



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
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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 30, 2017

**ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus and Andronicus the Apostles of the 70 and Julitta of Caesaria. *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 (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

### **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 for Today's Feast of Transfiguration – (Hymnal-pp.284-287):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your disciples as much of Your glory as they could bear, so that when they see You crucified they will know that You suffer freely, and they will tell all the world that You are truly the radiance of the Father.

## **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 (John 20:11-18)**

*“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’*

*She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that He had said these things to her."*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 1:10-17)**

<sup>10</sup>*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.* <sup>11</sup>*For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.* <sup>12</sup>*What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."* <sup>13</sup>*Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?* <sup>14</sup>*I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,* <sup>15</sup>*so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.* <sup>16</sup>*(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)* <sup>17</sup>*For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:14-22)**

*<sup>14</sup>When He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” <sup>19</sup>Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>22</sup>Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.*

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

“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name’s sake.” (Psalm 79:9)

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

*(The Orthodox Church uses Holy Scripture in many of its prayers and hymns offered to God. The following prayer is modeled on St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy 3:14-16... it asks for God’s guidance in responding to St. Paul’s counsel to his parishioners in early Christianity.)*

Our Heavenly Father,

We ask you to provide us with a graciousness by which we shall know how to behave ourselves in Your household, the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. Help us to dedicate ourselves individually to the truth that the Church at large will be a bastion of truth, and will be known by the world to be what it claims to be.

Keep our focus of truth always on the central mystery of our religion: *that Christ was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, and taken up in glory!*

Nourish us with Your Holy Word and enable us to use our faith and Your teachings to do Your will. Guide our minds to stay away from silly and godless myths and dedicate our lives to Your service.

For to You we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we anticipate next weekend's celebration of the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, may we thank Him for the strength that He gives us to share and minister to others. May we acknowledge His blessings in providing us the many talents by which we may help others.*

*In spite of our wrongdoings against Him and our neighbors, may He show us great mercy in overlooking our ignorance and unbelief. May our Transfigured Lord provide us with opportunities and encouragement to serve Him and His creation.*

*Through our faith and our response to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we beseech Him to overflow in each of us the faith and the love that are available in Him. And may we always proclaim the truth that our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to save humankind. Glory to Him forever! Amen.*



## 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.*

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And on this the 666th 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!

## **Reflection on Paraklesis Services During First Two Weeks of August:**

... During the first half of August, Greek Orthodox churches around the world hold services. In these services, we seek the holy and maternal spiritual support of the Theotokos. This service, too, becomes a part of us. As the name of the service, “Paraklesis”, indicates, we ask the Virgin Mary for spiritual comfort. We ask for the comfort of Christ to envelop us, during times of troubles as well as times of abundant blessings.

In the Paraklesis, during the Third Ode, we chant: “A protection and shelter, I have with you in my life. You, the Theotokos and the Virgin, pilot me towards your port; for you are the cause, the cause of that which is good, support of the faithful, the only all-praised One.” [Kangelaris & Kasemeotes translation] We ask the Panagia to guide us, both through her example and through her intercessions to the Lord (Who is the Source of all goodness). Each one of us endures quite enough in the way of difficulties (and not only those difficulties which are of our own making); but rather than slipping under the waves of hardship, we lift our soul to Jesus the Physician of our souls and bodies.

In Psalm 142 (read during the early part of the Paraklesis), we ask the Lord to lead each of us, [verse 8] “to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You.” It is in this spirit when we actually let Jesus lead us, as opposed to our pushing for the way of our own insatiable egocentric or even fleshly desires that we ask Him to hear our prayer. There are times, as we testify in this Psalm, that we weaken, and come to the point that we say [verses 7 & 8]: “Hear me quickly, O Lord, my spirit fails. Do not turn Your face away from me. Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning, for in You I have put my trust.”

For those of us who take advantage of the Paraklesis services, we come together in Christ, we offer prayers for our own physical and (often overlooked) spiritual health, as well as the health of our loved ones and even of our ‘enemies’! In fervent faith, let us seek that spiritual comfort. Let us each turn to our Lord, through the powerful intercession of His Holy Mother, seeking: “A sheltered cover and refuge, and a place of joy.” [Ninth Ode].

*God bless, - Fr. Anthony Stratis*





# COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

*Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is from August 1<sup>st</sup> through August 14<sup>th</sup>*

## Sunday, July 30 (8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Let's EAT!

## Tuesday, August 1:

6:00 pm Paraklesis Service *(We will pray for the health & welfare of all*

7:00 pm High School Students/Parents Fellowship

## Thursday, August 3:

3:00 pm Batter Prep for GreekFest Baking (Spanakopites)

6:00 pm Paraklesis Service *(We will pray for the health & welfare of all*

7:00 pm Choir Practice

7:00 pm Special Parish Council Meeting

## Saturday, August 5:

9:00 am Baking for GreekFest (Spanakopites)

## Sunday, August 6 (Transfiguration of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ):

7:45 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

10:15 am Blessing of the Grapes

10:30 am Blessing of 2016-2017 School Year/Open House for  
Students and Adults

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