



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, July 2, 2017**

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem; Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae; Juvenal the Protomartyr of America & Alaska; John Maximovitch, Archbishop of Shanghai & San Francisco; and the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos of the Orphan. 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 (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

### **3. Hymn Commemorating the Robe of the Theotokos – (see handout):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Ever-virgin Theotokos, the shelter of mankind, you have given to your City as a protective wall the clothing and garment that you wore on your immaculate body. By your seedless childbirth, they have remained incorrupt. For in you both nature and time are made novel. Therefore we implore you, grant peace to your commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

### **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. Special Kontakion for Robe of the Theotokos– (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance: You have bestowed your sacred Garment, O Lady, to be a robe of incorruption, O pure one, for all the faithful, O divine protection of mankind; for with it you had arrayed your most pure sacred body. Now with longing we observe the feast of its bestowal, and in a loud*

voice we cry out with faith: Rejoice, O Virgin, the boast of Christians everywhere.

### **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 (Luke 24:1-12)**

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.*

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Hebrews 9:1-7)**

*Hebr. 9:1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. 4 In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a*

golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail. 6 Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; 7 but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

### **Gospel Reading (Matthew 8:5-13)**

<sup>5</sup>When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, appealing to Him <sup>6</sup>and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, "I will come and cure him." <sup>8</sup>The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup>For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." <sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard him, He was amazed and said to those who followed Him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. <sup>11</sup>I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, <sup>12</sup>while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup>And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

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

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." (Mt. 21:22)

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

If we are going to be most effective in reaching people for Christ, I believe our strategy should be to show people that we really care. Evangelism and missions must be relational in nature. I can't find an incident in Holy Scripture in which Jesus walks up to someone and says: "I am the Messiah" and then He shows care for them. No, our Lord offered His care for them first, and then He revealed Himself to them. With this thought in mind, consider the following story which I wish to use to highlight the various strategies being used to witness the "Good News" of our Lord, using its simple plot involving a passenger on a luxury liner who suddenly falls overboard.

The passenger who has fallen overboard cannot swim. In desperation, he begins calling for help. Now it just so happens that several "would-be rescuers" on deck witness the incident. The first person after seeing the man fall overboard immediately reached into his briefcase and pulled out a book on how to swim. He now tossed it to him and he yelled: "Now brother, you read that and just follow the instructions and you will be all right."

The man next to him had another approach. He immediately jumped into the water and began swimming all around the drowning man saying: "Now just watch me swim. Do as I do and you will be all right." The person next to him looked upon the drowning man's plight with deep concern. He yelled out: "Now, just hold on friend. Help is on the way. We are going to establish a committee and discuss your problem. And then, if we have come up with the proper financing, we will resolve your dilemma."

The next man on deck yelled out to the drowning man: “Friend, this situation is not nearly as bad as you think. Think dry!” By this time the drowning man was going down for the third time and desperately began waving his arm. Seeing that, the next man on board yelled out: “Yes brother, I see that hand, is there another? Is there another?” *And finally, the last man on deck immediately plunged into the water, at the risk of his own life, and pulled the victim to safety.*

This Tuesday, our great nation celebrates its independence as a new nation on July 4, 1776. This occasion affords us a chance to thank God for the freedoms we possess as citizens of the United States of America. As stewards of God’s blessings and our personal freedom, let us recommit our allegiance to our country and its opportunity for us to choose to live life as God has directed us. Rather than squander these blessings on the failed approaches noted in the story above, let us imitate the life-saving rescuer: *Let us “plunge ourselves into the water, even if it means sacrifice, inconvenience, or risk to our own life, and pull ourselves and others entrusted to us to God’s Heavenly Kingdom, here and now, and to the ages of ages to come.”*

As encouragement, St. Paul shared to the first Christians in Thessaloniki, Greece some 2,000 years ago: “We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that He has chosen you, because our message of the Gospel [Good News] came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.” (1 Thess. 1:2-5)

Summer Grove East Lake  
Pool  
39 Lake Cove Approach  
Newnan, GA 30265

**SPLISH SPLASH**  
**END OF SUMMER**  
**POOL PARTY BASH**  
 for HOPE/JOY  
 End of Summer/ Back to School party!!!  
 July 22, 2017 10:00am

Please RSVP by July 18 to either Emilia Moraitis (678) 749-1550 or Katie Wilson (404) 434-0877.

The main course will be provided and we would love for you to bring some sides, snacks, and drinks. Just let us know what you would like to bring ☺



## Hands of Love: July

*"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 July: Soldiers' Angels



Soldiers' Angels serves active duty military and their families, as well as veterans of all eras. This is one of the few charities approved to work in the VA hospitals and provide direct support to our veterans.

Your monetary donation of:

- \$ 35 - can get a care package purchased, packed, and sent
- \$ 50 - can provide gas assistance for transportation to appointments at VA hospitals
- \$100 - can help a veteran put food on the table
- \$800 - can purchase a laptop for a wounded warrior with hand or arm injuries, burns, paralysis, loss of sight or voice, amputation, and help them maintain some independence, as well as stay connected with family, friends, and battle buddies.

More information at [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org)

Yours in Christ,  
Anna Andreeva Naydenova, Hands of Love Coordinator

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

---

And on this *the 662<sup>nd</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 2: (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

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

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Doxology for July 4<sup>th</sup>/Coffee Fellowship**

**Tuesday, July 4 – Independence Day – God bless America**

**Thursday, July 6:**

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

**Sunday, July 9: (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

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

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

**10:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting**

***Today, Fr. George will offer the "Doxology for July 4<sup>th</sup>". It is an opportunity to reflect on the blessings our Lord has given our great country – The United States of America. Let us always give thanks to God for His countless blessings to us and the land we have been entrusted.)***

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