



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
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St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, June 17, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE Isaurus the Holy Martyr & his Companions of Athens; Manuel, Sabel, & Ishmael the Martyrs of Persia; Righteous Father Botolph, Abbot of the Monastery of Ikanhoe; and Alban the Protomartyr of Britain. *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 (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

3. Hymn Commemorating Today's Holy Martyrs – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily awarded by You the crowns of incorruption, in that they contested for You our immortal God. Since they possessed Your power, they defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. O Christ God, at their fervent entreaties, save our souls.

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 – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O unflinching 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 (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 (Romans 5:1-10)

5Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through Whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were

reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 6:22-33)

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE (TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):

“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Fathers make a big difference in the religious development of their children. Together with the reflection on the back and inside of today's Liturgical Guide, I am sharing a resource reprinted from <https://churchrelevance.com/qa-top-reasons-for-church-attendance/>

*entitled, "**Top Reasons for Church Attendance**". On July 6, 2012, Kent Shaffer responded to this question from Debbie in California: "**Do you have any statistics that show the top five reasons why people stay or connect with a church?**" These reasons can be beneficial as we consider our family's priorities and our involvement with our parish ministries.*

ANSWER:

Below are highlights from 4 studies updated for this 2012 article:

Reason Why People Attend Church (research conducted by Gallup)

1. 23% – for spiritual growth and guidance
2. 20% – keeps me grounded/guided
3. 15% – it's my faith
4. 15% – to worship God
5. 13% – the fellowship of other members (the community)
6. 12% – believe in God/religion
7. 12% – brought up that way (tradition)

Top 13 Reasons that Unchurched People Choose a Church (research conducted by Thom Ranier)

1. 90% – Pastor/Preaching
2. 88% – Doctrines
3. 49% – Friendliness of Members
4. 42% – Other Issues
5. 41% – Someone at Church Witnessed to Me

6. 38% – Family Member
7. 37% – Sensed God’s Presence/Atmosphere of Church
8. 25% – Relationship Other than Family Member
9. 25% – Sunday School Class
10. 25% – Children’s/Youth Ministry
11. 12% – Other Groups/Ministries
12. 11% – Worship Style/Music
13. 7% – Location

Top 6 Things that Keep the Formerly Unchurched Active in the Church
(research conducted by Thom Ranier)

1. 62% – Ministry Involvement
2. 55% – Sunday School
3. 54% – Obedience to God
4. 49% – Fellowship of Members
5. 38% – Pastor/Preaching
6. 14% – Worship Services

Top 4 Reasons Given By Youth that Choose to Continue Attending Church
(research conducted by Lifeway Research)

1. 65% – say church was a vital part of their relationship with God
2. 58% – say they wanted the church to guide their decisions in everyday life
3. 50% – say they felt that church was helping them become a better person
4. 42% – were committed to the purpose and work of the church

The statistics speak for themselves. Overall, doctrine, the pastor and his preaching, and the friendliness and fellowship of the congregation are the most influential qualities.

Father's Day - June 17, 2018 *(continued from back cover)*

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.


If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

Indeed, we become what we experience in the formative days of our lives. And we, who are role models, mentors, parents, grandparents, and Godparents are called to be encouragers of the future generation. Yes, sometimes it is hard and it does not come naturally for some of us. I want you to realize how powerful your words are and how damaging they can be. We can never be too busy doing God's work to give our children attention. Fathers, don't frustrate your children.


St. Paul witnessed the Good News of our Risen Lord to a Roman world. Please understand, as a Roman citizen, a father had complete power and total control. His wife and their children were part of his property. A newborn child was placed at a father's feet. If he picked the child up it became part of the family and was blessed. If the father turned away, that child was sold to slavery or killed. That is the world into which St. Paul professed his words I referenced from Ephesians 6:4 above. In effect, he was saying, "Don't be like that. You are Christians. You live by a different set of ethics... separate standards. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. Do not aggravate them to death. Do not break the spirit of those committed to your care. Fathers, your words have more power than you imagine. **Become an encourager to those who are committed to your care.** Do you get it? I hope so. It's critically important."





Hands of Love: June

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 June: Monetary Donations for the

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Throughout the month of June, we will be collecting monetary donations for the **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry**. OCPM is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization. It was chartered in 2005 and is one of the ministries of the **Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America**.

The **mission** of this ministry is to bring **hope and healing through the Love of Christ** to incarcerated men and women, living in distress, to lessen the impact to their families, and to help them re-integrate and live a productive life. Some of the activities of OCPM are:

- makes available Orthodox publications, study bibles, prayer books, icon prayer cards, and catechism courses to those in prison and to prison chapel libraries,
- links prisoners to Orthodox priests, who provide them with a sacramental life,
- offers spiritual guidance and publications to families of people in prison,
- educates clergy and future clergy at targeted seminaries,
- trains clergy and laity for prison ministry and correspondence ministry,
- links people coming out of prison with Orthodox churches in their area, and
- provides guidance to clergy and laity in churches receiving people from prison.

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

On this *the 710th* 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.*

COMMUNITY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 17 (Third Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 am Orthros Service

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service for Emanuel & Mary Ellinas,
Theodoros Sarantis & Departed Fathers/Philoptochos Father's Day Luncheon**

Thursday, July 21:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, July 24 (Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship Reception

11:00 a.m. Let's EAT! *Join us at Broadway Diner, 535 S. Glynn St., Suite 1009, Fayetteville, GA 30214.*

It's easy – no reservations, Dutch Treat, and open to all...!

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!