



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, June 3, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW – THE SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, THE CHURCH CELEBRATES THE MEMORY OF ALL THE SAINTS OF GOD FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, IN ASIA, LIBYA AND EUROPE, IN THE NORTH AND IN THE SOUTH: THE RIGHTEOUS PROPHETS, MARTYRS, CONFESSORS, BISHOPS, TEACHERS, ASCETICS, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE GLORIFIED GOD THROUGH HOLY LIVING AND DYING, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE NOT ESPECIALLY COMMEMORATED ON SOME SPECIFIC DAY IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH YEAR. THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS AND THE HOSTS AND ANGELS ARE ALSO HONORED ON THIS DAY. WE COMMEMORATE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF JUNE, THE 150 HOLY AND GOD-BEARING FATHERS ASSEMBLED IN THE SECOND HOLY ECUMENICAL SYNOD CONVENED IN 381 IN CONSTANTINOPLE, IN THE REIGN OF THEODOSIOS THE GREAT. WE ALSO REMEMBER the Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council; Lucillian of Byzantium, 4 martyred Youths and Paula the Virgin (+270 – 275); Athanasios the Wonderworker; and Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough. By the intercessions of Your pure Mother, and of all Your Saints, from all time, have mercy on us, O Christ our God, and save us, as the only Good and Loving One. 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 (Plagal of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone) – (Hymnal-pp126-7):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance. From on high You descended, O merciful Lord. You accepted the cross and three days in the tomb to free us from the bondage of sin, O our life and resurrection. Glory to You, O Lord.

### **3. Hymn for Today's Feast of All Saints – (not in Hymnal):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them she cries to You, Christ our God, “Send down to Your people Your tender love, grant peace from above to Your commonwealth, and to our souls Your great mercy.”

### **4. Hymn for Holy Fathers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ecumenical Council – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* O 150 divine and blessed Hierarchs. interpreters and counselors to the Second Ecumenical Council, who in wisdom preached the power of the Divine Spirit, deliver from harm and pain of heresy all who chant, “Glory to Him by Whom you became wondrous. Glory to Him by Whom you were magnified. Glory to Him through Whom you, confirmed the minds of the faithful.”

### **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 All-Saints Sunday – (Hymnal-pp.282-283):**

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. To You, O Lord, Creator of the universe, the world offers the God-bearing martyrs as the first fruits of creation. Through their prayers, and through those of the Theotokos, keep Your Church in perfect peace, O Savior rich in mercy.

### **7. Communion Hymn for Sunday of All Saints – (Hymnal-pp.323):**

*On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is usually sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "Exalt, You Just, in the Lord; from the upright praise is fitting. Alleluia!" (Psalm 32[33]:1)*

## **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."*

### **Epistle Reading (Hebrews 11:33-12:2)**

*...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge*

*of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Gospel Reading (Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30)**

*"Everyone therefore who acknowledges Me before others, I also will acknowledge before My Father in heaven; but whoever denies Me before others, I also will deny before My Father in heaven. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed You. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for My name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

*“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.” (Mt. 28:19-20)*

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Many labor under the wrong concept of success. This is the idea of achieving possessions, status, and power. A person's self-image is measured by what he or she earns or possesses, by what he or she socially can do or economically control. However, the Saints teach another radically different concept of success based on faithfulness and discipleship. True success is measured by the depth of one's personal communion with God, concern for the salvation of souls, and the advancement of the Kingdom. A truly successful person is a *saint* – one who seeks wholeness in God, who strives to grow in the image of Christ . . . who finds fulfillment and happiness in loving God and mankind, and serving others for God's glory.

Today is All Saints Sunday; let us consider the exemplary efforts of the countless saints that God has given us in each generation to witness His love and mercy and to help us reach His Kingdom.

*"...Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured such hostility against Himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart." (Hebrews 12:1-3)*

## **All Saints Sunday - June 3, 2018** *(continued from back cover)*



**Holy Equal to the Apostles and Enlighteners** are the men and women of royal or princely origin, but sometimes also of simple calling, who by their own preaching turned entire countries and peoples to Christ. Hieromartyrs are Christian bishops and presbyters who died from torture for their belief in Christ.

**Great Martyrs** are the pious men and women of various worldly ranks and positions, who courageously and with great patience thoroughly underwent various persecutions, tortures, and torments by their torturers for their holy Christian faith.

**Venerable Martyrs** are the pious and true ascetic men and women, included in the monastic calling, who suffered from the pagans and heterodox believers for their faith in Christ.

**Martyrs** are those men and women of various callings and positions, who without confusion, but sometimes even with joy, went one by one or in groups into the presence of their torturers, and there were tortured to death for their firm and unshakable confession of their faith in Christ.

**Confessors and Passion-bearers** are those great men of virtuous life of the Christian Church, courageously and fearlessly everywhere and always confessed their deep faith in Christ, who openly recognized themselves as true Christians, who endured torments and torture for this, but did not receive a martyr's death; some of them are called branded, because during torture special brands were put on the person.

**Venerable Ones** are the great, pious and Christ-loving men and women, desert-dwellers, hermits (who separated themselves from the world to the desert and there saved themselves in solitude), recluses (who voluntarily enclosed themselves in separate caves and cells for their entire life) and pillar-dwellers (who practiced asceticism under the open sky on pillars, or high towers), silent ones (who voluntarily took up the asceticism of silence), and are all inclusive in the monastic calling.

**Righteous Ones** are the great men and women, who were glorified for their virtuous and pious life, zealous for the fulfillment of the commandments of God and for their unbowed observance of the truths of the Gospel teaching, not shirking their family or public obligations and living in the world.

**Disinterested Ones or Unmercenaries** are men well pleasing to God who through their unmercenary labor for the benefit of their neighbors served the suffering and healed the sick.

**Blessed Ones** are the men and women of various callings and positions, who in carrying out their mortal life, both in the world and in the desert, with unusual reserve, with extreme deprivation and denial of every possible worldly good, but sometimes even with many varieties of foolishness, all this "for the sake of Christ".



The Holy Church has regularized the remembrance and honor of all righteous men who have moved in eternity because “righteous men”, according to the word to God, “live forever” (Wis. 5:15) not only in heaven, but also on earth; because “their memory” abides from generation to generation “with praises” (Prov. 10:7), and among the blessings before the eyes not only of God but also of the people; because they, being alive even in the Divinely sanctified ark of grace in time, have co-operated for the beloved by the “place where the glory [of God] dwells” (Ps. 25:8) for the entire eternity. We honor and magnify the saints of God and consequently all of them are our fathers and brethren according to the spirit of the Christian faith and according to that love by which they are indissolubly joined to us; wherefore true “love never disappears” (1 Cor. 13:8). Being one with us by nature, the saints pleasing to God also make us one with the Church of the Lord Jesus, who is the one foundation and the one Head, the one God and the one Savior, the one means of salvation and the one hope of the saved. Thus, the glorified Saints have a close and uninterrupted though invisible dialogue with us. We call on them in our prayers, as contributors to our salvation, as protectors and comforters in the afflictions and misfortunes laid on us, as defenders against the invisible powers of Hades, and we do this not in vain. The holy ones of God hear us when we pray, unite our entreaties to their prayers, lifting them up as pure and fragrant incense (Rev. 5:8) to the holy table of the Pantocrator, ask His Goodness for mercy on us, satisfy the justice that is so frequently irritated by our iniquities, and send mercy and the “grace from the One Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come” (Rev. 1:4) to us. Being in the kingdom of God, they “have already received the kingdom, the magnificent and quality crown from the hand of the Lord” (Wis. 5:16), but by the spirit of humility they will not die to compose “crowns” of the kingdom from themselves “and to offer” themselves “before the throne” of the Lamb (Rev. 4:10-11, 5:11-14), petitioning before Him, as “Mediator between God and men” (1 Tim. 2:5), that He be merciful to us sinners, carried away in the abyss of perdition and by the vanities of the world, both the impulses of the passions and temptations of the evil one. If the saints pleasing to God, neither looking at the spiritual height of their perfection and holiness, nor at their visible distance from us, will intercede to gaze upon us, the proud and vain, with an eye of compassion and to save us by their prayers and mediation, then we all the more should also honor and glorify their memory from generation to generation, that, glorifying them, we glorify “God, Who is wonderful in His Saints” (Ps. 67:36), and, honoring them, we “honor grace with God, residing and acting in them, and the help from God we ask through them” (*Orthodox Catechism*). Besides, the gathering of most of all those saved, which “God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive together with Christ”, already “made us sit with Him on the heavenly” thrones (Eph. 2:4-6), evidently showing us all immensity of the power of the merits of the Savior and the power of saving grace, serves as vivifying and encouraging for us in the formidable arena of salvation, wherefore “through



faith” in the Redeemer even we “have obtained access”, to that same “grace”, in which stood all those pleasing to God (Rom. 5:2). But, strengthening in us the hope of salvation, the commemoration of the blessed choirs of Saints also serves for us as the encouragement for unrelenting patience and self-denial. The Saints of God are blessed with light in the house of the heavenly Father, but the enjoyment of peace and unearthly joy is the reward and recompense for their labor and asceticism, that, having disdained the world with their good deeds, they steadily flowed “to the honor of the highest calling of God” (Phil. 3:14). Thus if we want to inherit salvation, to settle in heaven and to be blessed among those standing in the choir of the Saints, we should live holily and undefiled according to our “Holy calling” (1 Pet. 1:15). “The grace of God is saving for all men” (Tit. 2:11), but does not save anybody against their will; she is omnipotent, but not violent. “The heavenly Kingdom”, even with the assistance of grace, “has suffered violence” (Mt. 11:12), and that only those admire it, who, prevailing completely over any sinful temptation, course their way to the Kingdom with effort and patience. (*Sermons and Speeches of Sophronius, Bishop of Turkistan*, Vol. 1, pages 90-102 [Slova i rechi Sofroniia, Episcopa Turkestanstskago, t. I, str. 90-102]).



**Father's Day  
Luncheon**

**Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am**

**All Dad's, Father's, Pop's, Daddy O's, Papou's,  
Godfather's, Uncle's ... AND their Families**

**are invited to join us to Celebrate!!!**

Philoptochos will provide the main course.

Please RSVP to Gail Ericsson, (770) 251-3728) or  
[gailerict@gmail.com](mailto:gailerict@gmail.com), how many will be in your party!

Contact Gail Ericsson, (770) 251-3728, or  
Susan Kleto, (678) 877-9115 to let us know the favorite  
Lenten dish (fish and oil allowed)  
you want to provide.

# Join us for Family Vacation Church School

**Saturday, June 16, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

All of us are God's children and part of the Church - the Family of Faith - passed down through the ages. We have the potential to grow through the grace of God.

It is our calling to grow and cultivate God's love and salvation. This VCS program seeks to provide opportunities to grow closer to Christ and His Church while having some summer fun. Its focus is to deepen the knowledge and experience of the Orthodox faithful in a fun learning environment for children, adults, and teachers.



*Why adults are included this year?* Both a mother's and father's love are important to a child's development. We invite our parents to bring their children and join us as a parish family during our day-long Vacation Church School program aimed at helping our families realize that our body is a temple where Christ lives. We need to continually clean it, so God can shine through us in all that we do.



We are capable of doing good to others... God calls us to love Him through loving others, and we can do this in small ways every day. As God's children, we are called as Christians to use our talents and let them shine and reflect the light of Christ.

All parish family members, including single adults or couples who do not have children, are invited to join us for a fun and Spirit-filled day of Bible lessons, crafts, activities, games, lunch, snacks, music, and fellowship. We welcome non-Orthodox families to join us.

***REGISTER NOW by visiting our website homepage and scrolling down to bottom right link. Our website address is [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org).***

***(Registration closes on Sunday, June 10th.)***



## Hands of Love: May



*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.

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.



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](http://www.peachtree.midwestfoodbank.org/home).

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

On this the 708<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. Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.

On this the 708<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 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, June 3 (Feast of Pentecost – Trinity Sunday):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/40 Day Memorial - Elizabeth (Misty)  
Gianopoulos/Graduates Recognition Sunday**

**11:00 am Parish Council Meeting (11:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.)**

<p><b>Fast of the Holy Apostles Begins on Monday June 4 and ends on Wednesday, June 28</b></p>
--

### **Thursday, June 7:**

**6:30 pm Choir Practice**

### **Saturday, June 9:**

**2:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

### **Sunday, June 10 (Second Sunday of St. Matthew):**

**7:45 am Orthros Service**

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/General Parish Assembly/Coffee Fellowship**

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