



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

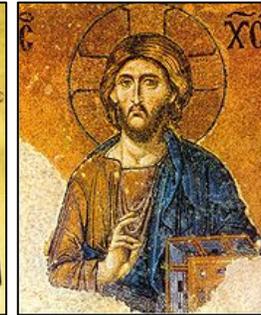
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

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 4, 2016

**ON THIS DAY, THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Babylas the Holy Martyr (+283); Moses the Prophet & Godseer (1350-1250 B.C.); Our Righteous Father Anthimus of Coroucle in Cephallenia; Hermione the Martyr, daughter of St. Philip the Deacon (+117); and Anthimos the new ascetic. 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 (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

#### **3. Hymn Commemorating St. Babylas the Martyr – (see handout):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Babylas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching that he save 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. 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 (John 21:15-25)**

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to Him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this He said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to You? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to You?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 9:2-12)**

<sup>2</sup>If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>This is my defense to those who would examine me. <sup>4</sup>Do we not have the right to our food and drink? <sup>5</sup>Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? <sup>6</sup>Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? <sup>7</sup>Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk? <sup>8</sup>Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? <sup>9</sup>For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? <sup>10</sup>Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. <sup>11</sup>If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? <sup>12</sup>If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 18:23-35)**

*Matt. 18:23* “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. *24* When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; *25* and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. *26* So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ *27* And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. *28* But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ *29* Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ *30* But he refused; then he went and threw him

*into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”*

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (*Hebr. 13:16*)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Kids smile an average of 45 times an hour, and they will “belly laugh” once every 7.5 minutes. By the time we become an adult, we smile no more than 15 times a day. In hospitals, the incidence of smiling is nearly zero. *When was the last time you had a good laugh?*

The popular saying, “Laughter is the best medicine” is not actually a Scriptural quote. However, the concept comes directly out of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs — “A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.” (*Proverbs 17:22*)

The *focus* of this verse is *inward* — on a happy heart. The *function* of the verse is *outward* — working healing. What is interesting is that the word translated “medicine” in this verse literally means the “removal of a bandage and the healing of a wound.”

Since we began our new ecclesiastical year on September 1<sup>st</sup>, let us resolve to let our thoughts and attitudes reflect the “joy of the Lord”. He is in control and His love toward us is steadfast. A cheerful disposition out of the overflow of our heart

often will bring healing to those we come into contact with as well as with ourselves. Reading God's truth in Holy Scripture and in the lives of His saints, as well as joining our parishioners in worship and fellowship keep us tuned to His will, His answers, and His Body that is alive and always there for us. When we're full of joy, we reflect God's love and help others to share it as well!

So . . . why not stop succumbing to the urge to hang our head down and focus our thoughts and words on the negative... these actions remove God's joy from our lives and isolate us, causing us further sadness and even depression.. No matter what — smile! Laugh again. Laugh often. Bring back the joy of life God has blessed us with. It is “a medicine” that will turn our lives around, along with those we encounter! *Amen!*

## 2016 GreekFest

ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**Peachtree City**  
**GREEK FEST**

**ONLY \$60 PER PERSON!**  
**TICKETS WILL SELL OUT!**  
*Get yours today!*  
PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
ST. CHRISTOPHER  
HELLENIC ORTHODOX  
CHURCH BUILDING FUND

**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 Soutakos at 404.425.4463  
Or Order Your Tickets Online At:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peachtree-city-greek-fest-tickets-24814828821>

ENJOY GREEK DELICACIES!  
FRESH, HOMEMADE PASTRIES!  
INCLUDES BEER & WINE!  
LIVE BAND!  
GREEK DANCING!  
*And much more!*

*St. Christopher's Greekfest Link to Success*  
(visit “Success” Link on our website homepage to know everything parishioners 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.*

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And on this 622<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 SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, September 4 (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**
- 11:00 am Hellenic Dance Practice**
- 11:30 am Philoptochos Board Meeting**

### **Wednesday, September 7 (Eve of Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos):**

- 5:00 pm Great Vespers Service**
- 5:45 pm Divine Liturgy, followed by Community Dinner (non-fasting)**

### **Thursday, September 8 (Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos):**

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice**

### **Saturday, September 10 (Eve of Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos):**

- 9:00 am Kourambiedes/Koulourakia Preparation for GreekFest**

### **Sunday, September 11 (Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross):**

- 7:45 am Orthros Service**
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – 9/11 (15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**
- 10:45 am Religious Education (classes for all ages)**
- 11:30 am Baklava & Melomakarona Preparation for GreekFest**
- 11:30 am Deadline to submit to Parish Council Budget Requests for 2017**
- 11:45 am Parish Council Meeting (begins 11:45 am SHARP)**

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