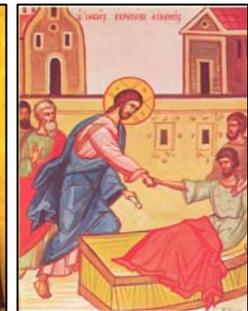
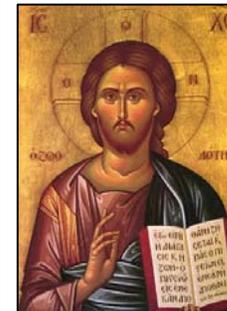




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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. Tshakis, *Chancellor*

## Liturgical Guide for Sunday, July 12, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES *Proclus & Hilary the Martyrs of Ancyra; Holy Father Michael of Maleinus; Veronica, the woman with the issue of blood who was healed by Jesus; & Andre the Commander & his Companion 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.*

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

### **1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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.

### **4. 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.

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

<p><i>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.</i> – St. John Chrysostom</p>
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### **Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:36-53)**

*While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still*

with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God. Amen.

**Epistle Reading (Romans 12:6-14)**

<sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. <sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

**Gospel Reading (Matthew 9:1-8)**

<sup>1</sup>And after getting into a boat He crossed the sea and came to His own town. <sup>2</sup>And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." <sup>3</sup>Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." <sup>4</sup>But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? <sup>5</sup>For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>6</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —He then said to the paralytic—"stand up, take your bed and go to your home." <sup>7</sup>And he stood up and went to his home. <sup>8</sup>When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

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

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31)

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

There is an ancient legend about a monk who found a precious stone, a precious jewel. A short time later, the monk met a traveler, who said he was hungry and asked the monk if he would share some of his provisions. When the monk opened his bag, the traveler saw the precious stone and, on an impulse, asked the monk if he could have it. Amazingly, the monk gave the traveler the stone.

The traveler departed quickly, overjoyed with his new possession. However, a few days later, he came back, searching for the monk. He returned the stone to the monk and made a request: "Please give me that which enabled you to give me this precious stone!"

A commitment of the whole heart, that's what God requires of His followers. Jesus did not say the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great price. He said the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant who finds a great deal on a flawless stone and does everything in his power to close the sale. That's commitment to a greater cause. That's sacrifice and hard work. That's what Heaven is like. Amen.

And on this 565<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!

## **COMMUNITY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, July 12: (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 a.m. Orthros**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service/Coffee Fellowship**

**11:00 a.m. Parish Council Meeting**

### **Thursday, July 16:**

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

### **Saturday, July 18: (Paracletos Monastery Visit):**

**Join Fr. George as he offers Divine Liturgy at Paracletos Monastery,  
790 Gin House Road, Abbeville, SC 29620**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

### **Sunday, July 19: (Sunday of the Holy Fathers):**

**7:45 a.m. Orthros**

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

**10:30 a.m. GOYA Meeting**

**11:00 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting**

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