



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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, May 20, 2018

ON THIS DAY, THE *SEVENTH* SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE 318 BISHOPS AND OTHER GREAT MEN OF THE CHURCH WHO CAME TOGETHER AT THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF NICAEA NEAR CONSTANTINOPLE IN 325 A.D. AND DECIDED UPON THE CONTENT AND FORM OF THE NICENE CREED, THE SYMBOL OF OUR FAITH. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE The Holy Martyr Thalleus (+284); Mark the Hermit; Father Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow; Lydia of Philippi, Equal to the Apostles (1st cent.); and John, Joseph, and Nikitas the Monks of Chios (11th cent.). *Through the holy intercessions of the 318 God-bearing Fathers and Saints we remember today, Christ our 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.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

On this Sunday we celebrate the memory of the Bishops and other great men of the Church who came together at the first Council of Nicaea near Constantinople in 325, in which the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was defined. Arius (280-336), a priest of Alexandria, had taught the heresy that the Son was not equal to the Father, neither of the same essence nor infinite nor eternal; but that He was a creature, albeit the most perfect creature of God, but not yet God, and consequently his Mother was not the Mother of God. His Archbishop, St. Athanasios, opposed these errors with all his might. He eloquently exposed the true teaching that the Word of God was indeed God in reality, and that through the Incarnation He became a real man. The controversy raged throughout the Roman Empire, creating turmoil everywhere. Emperor Constantine decided to settle the matter by submitting it to the judgment of the Universal Church, and so he called the general council that convened in Nicaea. From the discussion came the Nicene Creed in which the answer to Arianism (as the false teaching of Arius is called) is answered in the following passage: "I believe in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father."

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1. Hymn for Second Antiphon – (Hymnal-p.28):

On the occasion of the Feast of the Ascension, we sing the following hymn instead of the regular Soson imas. "Save us, O Son of God": "Save us, O Son of God, Who rose from our midst, to the heavens in glory, as we sing to You: Alleluia!"

2./4./8. Hymn of the Ascension of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.168-169):

Sung before the Small Entrance, after the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, having gladdened Your

disciples by Your promise of the Holy Spirit. And Your blessing confirmed their belief that You are indeed God's Son, the Redeemer of the world.

3. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the 2nd Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung after the Small Entrance by Fr. George: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

5. Hymn Commemorating the 318 Holy Fathers– (Hymnal-pp.170-171):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ our God, for making our holy fathers radiant lights to all the world. Through them You led us to the true faith. Compassionate Savior, glory to You.

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

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.

7. Kontakion for the Ascension of our Lord – (Hymnal-pp.278-279):

It is sung after the Small Entrance by Fr. George: When You had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled Your plan of redemption, You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, while remaining in our midst. For You assured us who love You that no one can prevail against us since You Yourself are with us.

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 21:1-14)

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and He showed Himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee,

and two others of His disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Epistle Reading (Acts 20:16-18; 28-36)

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, Keep watch over yourselves and over the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that He obtained with the blood of His own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of His grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for He

Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" When he had finished speaking he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

Gospel Reading (John 17:1-13)

After Jesus had spoken these words, He looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify You, since You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I glorified You on earth by finishing the work that You gave Me to do. So now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had in Your presence before the world existed. "I have made Your name known to those whom You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words that You gave to Me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I am asking on their belief; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom You gave Me, because they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them in Your name that you have given Me, so that they may be one, as We are one. While I was with them, I protected them in Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

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

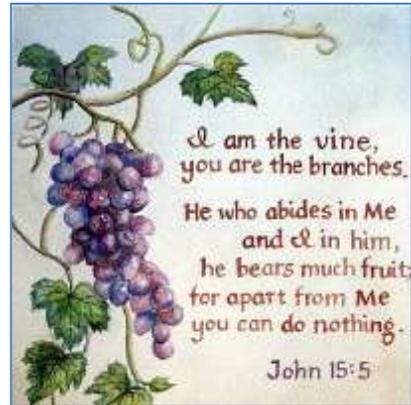
"...we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us..." (Romans 5:3-5)

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.

(Registration closes on Sunday, June 10th.)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

This past Thursday and through this coming Friday, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ - both His physical departure from the world and His glorification with God the Father. Having completed His earthly mission of bringing salvation to all people, Jesus physically was lifted up from this world into Heaven. In ascending to the Father, He raises earth [you and me] to Heaven with Him. As the Kontakion hymn for this Feast expresses: *“When You [Jesus] had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled Your plan of redemption, You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, while remaining in our midst. For You assured us who love You that no one can prevail against us since You Yourself are with us.”*

Indeed, as Orthodox Christians, we affirm a belief in the Son, Jesus Christ and His mission of redemption of humankind. We say that God took on human form, came and lived among us, suffered the same trials that we suffered, and experienced the same feelings that we experienced. Jesus was purely human and purely divine. Jesus is God incarnate.

What do Christians mean by the incarnation of our Lord? God came and lived among us. We can be glad that this happened for two reasons. One, it shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is with us, that He is on our side, and that He loves us. Secondly, it gives us a first-hand view of what the mind of God is really all about. When people ask what God is like, we as Christians point to the person of Jesus Christ. God Himself is incomprehensible. But in Jesus Christ, we get a glimpse of His glory. In the person of Jesus, we are told

that God created the stars and the universe, that God is willing to go all of the way, even to a cross, so that each of us, and indeed, all of humanity may be saved.

Glory to God always! Today, may we worship our Ascended Lord with the words that I exclaimed during today's Small Entrance during the Divine Liturgy: *"God has risen with a loud cry, the Lord, at the sound of the trumpet. Save us, O Son of God, Who rose from our midst, to the heavens in glory, as we sing to You: Alleluia!"*



HANDS OF LOVE

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.

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



Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

An Agency of the Assembly of Bishops

Post Office Box 1597 • New York, NY 10025

Web: <http://www.theocpm.org>

May 20, 2018

To all the Clergy and the Laity of the Holy Orthodox Churches in the United States;
Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

The Hierarchs of The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America have approved this year, **Sunday, May 20th, 2018** to be **Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday** in all Orthodox parishes of North America.

Our Divine Liturgy begins with petitions that include: "...**for the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.**" Later, following the Holy Anaphora, the priest again prays: "**Remember Lord... the captives and their salvation.**"

Orthodox Christians are meant to put feet to their prayers. As St. Paul exhorts us: "**Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"**" (Romans 10:13-15)

Please put "feet" to your prayers **for captives and for their salvation** by assisting OCPM in bringing the Good News to the precious souls living in the prisons and jails of our country. OCPM needs your help to bring the Love and Light of Christ to these men and women who should also be afforded the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord. Would you please be so kind to pass a second tray for the ongoing ministry of OCPM on Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday?

TRULY HE IS RISEN!

With love and thanks in our Risen Lord,

Fr. Stephen Powley
Executive Director

"Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who suffer evil, as though you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3

A tax-exempt organization under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

AHEPA Sunday – May 20, 2018

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With joy and gratitude, the parishes of our Holy Archdiocese are asked to commemorate AHEPA Sunday and to recognize the service offered by the members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the organizations of the AHEPA family. Each year we designate a Sunday in May for this purpose, primarily to honor the significant work and offering that is being made by AHEPA members in our parishes, communities, nation, and around the world. It is also an annual recognition of a long and cherished relationship between AHEPA and the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

For almost a century, our Church in America and AHEPA have shared a history. Guided by faith in God and the ideals of Hellenism, Greek immigrants who came to this land wanted more than opportunity. They nurtured families and built communities, and at the center of those communities were parishes and organizations that strengthened their Orthodox faith, affirmed their Hellenic identity, guided them in service to those in need, and helped them participate in the American experience while contributing to the history and identity of this great nation.

We are the heirs of this foundation, a legacy we honor in this commemoration. We also affirm our commitment to this shared ministry and fellowship, a vital work that continues to meet the needs of elderly and veterans, to provide educational scholarships and unique programs for our youth, to support hospitals and relief programs, and to advocate on critical issues around the globe.

In recognition of all that we have done and will continue to do together, may we affirm that the AHEPA family is our family as Greek Americans. May we offer our prayers and support for the members and programs of AHEPA. May we give thanks to God for the history we share through our parishes, through AHEPA and all our organizations, and through our faith in Christ, which makes all things possible!

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

On the Seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the Holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Synod.

(continued from back bulletin cover)

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria). He is called “the Great,” for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today’s Feast, he is referred to as “the thirteenth Apostle.”

The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Synod. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, “God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle of a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous.”

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heresiarch Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan’s knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Hell (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Synod declined to accept a Symbol of Faith (Creed) proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith. Saint Constantine asked the Synod to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word “consubstantial,” which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Synod unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the Holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ’s divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of haughty reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Synod also issued Twelve Canons on questions of ecclesiastical administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Synod, Holy Pascha should be celebrated by Christians on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

- Reprinted from johnsanidopoulos.com



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On this *the 706th* 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

Today is the 7th Sunday of Pascha

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

7:45 a.m. Orthros

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

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

Tuesday, May 22:

7:00 p.m. Brief Parish Council Meeting (via Zoom technology)

Thursday, May 24:

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Saturday, May 26 (Saturday of the Souls before Pentecost with Kolyva):

7:45 am Orthros Service

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service for Saturday of the Souls
(Bring Kolyva)**

Sunday, May 27 (Feast of Pentecost – Trinity Sunday):

7:45 am Orthros Service

**9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Vespers – the Feast of the Holy Spirit
(Kneeling Service)/Coffee Fellowship**

11:45 am 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!