



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



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, July 1, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries; Constantine the New Martyr of Cyprus; Aaron and Julius the Martyrs of Caerelon; and Germanus, Bishop of the Isle of Man. *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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn Commemorating Ss. Cosmas & Damian – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Holy Unmercenaries and Wonder-workers, visit our infirmities. Freely you received; freely give to us.

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 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 for Today (1 Cor. 12:27-13:8)

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹³If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Gospel Reading for Today (Matthew 8:28-9:1)

When He came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met Him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, "What have You to do with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged Him, "If You cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the water. The swineherds ran off, and on going

into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs. Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And after getting into a boat He crossed the sea and came to His own town.

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

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (*Psalm 51:10*)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

If we are going to be most effective in reaching people for Christ, I believe our strategy should be to show people that we really care. Evangelism and missions must be relational in nature. I can’t find an incident in Holy Scripture in which Jesus walks up to someone and says: “I am the Messiah” and then He shows care for them. No, our Lord offered His care for them first, and then He revealed Himself to them. With this thought in mind, consider the following story which I wish to use to highlight the various strategies being used to witness the “Good News” of our Lord, using its simple plot involving a passenger on a luxury liner who suddenly falls overboard.

The passenger who has fallen overboard cannot swim. In desperation, he begins calling for help. Now it just so happens that several “would-be rescuers” on deck witness the incident. The first person after seeing the man fall overboard immediately reached into his briefcase and pulled out a book on how to swim. He now tossed it to him and he yelled: “Now brother, you read that and just follow the instructions and you will be all right.”

The man next to him had another approach. He immediately jumped into the water and began swimming all around the drowning man saying:

“Now just watch me swim. Do as I do and you will be all right.” The person next to him looked upon the drowning man’s plight with deep concern. He yelled out: “Now, just hold on friend. Help is on the way. We are going to establish a committee and discuss your problem. And then, if we have come up with the proper financing, we will resolve your dilemma.”

The next man on deck yelled out to the drowning man: “Friend, this situation is not nearly as bad as you think. Think dry!” By this time the drowning man was going down for the third time and desperately began waving his arm. Seeing that, the next man on board yelled out: “Yes brother, I see that hand, is there another? Is there another?” *And finally, the last man on deck immediately plunged into the water, at the risk of his own life, and pulled the victim to safety.*

This coming Wednesday, our great nation will celebrate its independence as a new nation on July 4, 1776. This occasion affords us a chance to thank God for the freedoms we possess as citizens of the United States of America. As stewards of God’s blessings and our personal freedom, let us recommit our allegiance to our country and its opportunity for us to choose to live life as God has directed us. Rather than squander these blessings on the failed approaches noted in the story above, let us imitate the life-saving rescuer: *Let us “plunge ourselves into the water, even if it means sacrifice, inconvenience, or risk to our own life, and pull ourselves and others entrusted to us to God’s Heavenly Kingdom, here and now, and to the ages of ages to come.”*

As encouragement, St. Paul shared to the first Christians in Thessaloniki, Greece some 2,000 years ago: “²*We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly* ³*remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁴*For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that He has chosen you,* ⁵*because our message of the*

Gospel [Good News] came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.” (1 Thess. 1:2-5)

On this the 712th 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, July 1 (5th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:15 a.m. Orthros Service (note earlier start time)*

8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy (note earlier start time)*

9:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Reception

10:00 a.m. Building Committee Meeting

**This enables Fr. George to travel to Boston for Clergy Laity Congress.*

Sunday, July 1 - Thursday, July 5 – Clergy Laity Congress - Boston

Thursday, July 5:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, July 8 (6th Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Reception

10:45 a.m. Parish Council Meeting

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!



HANDS OF LOVE

Hands of Love: July

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 July: Monetary Donations for Soldiers' Angels



Soldiers' Angels is an organization serving **active duty military** and their **families**, as well as **veterans of all eras**.

This is one of the few charities approved to work in the **VA hospitals** and to provide direct support to veterans. In Georgia, there are two hospitals supported - the Atlanta VA and the Dublin VA.

Your **monetary donation** of:

- \$ 35 - can get a care package purchased, packed, and sent
- \$ 50 - can provide gas assistance for transportation to appointments at VA hospitals
- \$100 - can help a veteran put food on the table
- \$800 - can purchase a laptop for a wounded warrior with hand or arm injuries, burns, paralysis, loss of sight or voice, amputation, and help them maintain some independence, as well as stay connected with family, friends, and battle buddies.



More information at www.soldiersangels.org

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

Don't Knit or Crochet, but Want to Help?

The date for our next Prayer Shawl Blessing has been changed to Sunday, August 26th. The blessing will still be considered a part of the celebration the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the shawls and lap blankets will be shared with the patients at Cancer Treatment Center of America (CTCA) in Newnan. Hopefully this new schedule will be beneficial to all our ministry "specialists".

Just because you do not knit or crochet, that is no reason to feel you cannot participate. We are always appreciative when someone donates yarn for this ministry. Funds for yarn can be donated directly to our Philoptochos (please specify the donation is to buy yarn) or skeins of yarn can be donated. Each shawl or lap blanket takes approximately 4-5 large skeins of yarn. **SMOOTH YARN ONLY, PLEASE!!** Wool yarn would be of the greatest benefit.

Please contact Susan Kleto at (678) 877-9115 or sbkleto@gmail.com if you have any questions, would like to receive a Prayer Guide, or have any suggestions for improving this ministry.

