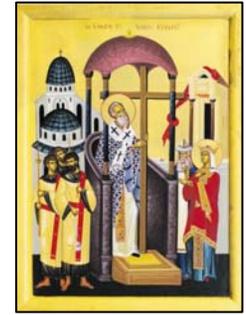
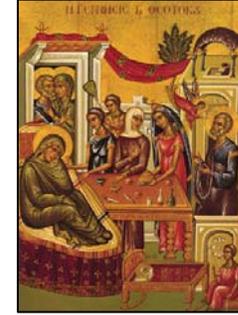
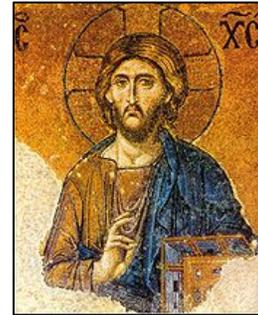




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

*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 10, 2017**

**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 Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora the Martyrs and Poulcheria the Empress. *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 (Plagal of the First Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance:* To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

### **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 (Mark 16:9-20)**

*Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. 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 16<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 tenth 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.

## ***Reflection on Hurricane Irma***

Normally, on Fridays, many are able to leave their desks, drive home, and look forward to a restful weekend with friends and family. On Sunday, the Lord's Day, we look forward to attending the Divine Liturgy and receive both God's Word and Holy Eucharist.

We learn through religious education how we can fulfill the potential God created in each of us, and during coffee fellowship and offering service in His Holy Church, we share His love and concern for those in our midst.

This Sunday, a growing number of our parishes along the eastern coast of our Holy Metropolis have been forced to close their doors and evacuate to safety. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and our clergy are joining together in prayer with all the faithful of our God-protected Metropolis. For those in harm's way, we want you to know we are praying for you, we support you, and we are here for you... *let us know what needs exist in the coming days.*

My brother Priest, Fr. Mark Leondis, shared with his parishioners at St. Mark's Church in Boca Raton, Florida, the following prayers. I appreciate him sharing with me and in turn offer them to you with the hope that you will use them with your own prayers and lead your family and friends in invoking God's mercy with our Metropolis family. In so doing, we witness God's promise voiced by St. Paul, "*We know that **all things** work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.*" (Rom. 8:28) - +Fr. George Tsahakis

### **PRAYERS FOR DELIVERANCE FROM HURRICANE IRMA**

O LORD JESUS CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US SINNERS

As you saved your apostles from perishing in a storm by calming wind and waves on your command, so now keep us safe and sound in this hurricane. Grant us favorable and gentle weather. Protect us from the unpredictable elements of nature. Steer us from storm, flood, fire, illness, injury, disaster and sudden death. Preserve us from all evil and harm for we, though sinful, are nonetheless

the work of Your hands. And You together with your Father who has no beginning and Your all holy good and life giving Spirit are our God in whom we live, move, and have being. Now and ever and unto ages and ages. Amen.

#### MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS SAVE US

Seeing how your holy and powerful maternal intercessions and safe haven for the storm tossed, count us worthy of your prayers during this season of uncertain and threatening weather. Beg your Son to grant us mercy, forgiveness, health, safety and salvation during this hurricane. For He is sure to listen to you, His mother, the one whom all generations calls blessed. Amen.

#### ALL HOLY PROPHET ELIAS

As the Lord gave you control over droughts and rainfall to prove His power to the wayward and unbelieving, plead with Him to keep stormy weather, heavy rains and destructive winds away from us. Help us with your heavenly intercessions for we know the prayer of a righteous man like you is powerful and effective as God is wondrous in His Saints. Amen.

#### HOLY FATHER HERMAN OF ALASKA

While you were alive on Earth, your prayers kept your spiritual children safe from tidal surge and forest fire and after your death your heavenly intercessions calmed stormy seas saving Saintly Bishop Innocent from peril. Do not less for us in your fatherly love for your adopted land. Implore your Master to safeguard for us from such dangers too for we know God is wondrous in his Saints. Amen.

#### HOLY ST. JOHN OF SAN FRANCISCO

During your earthly sojourn in the Philippines, your prayers kept typhoons at bay from your flock. Brace us living in the land where your wonder working relics rest with your heavenly intercessions as well. Appeal to the Ruler of All for our reprieve from such hazard and menace. For we know God is wondrous in his Saints. Amen.



**Online Volunteer Sign-Ups now available. Please visit:**  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C49A8AB2AAAF1-greekfest1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C49A8AB2AAAF1-greekfest1),  
 Access Code is GF2017

On this the 672<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!



**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)

**All Sundays in September: Holy Cross School of Theology**  
 Hands of Love, a ministry of our Philoptochos Society will be accepting monetary donations to benefit the School.



**Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology** in Brookline, Massachusetts offers graduate programs leading to advanced degrees in Divinity and Theology.

At Holy Cross, the only Greek Orthodox School of Theology in the United States, education is an integration of learning and faith. Its programs reflect the religious and cultural values of the Hellenic Orthodox tradition.

Holy Cross strives to fulfill the need to educate the next generation of leaders, clergy, and laypersons who will exemplify the values and spirit of Orthodox Christianity in their chosen professions. Learning, teaching, service, and worship activities develop the intellectual and spiritual potential of students. The School affords the faculty with academic freedom to pursue teaching and scholarship.

"For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

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



**Tickets and Sponsorships Needed**

Purchase online at:

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

**COMMUNITY SCHEDULE**

*Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday Before Exaltation of the Holy Cross):*

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 am Religious Education Classes (for all grades)
- 11:30 am Parish Council Special Presentation to Parish, with Parish Council Meeting to follow
- 12:30 pm PTC GreekFest Baking of Kourambiedes, Koulourakia, Baklava, & Melomakarona (if needed)

For this week's schedule, visit our parish website, [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org) for up-to-date and last minute adjustments.

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