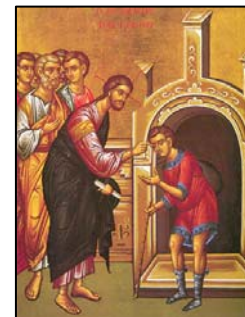
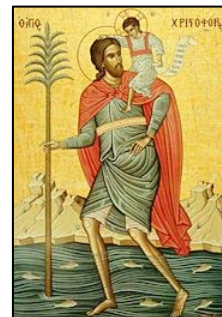




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: 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, May 13, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE *SIXTH* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *the Holy Martyr Glyceria (+141); Sergios the Confessor; Alexandros the Martyr; and Pausikakos, Bishop of Synnada (6th cent.). In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.*

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.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

Holy Ascension – This Week

We invite you to join us this Wednesday evening (May 16th) to celebrate the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord and Saints Constantine and Helen on its Eve – Great Vespers at 5:00 p.m. & Divine Liturgy at 5:45 p.m.

Please bring non-fasting food to share for dinner fellowship.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (see music distributed):

Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Clergy:

On the occasion of the Paschal period, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"

4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of 1ST) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung 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.

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung in both Greek and English 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 of Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your Holy Apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

7. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.304-307):

Today , the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": The Angel cried out to the woman full of grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin; again I say, rejoice, for your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. Rejoice and exult, sacred gate of the Light, for Jesus Who went down into the grave has dawned again, O God-favored Lady, shining more brightly than the sun, and filling all the faithful with light.

8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. Alleluia.

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 20:11-18)

"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that He had said these things to her."

Epistle Reading (Acts 16:16-34)

¹⁶*One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to*

you a way of salvation.” ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)

As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, "I came into this world

for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT IT TO MEMORY):

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things...” (Psalm 119:18)



HANDS OF LOVE

Hands of Love: May



Midwest FOOD BANK

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 May: Midwest Food Bank - Peachtree City

Midwest Food Bank (MFB), a faith-based, non-denominational nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was started in 2003 when the Kieser family began serving about 10 food pantries in McLean County, IL. from a building on their family farm. Now, eight distribution centers combine to distribute \$9.5 million of food to over 1400 agencies each month.



Peachtree City, GA

Midwest Food Bank-Georgia opened in October 2011. During its first month, it distributed over 550 cases of food to nine local nonprofit organizations. Now MFB-Georgia serves over 290 nonprofits and distributes more than \$1 million in food each month. These agencies are located in 43 different counties throughout 5 states.



► PEACHTREE CITY, GA
290 Agencies, 43 counties

St. Christopher Hand of Love is **collecting non-perishable foods** to support Midwest Food Bank-Georgia in its mission in Georgia and the Southeast. For more information: www.peachtree.midwestfoodbank.org/home.

Yours in Christ,
Anna Andreeva-Naydenova
Hands of Love Chair

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Too often we fail to see God. We miss out on seeing the sacred that He has placed right in front of us.

Helen Keller, whose only ability to “see” was through touch once, wrote:

I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch.

I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf.

I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a silver birch, or the rough shaggy bark of a pine....

I feel the delightful, velvety texture of a flower, and discover its remarkable convolutions; and something of the miracle... is revealed to me.

At times my heart cries out with longing to see these things. If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight.

Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action which fills the world is taken for granted....

It is a great pity that, in the world of light, the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience rather than as a means of adding fullness to life.”

The gift of sight is being able to “see” what’s around us, and more importantly, spiritually seeing our Risen Lord.

On a flight to New England a few of years ago, as we began our final approach, I glanced out of the window. The late afternoon sun highlighted fall’s vivid colors across the mountains and valleys. I put

away my magazine, and took in the breathtaking canvas that only our Creator-God could paint.

Unfortunately, the urgency of life, and the pressure of deadlines have caused us to miss many “God-moments”.

Romans Chapter 1 contains a profound truth. *“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world His eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has made.” (Rom. 1:19-20)*

In short, in these two verses, St. Paul encourages us to approach life with a “spirit of expectation” — *to see Him through His invisible attributes* – His Eternal Power and His Divine Nature. They are clearly evident and visible in His creation.

“The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)

Has the pace of life robbed you of enjoying His handiwork? Are your daily pressures stealing His eternal power from your soul? Has pain left you feeling that His divine nature could never fill your hurting heart?

If so, slow down. No – STOP! Whatever you are doing, right now, just stop.

Go outside and experience His creation with your family and friends. Enjoy His handiwork. Psalm 46:10 says, *“Be still and know that I am God”* — because He is. Allow the precious gift of sight to *add fullness to your life*. It just might turn your life around. Amen.

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

On this the 705th 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!

WORSHIP & COMMUNITY SCHEDULE

Today is the 6th Sunday of Pascha

Sunday, May 13: (Sunday of the Blind Man/Mother's Day):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Mother's Day Luncheon

Wednesday, May 16 (Eve of Feast of Holy Ascension):

5:00 p.m. Great Vespers

5:45 p.m. Divine Liturgy (Evening) followed by Community Dinner
(please bring non-fasting food)

Thursday, May 17:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, May 20: (Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:45 a.m. Last Day of Religious Education Classes before Summer

11:30 a.m. Philoptochos General Meeting

12:00 p.m. Philoptochos Baby Shower

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



All women of our parish
are honored today...
Mother's Day
Sunday, May 13, 2018

Our Luncheon Chairs – Kirk Panayis, Steve Theodorakis, George Zavlanos, & Fr. George thank those helping us serve our ladies a special luncheon in their honor after today's church services.

Menu

Chicken Francaise, Pot Roast, Garlic Rosemary Red Bliss Potatoes, Sweet Potato Casserole, Italian Style Green Beans, Cauliflower Au Graten, Bread & Butter, followed by Baklava, Galactobourek & more.

Remember, invite our ladies to go ahead of us and be served first!

We hope you and your family will join us for this special occasion.

We thank God for His countless blessings to us!

