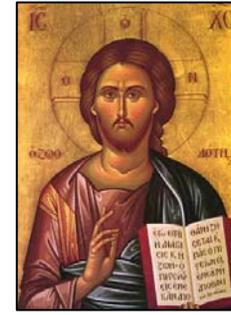




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 8, 2016

ON THIS DAY, THE 2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WHICH WE REFER TO AS ANTIPASCHA – THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS, WE COMMEMORATE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DOUBT OF THOMAS CHANGING INTO A PROFESSION OF FAITH. HIS AUDACITY IS STRESSED TOGETHER WITH THE INFINITE KINDNESS OF CHRIST WHO GAVE HIM THE MOST STRIKING PROOFS. THE SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS OF JOHN IS COMMEMORATED TOGETHER WITH THE PHYSICAL CLOSENESS OF THOMAS. ON THIS DAY WE ALSO COMMEMORATE John the Apostle, Evangelist, & Theologian; Synaxis of the Holy Powder (or manna) which emitted from the tomb of Saint John the Theologian; Arsenios the Great; and Emelia, mother of St. Basil the Great. 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.

DURING THE 40 DAYS FOLLOWING OUR LORD'S PASCHA/PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE, ORTHODOX FAITHFUL ARE ENCOURAGED TO GREET ONE ANOTHER UPON FIRST ENCOUNTER AS FOLLOWS:

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./4. Hymn for Sunday of St. Thomas – (Hymnal-pp.154-157):

Sung after the Great Doxology and after the Small Entrance: While the tomb was sealed, You shone forth from it as light, O our life, Christ our God. And though the doors were closed, You appeared in the midst of Your disciples. O Resurrection of all, through them restore in us a new spirit in Your great mercy.

2./9. Special Hymn for the Feast of Pascha (our Lord's passover from death to life):

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 Priest:

On the occasion of the Feast of Pascha, 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!"

5. Kontakion for Pascha – (Not in Hymnal):

Sung after the Small Entrance: O Apostle, the beloved of Christ God, hasten to deliver us, a people that has no excuse. He accepts you supplicating Him, for He condescended at the Supper to let you lean on Him. Entreat Him, O Theologian, that He scatter the persistent cloud of hostile nations, and pray for us, for peace and great mercy.

6. Kontakion for Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

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.308-309):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": “You are the shining light and the Mother of God, of incomparable glory and higher in dignity than all creatures; with songs of praise we magnify you.”

8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.320):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord...": “Exalt in the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.” (Ps. 147[147B])

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 (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Epistle Reading (1 John 1:1-7)

I We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so

that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Gospel Reading (John 20:19-31)

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 had 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." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe." A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Last Sunday, at the Agape Vespers Service, we all enjoyed hearing the Gospel proclaimed in ten (10) languages. For your review and consideration today, Fr. George would like to offer our Paschal greeting – “Christ Is Risen” & “Truly, He is Risen” in the languages that our faithful use. When you consider how difficult it is to learn two or three languages, it is reassuring to know that through God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness, all of us are brought together in one, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church – one body in His and each other’s love. Awesome!

Arabic: Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam!

Church Slavonic: Christos Voskrese! Voistino Voskrese!

English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

French: Le Christ est Resurrecté! En Verite, il est Resurrecté!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Romanian: Hristus A Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!

Spanish: Cristo esta resucitado! En verdad, esta resucitado!

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

“Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.” (1 Chr. 16:10)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

St. Gregory the Great who lived in the sixth century wrote: *“If a dead man is raised to life, all men spring up in astonishment. Yet every day One that had no being is born, and no man wonders, though it is plain to all, without doubt, that it is a greater thing for that to be created which was without being than for that which had being to be restored. Because the dry rod of Aaron budded, all men were in astonishment; every day a tree is produced from the dry earth ... and no man wonders ... Five thousand men were filled*

with five loaves; every day the grains of seed that are sown are multiplied in a fullness of ears, and no man wonders. All wondered to see water once turned into wine. Every day the earth's moisture, being drawn into the root of the vine, is turned by the grape into wine, and no man wonders. Full of wonder then are all the things which men never think to wonder at, because they are by habit become dull to the consideration of them."



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

And on this 606th 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

Sunday, May 8 (Sunday of St. Thomas/Happy Mother's Day!):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Mother's Day Luncheon

Monday, May 9 (Feast of St. Christopher the Great Martyr):

6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening)/Community Dinner

Thursday, May 12:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Saturday, May 14:

Fr. George offers Divine Liturgy at Paracletos Monastery in Abbeville, SC today. Please join him. Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 15: (Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

10:30 a.m. GOYA Meeting; 10:45 a.m. Religious Education Classes

11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting; 12:30 p.m. Hellenic Dance

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

SAVE THE DATE!!! MOTHER'S DAY AND PARISH NAME DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday, May 8th, 10:30 am

Details to be announced



Hands of Love: May

"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)



All Sundays in May : Fayette Samaritans

We will be collecting non-perishable food items, personal care items, and office supplies.

Fayette Samaritans is a Christian ministry serving those in need in Fayette County, Georgia. The group provides food, clothing, and financial assistance for selected emergency needs. It was chartered in 1991, with representatives from 11 Fayette County churches, to assess and coordinate the critical needs of area residents who may not qualify for assistance from other agencies.

Fayette Samaritans is now supported by more than 50 area churches, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals. It is housed in its own 2400 square foot facility, located at 126 Hickory Road behind the Fayetteville Christian Church.

A special note of appreciation:

Our parish collected 188 canned and boxed food items, 15 cleaning items, and \$287 for the Fayette Samaritans during the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive in February! And in March, a total of 92 items were donated to One Roof including 40 food items and 52 personal care items! Keep up the good work!

Yours in Christ,
Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator