



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, July 19, 2015

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon (+451); **WE ALSO COMMEMORATE** Macrina the Righteous, sister of St. Basil (+379); Dius, Abbot of Antioch (+430); Translation of the Holy Relics of Righteous Seraphim of Sarov; and Saint Theodore, Bishop of Edessa. *Through the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O God, have mercy upon 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 2nd Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

3. Hymn of the Holy Fathers – (Hymnal-pp.170-171):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ our God, for making our holy fathers radiant lights to all the world. Through them You led us to the true faith. Compassionate Savior, Glory to You.

4. 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.

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.

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 20:1-10)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Epistle Reading (Titus 3:8-15)

Titus 3:8 The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. 9 But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, 11 since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned. 12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Make every effort to send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and see that they lack nothing. 14 And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 5:14-19)

Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.” (*Psalms 29:2*)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

There is an old fable in which a father and his young son journeyed into a distant land. They climbed to a mountaintop where they discovered a hut in which to rest for the night:

At dawn, the sun banished the darkness and painted the snow-capped peaks with brilliant orange. The son awoke. He saw the glowing sky and the flame-colored mountain-tips. He was a small boy, and could only see through the top of the window above him. He did not understand the brilliant colors that were gleaming in. It alarmed

him. He longed for the comfort of the past when he was at home with his mother.

The rising sun warmed the winter snow which had lain cold and barren for so long upon the mountainside. It loosened the drifts and sent cascades thundering down into the valley below. The dreadful roaring terrified the young boy even more than the flaming sky.

Finally he rushed to his father and shook him, crying “Father! Father! Wake up! Wake up! It is the end of the world!”

The father opened his eyes. He could see everything clearly through the window which was too high for the vision of his son. He saw the avalanche of snow released by the warming rays of the spring sun. He knew that soon it would bring fresh water to the parched land below, restoring life. He understood these things. He took his son by the hand to comfort him. “No, my son,” the father said. *“It’s not the end of the world. It’s the dawn of a new day.”*

The dawn mistaken for dusk . . . How easy it is to lose our spiritual bearings as we confront the fast-changing world turning long-standing beliefs and traditions aside. As Christians, we are called to place our trust in our Lord and His Divine Providence over us amidst all of our struggles in ways we cannot begin to fathom.

Perhaps the pastoral encouragement of the Prophet Isaiah in 58:6-14 can help direct us:

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your

house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Isaiah’s words call us to genuine worship - to align ourselves with God’s plans set for us from the beginning. We are called to promote justice, righteousness and fairness – which draw us to the blessings of our Lord.

Let us remain hope-filled in all things. Let us seek new means to offer both physical and spiritual food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. Let us share our love for others which indeed reflects our love for God. Let us find this love deep within our hearts and nurture it daily with God's help. And may we demonstrate it through fruitful works to glorify God and thank Him.

Our response to the events and conditions of our world continues to be to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His teachings with humility, compassion, and forgiveness, remaining vigilant until His Second and Glorious Coming! Amen!



Hands of Love: July 2015



"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

When you give to **Soldiers' Angels**, you help make life just a little easier for our military families, service members, and veterans. Unlike many other military organizations, Soldiers' Angels serves not only military families and service members, but also veterans of all eras. It is one of the few charities approved to work in the VA hospitals and provides direct support to our veterans. Your

monetary donations can help in the following ways:

\$35 - Average amount needed for a care package to be purchased, packed and sent

\$50 - Average amount provided for gas assistance to/from VA hospitals

\$100 - Average amount provided for food assistance for a veteran to help put food on the table

\$800 - Average amount needed to purchase a laptop for a wounded warrior with hand or arm injuries, including those suffering from burns, paralysis, loss of sight or voice, and amputation to help maintain some independence and to stay connected with family, friends, and battle buddies

Thank you for your support of this worthy Philoptochos ministry.

Kim Haldopoulos (coordinator)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

Peachtree City, GA

Special Parish General Assembly Meeting Agenda

July 26, 2015

(All parishioners – please join us immediately after church services)

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| 10:15 AM | Call to Order & Prayer – Fr. George Tsahakis |
| 10:17 AM | Election of Meeting Chairman – Fr. George Tsahakis |
| 10:20 AM | Property Update - Building Committee, Parish Council |
| 10:50 AM | Questions and decision on path forward - Building Committee, Parish Council |
| 11:45 PM | Closing Prayer – Fr. George Tsahakis |
| 11:45 PM | Adjournment |

****Please note the information above was mailed to all homes but has an unintentional error. We will adjourn by 11:45 a.m. (not p.m.). We expect the meeting to last no more than 90 minutes, so please don't worry about us continuing until nearly midnight! We want you there and look forward to our meeting as a parish family. *Please join us!***

And on this 566th 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 19 (Sunday of the Holy Fathers):

7:45 am Orthros Service 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:35 am GOYA Meeting 11:00 am Philoptochos General Meeting

Monday, July 20 (Prophet Elijah):

5:00 pm Great Vespers

5:45 pm Divine Liturgy, followed by Community Dinner (non-fasting) & Book Study (bring your copies of *Being Bread*)

Wednesday, July 22:

6:00 pm ECYDC Meeting, followed by Religious Educators Meeting

Thursday, July 23:

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, July 26 (8th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:30 am Orthros Service 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship

10:15 am General Parish Assembly (see top of page for agenda)

12:30 pm Let's EAT™ Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Fayetteville, GA

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!