



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

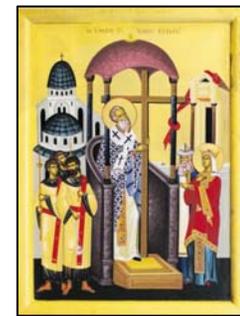
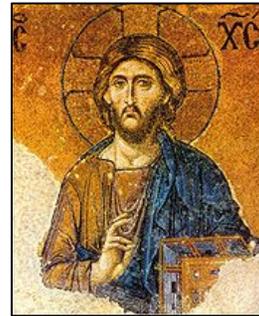
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

*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, September 11, 2016**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY *BEFORE* THE FEAST OF THE UNIVERSAL CELEBRATION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST AND THE SUNDAY *FOLLOWING* THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY,** we commemorate our Righteous Mother Theodora the Martyr of Alexandria (+490); Righteous Father Euphrosynos the Cook (+9<sup>th</sup> cent.); Holy Martyr Eia the Eldress, Demetrios & Evanthea the Martyrs & their son Demetrianos; Sergius and Herman of Valaam, Finland; and Deinol the First Bishop of Bangor. *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./3. Hymn for the Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.176-177):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance.* Your birth, O Theotokos, has filled the world with joy, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He destroyed the ancient curse and replaced it with a blessing, thus confounding death by giving us eternal life.

### **2. Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):**

*It is sung 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.

### **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 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.

### **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 (Matthew 28:16-20)**

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.*

#### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 6:11-18)**

<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. <sup>18</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

#### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 3:13-17)**

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into Heaven except the One Who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in

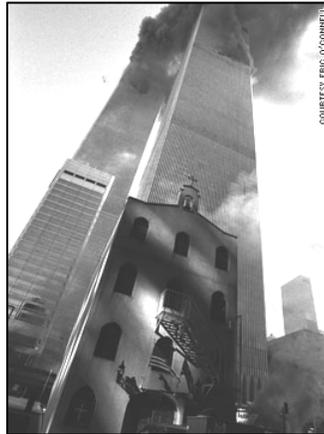
Him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

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

“He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.’” (Mark 8:34)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

*[On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001, we honor the memory of all victims and heroes who perished on that day. In recognition of the fifteenth anniversary of this national tragedy and the loss our country sustained, I would like to share with you the following prayer offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, at the Prayer Services at Boston City Hall on September 13, 2001.]*



***Prayer Remembering September 11,  
2001***

Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Benevolent Lord, Creator and Sustainer of us all, hear us, Your children, at this time of national crisis and unbearable pain. We come to You because You are our Savior and Benefactor Who grants peace and solace to peoples and nations. It is You Who bore our sins on Your precious Holy Cross. It is only You that can heal our wounds and ease our suffering.

You have blessed our nation abundantly and guided us in times of sadness and despair. Yes, You have blessed America. “You have stood beside her, and guided her through the night with a light from above.”

Protect, we pray, our nation and its citizens at this time of tragedy of trial and crisis. Shield us under the shadow of Your Cross. Grant to us Your peace, Your love and help. Bestow solace and strength to the families of the innocent victims of the barbaric acts of violence in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Open Your loving arms and welcome into Your tender embrace our brothers and sisters, our relatives, our friends and neighbors. . .the countless anonymous innocent who (in but an instant) were consumed in the horrific holocaust of hate.

Strengthen, we pray, our brave police and firefighters, the doctors, the nurses, and rescue workers who have rushed to the side of the victims. Their eyes have seen unspeakable violence, human pain and tragedy.

We pray for our President, the members of Congress and all in Public Service. Guide them and inspire their decisions at this time of national trial and travail.

Help us and people throughout the world to comprehend that we are all Your children. We are all brothers and sisters created in Your image and likeness. Guide us to live in harmony with one another, respectful of each other’s human rights and human dignity. We ask this of You, for You are a benevolent and loving God and to You do we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Special Service Commemorating the Fifteen Year Anniversary of September 11, 2001**

Fr. George: Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

People: Hymn Commemorating Pentecost – (Hymnal-pp.172-173):  
Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made wise men of poor fishermen by sending down upon them Your Holy Spirit, and through them You caught the whole world. O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

People: Hymn for Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.180-181):  
Save, O Lord Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

People: Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (not in Hymnal):  
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.

People: Kontakion sung for the Annunciation – (Hymnal-pp.268-271):  
Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long that we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

Fr. George: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great love, we pray to You hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for our Archbishop Alexios and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for mercy, life peace, health, salvation, visitation, protection, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all devout and Orthodox Christians living and residing in this community and city, for the members, council members, trustees and benefactors of this Holy and Sacred Church.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for our country, the United States of America, for our President, for those in civil authority, for the men and women who serve in our armed forces and their families, and for those living in areas of conflict throughout our nation and throughout the world.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for the reconciliation of nations, the ending of hostilities and the establishment of peace in the world.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, protection, strength and healing for the servants of God, all those whose lives

were affected by the terrorist attack on America on September 11, for their health and salvation, let us pray.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray for the repose of the souls of God's servants, those who fell asleep in the Lord during and after the terrorist attack on America on September 11, and for the forgiveness of their sins voluntary and involuntary; that the Lord our God will place their souls where the just repose, let us ask for the mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and for the remission of their sins from Christ our immortal king and our God.

People: May their memory be eternal, may their memory be eternal, may their memory be eternal.

Fr. George: Again we pray for the protection and safekeeping of this Holy Church, this city and every city and town, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us, that He may turn and keep away from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His impending justified chastisement and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Again we pray that the Lord our God will hear the voice of the petitions of us sinners and have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Fr. George: Hear us o God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and from those who live far off on the sea. Be gracious towards us, o Master, towards our many since, and have mercy on us. For You are a merciful and loving God and to You we offer up Glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen

Fr. George: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, our God, Creator and Sovereign ruler of all, Who has blessed our country as a land of freedom and opportunity, we ask that You extend Your hand from heaven and place it upon our nation especially today, as we commemorate a dark and sad day in our history. We pray that You will grant rest to the souls of all those who died in faith on September 11, 2001. We pray that You will continue to grant healing to those who were wounded on that day, and that You will grant comfort to those who are still in grief over the loss of their loved ones. We ask that Your Holy Angels surround and protect the men and women of our armed forces, together with their families; that You will bless and guide the decisions of our President and all those in civil authority and public service. We beseech You that You will shine in our hearts and inspire us to work for peace in our nation and in our world. In places where there is violence, bring peace. In places of spiritual darkness, bring the Light of Christ. In places of sadness, bring joy. In places of hate, bring love. In places of turmoil, bring reconciliation. And in places of despair, bring hope. As You have guided and protected our nation both in times of war and times of peace, we ask for Your continued guidance and blessings on our nation and all those living in it. And as You created the world with Your powerful arm, we ask that You guide us to refashion it according to the way You created it and to honor all people in the way that You have created us, in Your image and likeness. Hear us, O God our Savior and help us, save us, have mercy on us and protect us by Your Grace.

For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls and to You we offer glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Fr. George & People: Offer the Petitions & Prayers of the Memorial Service. Thanks to Presbytera Marinda for offering today's Kolyva.

People: God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her, and guide her,  
Through the night with the Light from Above.  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans, white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home.  
God bless America, my home sweet home.

Fr. George: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: Amen.

## 2016 GreekFest

ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**Peachtree City GREEK FEST**  
SATURDAY, SEPT. 17<sup>TH</sup> 2016  
AT DIXIE WING COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE HANGAR  
FALCON FIELD AIRPORT • PEACHTREE CITY, GA  
6:00 PM APPETIZERS • 7:00 PM DINNER  
For Reserved Seating  
Contact Tammy Soulakas at 404.625.4463  
Or Order Your Tickets Online At:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peachtree-city-greek-fest-tickets-24014826021>

### *St. Christopher's Greekfest Link to Success*

*(visit "Success" Link on our website  
homepage to know everything  
parishhioners need to help us succeed  
with this year's effort)*



## Hands of Love: September

*"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)*



### Collecting monetary donations to benefit Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology offers graduate programs of study leading to the degrees of Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.), and Master of Theology (Th.M.). It is an accredited graduate school of theology, and as such has become one of the most important institutions of the Orthodox Church in the Western hemisphere. At Holy Cross, education is viewed as an integration of learning and faith. While committed to providing excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship, the Holy Cross programs also reflect the religious and cultural values of the Greek Orthodox tradition. Holy Cross strives to fulfill the need of the Church to educate each generation of leaders, clergy, and laypersons who, in their chosen professions, will exemplify the values and spirit of Orthodox Christianity. The institution is engaged in a variety of teaching, scholarship, service, and worship activities directed toward developing the intellectual and spiritual potential of students, as well as enabling the faculty to pursue teaching and scholarship in their various disciplines with academic freedom. Thus, it constitutes a unique environment of personal growth and intellectual maturity for those who provide the priestly and lay witness and leadership of Orthodox Christianity in the Western world. Holy Cross is located in the Greater Boston area, the "Athens of America," notable for its numerous colleges and universities. The city is student-oriented and rich in cultural, educational, and athletic opportunities. Our own campus offers a variety of cultural activities and intramural sports. The underlying source of all of our experiences is our deep commitment to our faith and heritage, which allows us to blend a unified vision of the past, present, and future in all that we do.

In July, we collected \$105 for Soldiers Angels. Thank you for your continued support of this program.  
Kim Poolos (coordinator)



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

And on this 623<sup>rd</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 SCHEDULE

<p><b>11</b> Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</p> <p>Orthros 7:45am - 9:00am</p> <p>Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 10:15am</p> <p>Memorial Service - 9/11 15th Anniversary 10:15am</p> <p>Religious Education Classes (for all ages) 10:45am - 11:30am</p> <p>Baklava &amp; Melomakarona Preparation for GreekFest 11:30am - 5:00pm</p> <p>Deadline to submit to Parish Council Budget Requests for 2017 11:30am</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting 11:45am - 1:30pm</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Eve of Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Day of Strict Fast</p> <p>To donate fresh basil for our Processional Tray, please bring and place your freshly-cut basil stems in a vase of water, covering the lower stems and then place the vases in refrigerator on Tuesday, 9/13, no later than 3 p.m. Thanks. 3:00pm</p> <p><u>Great Vespers/Procession of the Holy Cross</u> 5:00pm - 5:45pm</p> <p><u>Divine Liturgy (Evening)/Community Dinner (please bring fasting food)</u> 5:45pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>14</b> Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (celebrated on Eve of Feast, 9/13/16)</p> <p>Day of Strict Fast</p> <p>Dolmathes Preparation for GreekFest 6:00pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> Dolmathes Preparation for GreekFest 6:00pm</p> <p>Choir Practice 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> <u>Peachtree City GreekFest Preparations Begin at 9:30 a.m. at church</u> 9:30am</p>	<p><b>17</b> <u>Peachtree City GreekFest Preparations Begin at 8:00 a.m. at church and at the Hangar</u> 8:00am</p> <p>2016 Peachtree City GreekFest.. Appetizers served at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. 6:00pm - 10:00pm</p>
<p><b>18</b> Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</p> <p>Orthros 7:45am - 9:00am</p> <p>Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 10:15am</p> <p><u>Lunch &amp; GreekFest Clean-up</u> 10:30am</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Choir Practice 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>

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