



Sunday, July 18, 2021



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

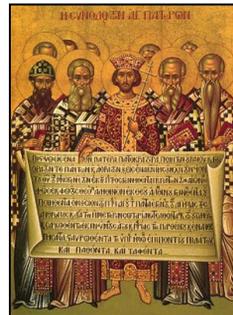
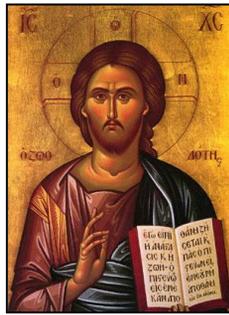
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 18, 2021

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon (+451); **WE ALSO COMMEMORATE** Holy Martyr Aimilianos (Emilian); Holy Martyrs Paul, Thea, and Valentine; Stephen, Archbishop of Constantinople; Our Holy Father John, Archbishop of Constantinople; Holy New Martyrs Elizabeth the Grand Duchess and the Novice Barbara; and Theneva of Glasgow. *Through the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

Thank You for Your Understanding

We welcome our parishioners who are attending services in person today and we also welcome those who are viewing our online video streaming at home. Let us comply with the guidelines we have provided everyone. We appreciate your kind understanding in following them. Fr. George is

deeply appreciative to you and all who are assisting during worship services.

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 (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

3. Hymn of the 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.

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 24:1-12)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.

Epistle Reading (Titus 3:8-15)

Titus 3:8 The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. 9 But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, 11 since you know that such a person is perverted

and sinful, being self-condemned. 12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Make every effort to send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and see that they lack nothing. 14 And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 5:14-19)

Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.” (Psalm 29:2)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE

A speaker once started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of two hundred, he asked, “Who would like this \$20 bill?” Hands started going up. He said, “I am going to give this \$20 bill to one of you but first, let me do this.” He proceeded to crumple the \$20 bill up. He then asked, “Who still wants it?” Still the hands were up in the air. “Well,” he replied, “What if I do this?” And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty. “Now who still wants it?” Still the hands went into the air.

This exercise offers a valuable lesson to us. No matter what the seminar speaker did to the money, the participants still wanted it, because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, none of us will ever lose our value in God's eyes. To God, whether we are dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, *we are always precious . . . and priceless.*”



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On this the 865th 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 SCHEDULE *(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)*

Sunday, July 18 (Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council):

7:45 am Orthros Service

9:00 am Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service for those who died because of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus

11:00 am Philoptochos Board Meeting

Last Sunday, Fr. George referenced the book, *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*. This week he read this verse from *The Book of Proverbs*:

Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.

Proverbs 4:23

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!

Holy Martyr Aimilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria (+362)

On the eighteenth of July, we commemorate Holy Martyr Aimilianos. The following account of his life is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. +Fr. George Tsahakis



Theodoret of Cyrus, in his *Ecclesiastical History* (Bk. 3, Ch. 6), records the following about Saint Aimilianos: “At Dorostolon, a famous city of Thrace, the victorious athlete Aimilianos was thrown upon a flaming pyre, by Capitolinus, governor of all Thrace.”

This took place during the reign of Julian the Apostate in the year 362. In the Thracian town of Dorostolon, later known as Silistria, lived a young man, Aimilianos, a servant of a fanatical pagan, who lived a secret Christian life. When the apostate emperor began his attempt to eradicate Christianity throughout the realm of the Roman Empire by fire and sword and, when the emperor's representative came to Dorostolon to kill the Christians, he did not find a single one. Rejoicing at this, he sponsored a great banquet for the citizens of Dorostolon and ordered sacrifices to be offered to the idols and rejoicing ensued throughout the entire town, day and night.

That night, Aimilianos entered the pagan temples, markets and the streets of the town and smashed all of the idols with a sledgehammer. The next day there was terror in the city. Everyone sought the destroyer of their gods. A peasant was passing by the temple that morning and was seized. Aimilianos, seeing that an innocent man would suffer, said to himself: “If I conceal my works, what benefit would I receive from that which I did? Before God, will I not be found as the murderer of this innocent man?”

Therefore, he appeared before the emperor’s legate and admitted all. The enraged legate asked Aimilianos, “Who prompted you to do this?” The Martyr of Christ replied: “God and my soul ordered me to destroy those lifeless pillars which you call gods.” The judge then ordered that Aimilianos be flogged and, after flogging with a raw hide and other tortures, ordered him to be burned alive. Though the fire did not consume him, the blessed one delivered his soul into the hands of God and received from Him the unfading crown of martyrdom.

The wife of the pagan ruler was also a secret Christian, and she gathered up the Saint’s relics and buried them. Afterward, a church dedicated to the Holy Martyr Aimilianos was built at Constantinople, where his relics were transferred, and his feast was celebrated annually.