



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 18, 2016**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER 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,** we commemorate our Righteous Father Eumenios, Bishop of Gortyna, Crete, the Wonderworker (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); Holy Martyrs Sophia and Irene; Holy Martyr Ariadne (+117-138); Holy Martyr Castor; and Romylos the Monk (+1375). *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<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon Hymn Commemorating the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-p. 28):**

*This hymn replaces hymn on pgs. 28-29. Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, as we sing to you, Alleluia.*

### **2./4. Hymn for Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.180-181):**

*This hymn, "Save, O Lord" – is sung before and after the Small Entrance. It is sung during the festal commemoration of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross and also on the occasion of the Veneration of the Holy Cross on the Third Sunday of Great Lent. Save, O Lord Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.*

### **3. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.*

### **5. 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.

**6. Kontakion for the Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.232-235):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Bestow Your mercies on the people called by Your Name, Christ God, Who freely let Yourself be raised on the Cross. To all who battle evil give joy in Your power, by gracing them with victory over every foe, for having You as their ally they possess a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy of victory.

**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 (Mark 16:1-8)**

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

**Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Galatians 2:16-20)**

*...yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the*

*law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

**Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 8:34-9:1)**

*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. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

**(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

*"Educate your children in the way in which they should go, and when they are grown, they will not depart from it."  
(Proverbs 22:6)*

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

There is an old parable about a farmer that had two sons. As soon as they were old enough to walk, he took them to the fields and he taught them everything that he knew about growing crops and raising animals. When he got too old to

work, the two boys took over the chores of the farm and when the father died, they had found their working together so meaningful that they decided to keep their partnership. So each brother contributed what he could and during every harvest season, they would divide equally what they had corporately produced. Across the years the elder brother never married, stayed an old bachelor. The younger brother did marry and had eight wonderful children. Some years later when they were having a wonderful harvest, the old bachelor brother thought to himself one night, “My brother has ten mouths to feed. I only have one. He really needs more of his harvest than I do, but I know he is much too fair to renegotiate. I know what I'll do. In the dead of the night when he is already asleep, I'll take some of what I have put in my barn and I'll slip it over into his barn to help him feed his children.”

At the very time he was thinking up this plan, the younger brother was considering to himself, “God has given me these wonderful children. My brother hasn't been so fortunate. He really needs more of this harvest for his old age than I do, but I know him. He's much too fair. He'll never renegotiate. I know what I'll do. In the dead of the night when he's asleep, I'll take some of what I've put in my barn and slip it over into his barn.”

And so one night when the moon was full, those two brothers came face to face, each on a mission of generosity. An observer reflected that while there were no clouds in the sky, a gentle rain began to fall. He offered: “You know what it was – God weeping for joy because two of His children

had realized His truth. Indeed, two of His children had grown to realize that *generosity* is one of the deepest characteristics of our God. Since we are made in His image, our being generous becomes the source of our joy as well. Life does not always seem fair, but as members of God's Body, we may be confident that we are continually provided with His Divine Grace and never-ending Love. He invites us to join in His mission to share with those He puts in our paths each day – at home, work, church, ...*wherever we find ourselves!*



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And on this 624<sup>th</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**

#### **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> (Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross):**

**7:45 am Orthros**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

**10:30 am Lunch & GreekFest Clean-up**

#### **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

#### **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):**

**7:45 am Orthros**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/One Year Memorial – Penelope Spetsios**

**10:30 am GOYA Meeting**

**10:45 am Religious Education Classes (for all ages)**

**11:30 am Philoptochos General Meeting**

**1:00 pm Let's EAT!**



## 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)

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

# Thank You!



We thank all of our parishioners who assisted so generously at last night's Dinner, whose proceeds will be used to help us build our new building on our property at Ebenezer

Road. Congratulations to our chairs, their hard-working and dedicated committees and all of our faithful parishioners who assisted in planning and with preparations over the past year. *Finally, we thank you for your presence this morning and hope you will join us for the remaining clean-up at the hangar. Lunch will be provided there at no charge. We hope you will join us as soon as church services are over.*