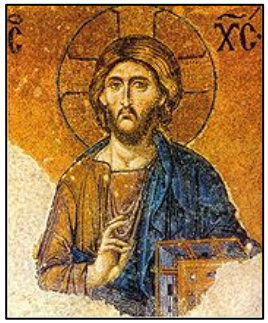
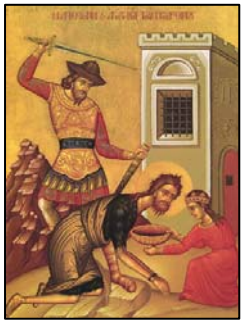
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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 Saturday, August 29, 2015

Beheading of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, & Baptist John *(Day of Strict Fast)*

ON THIS DAY, THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES *the Severing of the Precious Head of the Holy, Glorious, Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist, John; Theodora of Thessaloniki; and Anastasios the New Martyr of Bulgaria. By the intercessions of Your Forerunner, O Christ, 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./3./4. Hymn for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist – *(not in Hymnal)*:
It is sung after the Great Doxology and before and after the Small Entrance. Remembrance by the just is praiseworthy, but being witness of the Lord suffices you, O Forerunner. A Prophet in truth and most revered, you have been revealed and approved worthy to baptize Him Whom you did proclaim. Therefore, as you are champion of the Truth, rejoicing that even to Hades is proclaimed, that God is manifested in the flesh, the sacrifice, for the sins of the world, and granting to us, the great mercy.

2. Hymn for Second Antiphon – *(pg. 28 of Hymnal):*
On the occasion of today's feast, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas, "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, among the saints glorified, we sing to You, Alleluia."

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – *(see music distributed):*
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.

6. Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos – *(Hymnal-pp.228-231):*
It is sung after the Small Entrance. Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus free from the stain of sin, we, your people, honor your birth, crying out to you: A woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our life.

7. Communion Hymn – *(Hymnal-pp.328):*
On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord*":* "The memory of the righteous will endure forever. (Ps. 111[112]). Alleluia."

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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

Epistle Reading (Acts 13:25-32)

Acts 13:25 And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not He. No, but One is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on His feet.' 26 "My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. 27 Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize Him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning Him. 28 Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have Him killed. 29 When they had carried out everything that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead; 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now His witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors

Gospel Reading (Mark 6:14-30)

Mark 6:14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. 18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill

him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. 21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. 22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." 23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." 24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." 25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. 30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told Him all that they had done and taught.

On this our twelfth Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist at 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!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Saturday, August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist – Strict Fast Day):

7:45 am Orthros Service
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
10:30 a.m. Philoptochos Fall Bake Sale – Prepare Tiropites

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!