



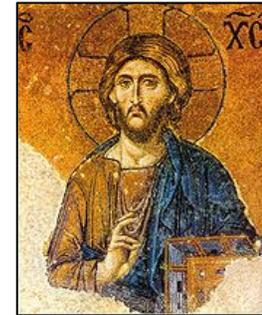
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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)



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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

**Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor***

### **Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**ON THIS DAY, THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES *Pimen the Great; Holy Martyr Phanurius; Anthousa the Martyr; St. Monica; Poimen of Palestine; Hosisos the Confessor; and Liverios, Pope of Rome. 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 (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):**

It is sung *before* and *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.

#### **3. 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.

#### **4. 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 (1 Cor. 15:1-11)**

*1Cor. 15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain. 3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 19:16-26)**

*Matt. 19:16 Then someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” 17 And He said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One Who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” 18 He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; 19 Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 20 The young man said to Him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me.” 22 When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?” 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”*

#### **THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE**

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

“I treasure Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.”  
(Psalm 119:11)

## PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

There is an old fable in which a father and his young son journeyed into a distant land. They climbed to a mountaintop where they discovered a hut in which to rest for the night:

At dawn, the sun banished the darkness and painted the snow-capped peaks with brilliant orange. The son awoke. He saw the glowing sky and the flame-colored mountain-tips. He was a small boy, and could only see through the top of the window above him. He did not understand the brilliant colors that were gleaming in. It alarmed him. He longed for the comfort of the past when he was at home with his mother.

The rising sun warmed the winter snow which had lain cold and barren for so long upon the mountainside. It loosened the drifts and sent cascades thundering down into the valley below. The dreadful roaring terrified the young boy even more than the flaming sky.

Finally he rushed to his father and shook him, crying "Father! Father! Wake up! Wake up! It is the end of the world!"

The father opened his eyes. He could see everything clearly through the window which was too high for the vision of his son. He saw the avalanche of snow released by the warming rays of the spring sun. He knew that soon it would bring fresh water to the parched land below, restoring life. He understood these things. He took his son by the hand to comfort him. "No, my son," the father said. "*It's not the end of the world. It's the dawn of a new day.*"

*The dawn mistaken for dusk . . .* How easy it is to lose our spiritual bearings as we confront the fast-changing world turning long-standing beliefs and traditions aside. As Christians, we are called to place our trust in our Lord and His Divine Providence over us amidst all of our struggles in ways we cannot begin to fathom.

As we begin the new ecclesiastical year on September 1<sup>st</sup>, perhaps the pastoral encouragement of the Prophet Isaiah in 58:6-14 can help direct us in the coming year:

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.*

*If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

The Prophet Isaiah's words call us to genuine worship - to align ourselves with God's plans set for us from the beginning. We are called to promote justice, righteousness and fairness – which draw us to the blessings of our Lord.

Let us remain hope-filled in all things. Let us seek new means to offer both physical and spiritual food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted. Let us share our love for others which indeed reflects our love for God. Let us find this love deep within our hearts and nurture it daily with God's help. And may we demonstrate it through fruitful works to glorify God and thank Him.

Our response to the events and conditions of our world continues to be to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His teachings with humility, compassion, and forgiveness, remaining vigilant until His Second and Glorious Coming! Amen!



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**Tickets and Sponsorships Needed**

Purchase online at:

[www.PeachtreeCityGreekFest.org](http://www.PeachtreeCityGreekFest.org)

**Online Volunteer Sign-Ups now available. Please visit:**

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C49A8AB2AA AFC1-greekfest1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C49A8AB2AA AFC1-greekfest1), Access Code is GF2017

**GreekFest Planning Meeting**

**When:** August 27 immediately following Religious Ed.

**Why:** To make our final preparations for GreekFest - we will share the vision, answer questions

**What to bring:** Questions, Ideas

On this the 670th 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, August 27<sup>th</sup> (12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
- 11:30 am GreekFest Meeting (*everyone is invited to join us*)
- 1:00 pm Let's EAT! (*later time due to GreekFest Meeting*)

Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>:

- 6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Holiday weekend – no Rel. Ed.)



**Hands of Love: August**

*"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)*

**HANDS OF LOVE**

All Sundays in August: WellSpring Living

Hands of Love is accepting **monetary donations** and **non-perishable food items (20 oz. or less each)** for this cause.

WellSpring Living provides transformative care to girls 12-17 and young women 18-32 in our area, who are at risk, or are victimized by sexual exploitation. Headquartered in Atlanta since 2001, it operates two phone lines, two residential programs and a Women's Academy. One of the four fund-raising WellSpring Living retail stores is in Peachtree City.

To learn more: [wellspringliving.org](http://wellspringliving.org) or "Make it Zero" - a book by Mary Frances Bowley, founder of WellSpring Living.

Yours in Christ,  
Anna Andreeva Naydenova, Hands of Love Coordinator



**WellSpring Living**

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