



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

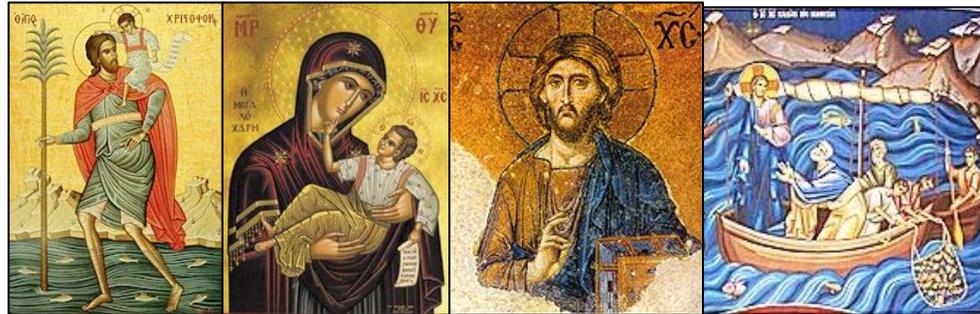
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Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

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 24, 2017

ON THIS DAY, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Thecla the Protomartyr & Equal to the Apostles; Silouan of Athos; Coprios the Righteous; Juvenaly & Peter the Aleut, New Martyrs of Alaska; Stephen the Martyr; The Most Holy Theotokos of Palianis; and The Commemoration of the Miracle of the Theotokos Myrtidiotissis in Kythyra. *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 (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

### **3. Hymn for Miracle of the Theotokos in Kythira (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God, and longingly cry aloud: "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you; rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing; rejoice, O Lady who restored the paralyzed man to health."

### **4. Hymn for St. Thecla (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* All aflame with love for your Creator, from the teachings of the sacred preacher, you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. And being bold in the face of the penalties, you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. Thecla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, and ask Him to grant us 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 – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

**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 (Luke 24:12-35)**

*But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did*

*not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Tim. 3:10-15)**

*<sup>10</sup>Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup>my persecutions and suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. <sup>13</sup>But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 5:1-11)**

*Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, He saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if You say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with Him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Him.*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

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

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name's sake."  
(Psalm 79:9)

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

The following story is about a mother confronting her quarrelsome child:

"Phillip, why are you sitting there all alone?"

"Nobody wants to play with me. They always fight with me."

"Why don't you go over and see Jeremy?"

“No, he always wants his own way.”

“You could play with Ian,” suggested his mother.

“No, we had a fight this morning. I punched him in the nose and his mother sent me home.”

“How about Jimmy?”

“We had an argument in the school yard.”

“If everyone fights with you, maybe it’s you,” said the mother.

“See, you’re picking on me, too. Everybody picks on me!”

“It is natural to disagree once in a while with people, but, if everybody quarrels with you and it takes two to quarrel, you must be looking for trouble.”

“I don’t care. I don’t like any of them.”

The adjective “quarrelsome” in describing the child in this story suggests someone who is disposed to quarrel, often in a petty manner. Synonyms for “quarrelsome” include argumentative, · confrontational, · pugnacious, · combative, · antagonistic, · contentious, · bellicose, · belligerent, · and cantankerous.

Someone who is regularly at odds with others could benefit from some self-examination. Certainly there are principles worth fighting for, but individuals that are constantly quarrelsome risk further hurt, as well as destroying beneficial relationships with those God places in our midst. Their misery is not authentic living. Love and respect for one another brings understanding, patience, and promotes peace. It seeks the highest goals for the well-being and happiness of all. St. Paul shared:

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become*

slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Gal. 5:13-14)

Thus, to sit in a corner all alone, day after day, at odds with others is a cruel existence. Our Lord shared in His Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Mt. 5:9) This teaching of Christ brings about human happiness. St. Paul reminded us of our freedom to choose to love others. As God's children, what other choice is there?



## 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 **Philothonos 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 Naydenova, Hands of Love Coordinator

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On this *the 674<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 24<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of St. Luke):**

**8:15 am Orthros (note later starting time)**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Two Years Memorial – Penelope Spetsios/  
Memorial Service (8 yrs.) - Kostas Kalloniatis**

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

**12:00 pm Let's EAT™** Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214. Dutch Treat and open to all!

### **Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**6:00 pm ECYDC Meeting**

### **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

### **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of St. Luke – National Church Musicians Sunday)**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship**

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

**11:00 am Philoptochos General Meeting**

#### **Looking Ahead to Sunday, October 8, immediately following church services...**

Our parishioners in good standing are invited to attend our Parish General Assembly meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 8, 2017, immediately following Divine Liturgy. This is a one item meeting - to seek the approval of the General Parish Assembly to formalize our Parish Council's recommendation from our September 10 Special Presentation to Parish (and the Parish Council meeting that immediately followed). The Parish Council unanimously agreed to a recommendation that we build a multipurpose building with a temporary church in Phase 1. We feel blessed that we had the presence and participation of so many at our September 10 presentation and we want to follow up now & move forward with a parish wide decision, seeking consensus, to formalize what we are building so that we have a common understanding.

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