



**Holy Apostle Matthias  
(Feast Day is August 9<sup>th</sup>)**

**Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 8, 2021**



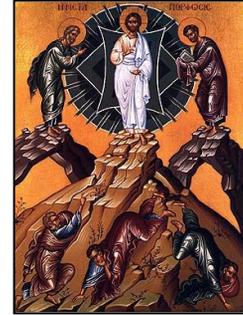
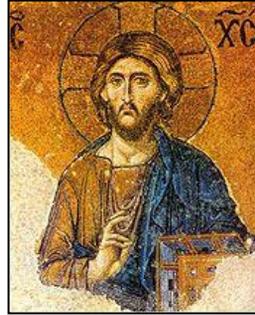
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

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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, August 8, 2021

*We welcome Fr. Ken Anthony as our Guest Liturgist today while Fr. George is away.*

**ON THIS DAY, THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** Emilian the Confessor & Bishop of Cyzikos; Our Holy Father Myronus the Wonderworker, Bishop of Crete; Holy New Martyrs Triantaphillus of Zagoras and Anastasius of Thessolonica; Gregory of Sinai and Mount Athos; Kallinikos, Metropolitan of Edessa and Pella; and Anastatios the Martyr from Bulgaria. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

### Thank You for Your Understanding

We welcome our parishioners who are attending services in person today and we also welcome those who are viewing our online video streaming at home. Let us comply

with the guidelines we have provided everyone. We appreciate your kind understanding in following them. Fr. George is deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

*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. 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, Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor, as we sing to You, Alleluia."*

### **2./4. Hymn for Feast of the Transfiguration–(Hymnal-pp.220-221):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. When You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, You showed Your disciples Your glory as far as they could bear. So now, for us sinners also, let this same eternal light shine forth through the prayers of the Theotokos. O Giver of light, glory to You.*

### **3. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.*

### **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 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**

*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 20:1-10)**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Romans 15:1-7)**

*We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please Himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on Me.” For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 9:27-35)**

*As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” But they went away and spread the news about Him throughout that district. After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out the demons.” Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.*

**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:**

*(The Orthodox Church uses Holy Scripture in many of its prayers and hymns offered to God. After reading St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 3:14-16, I modeled the following prayer from its words, thereby asking 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 continue to reflect and celebrate 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.

Despite 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.

**YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGIN TODAY;**  
**ADULTS HAVE ONLINE LESSON**

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Class Location</u>
3 yrs.- Kindergarten	Susan Kleto & Jackie Sarantis	Kindergarten Room
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades	Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis & Jeannie McGee	Upstairs Classroom
4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Becky Butler assisted by Angelique Soulakos	Bookstore Room
7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , High School	Katie Wilson and Charles Costas	Conference Room
Adults Class	Fr. George Tsahakis	Church Nave

**HOLY APOSTLE MATTHIAS AS A MODEL FOR OUR LIVES**

*(continued from Back Cover)*

**Second**, the Apostle Matthias suffered persecutions and punishments from the Ethiopians whom he loved and served. At this point he became an imitator of Christ, who served the people in every which way and was crucified by them.

It is not an easy thing to serve people. To shepherd logical sheep is a heavy and painful work. Saint Gregory the Theologian tells us that man is difficult to govern. The workers of the Gospel, of course, know very well that Christ is always near them to support them and strengthen them.

In the Old Testament there is a very beautiful dialogue between God and the Prophet Jeremiah. God elected Jeremiah as His Prophet and sent him to speak before His people and say everything that He would dictate. However, he presented his young age as an obstacle. At that time youngsters did not speak publicly, but only the elders. God reassured him and told him to not be afraid, because He would go to those whom He would send him, and he would say whatever He commanded him to say. Then, God did not hide from him the difficulties and the dangers he will encounter. He characteristically said that he would move and live among scorpions who will sting him and hurt him. But He also said that he should not be afraid, that he should not be disappointed, but to have courage, because He would not forsake him. He would be with him to support him and comfort him. That is, He promises that which He will later promise to His Apostles, that He would always be with them. That is why the Apostles, even when they reached the point of being totally frustrated, even then they did not give up. They were not overwhelmed by despair, but with prayer they received power. The Holy Spirit strengthened them, comforted them, and filled them with joy.

The struggle for the transformation of the passions and inner regeneration is closely linked with the issue of God's will in our lives. The crucifixion of our personal will is a seal of authenticity. It is the seal of Christ which removes agitation and hopelessness and invites existential joy, peace, and inner fulfillment.

Source: *Ekklesiastiki Parevasi*, "ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ ΜΑΤΘΙΑΣ", August 2001. Translated by John Sanidopoulos.

## Today is “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”



... the custom of offering the Five Loaves monthly reminds us of the generosity and multiplication of the gifts of fish and bread that our Lord multiplied and shared with all present. Through this Orthodox Service, we return thanksgiving to God for

multiplying our own gifts and hence, the icon of this miracle has been selected as our logo for **“Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”... usually *the first Sunday of every month but in this month, the second!***

Thanks to **Maria Panayis, Dedee & Kirk Panayis** for offering the five Artos (loaves of bread) in thanksgiving for the health and welfare of their family and our parishioners, as well as God’s blessings in their lives this month.



*Likewise, today we thank God and celebrate Name Days, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and other special occasions that occurred recently or will occur during the month of August. Congratulations to everyone celebrating their special events today and thanks to all who offered our parish their gifts for God to use and multiply.*

On this the 868<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!

 ["Follow" & Like"](#) our Facebook page. Check for updates and photos.

# COMMUNITY SCHEDULE (CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)

*Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos continues through August 14<sup>th</sup>*

## Sunday, August 8 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):

- 7:45 am** Orthros Service  
**9:00 am** Divine Liturgy/Blessing of 5 Loaves/August Commemorations  
**11:00 am** Religious Education Classes for Youth (Adult lesson is online)  
**12:00 pm** Parish Council Meeting

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



### Wellspring Living



Wellspring Living transforms the lives of girls and boys 12-17 and young women 18-32 in our area, who are at risk, or are victimized by sexual exploitation. Headquartered in Atlanta, the non-profit organization provides restorative services through residential and community-based programs since 2001.



One of the Wellspring Living retail stores is in Peachtree City at 116 Peachtree East Shopping Center on Hwy 54 near Publix.

Hands of Love - a ministry of our Philoptochos Society will be accepting monetary donations during August. You can donate online by clicking here: [stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site](http://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site)

You may include a note of encouragement with your donation.  
For Wellspring Living upcoming events or to volunteer: <https://wellspringliving.org>

Faithfully,  
Anna Andreeva Naydenova, Hands of Love Chair

The following reflection, “Holy Apostle Matthias as a Model for Our Lives” was written by Protopresbyter Fr. George Papavarnanas and is reprinted from [www.johnsanidopoulos.com](http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com).  
+Fr. George Tsahakis

When Judas Iscariot forfeited his place among the Twelve Disciples by betraying Christ and in turn hanging himself, then the Church decided to elect and put in his place someone else, in order to fill the number of the Twelve Disciples.

The way in which this election took place was described by Luke the Evangelist in the first chapter of his book *Acts of the Apostles*. He writes that the Apostles nominated two people, Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed in these words: “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” Then they threw lots and the lot fell on Matthias, who was enlisted with the other eleven apostles.

For the life and works of the Apostle Matthias we know very little. In the Synaxaria there are no details of his life. Yet from what we read we can understand the magnitude of what he offered, his labors, his struggles, and his anxiousness to spread the gospel.

Before being numbered among the Twelve Disciples he belonged to the chorus of the Seventy Apostles. After his election he went to Ethiopia where he preached the gospel. There he suffered persecution and punishment from the Ethiopians, and he completed his earthly life with a martyric death. After all, every Apostle departed this temporary life with a martyric death, except the Evangelist John the Theologian who “completed his life in peace”. But even he suffered punishment and persecution and ended up dying after being exiled.

The glory of the Holy Apostles is their preaching of the Gospel of Love, and everything connected with it, such as prosecution, imprisonment, exile, scourging, disgrace, humiliation, etc.

It is related in the *Acts of the Apostles* that the Apostles, after being the recipients of physical aggression, humiliation, and punishment, continued their work with joy. And this was because “they were found to be worthy to suffer disgrace in the name of the Lord”.

Commenting on the above, we would like to emphasize two points:

**First**, that in the case of the election of the Apostle Matthias we are clearly shown the way in which the Holy Apostles worked and acted. Everywhere and always they wanted the will of God to take place. They recommended to God and He elected them. They do the human and they leave the divine for God to act, that is, they allowed God the space to act and reveal His will. In the Church everything is divine human. God works and man is a co-worker. He does not violate human freedom, but the will of God is not undervalued either.

Usually we, who are enslaved to our passions, want our will to be done. And even when we surrender ourselves to God, we dare to have Him obey us so that what we want will happen. We want God to do the human thing, which is what we can do and must do, and we want to do what God will do.

We must note here that at the election of the Apostle Matthias, there is preserved the traditional way of choosing a Bishop, who are the successors of the Apostles. – *continued inside*