

The cover icon of today's Liturgical Guide features the icon for the reflection, "The Litany of Completion of the Divine Liturgy – Grant This, O Lord" on back cover.

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, July 30, 2023



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

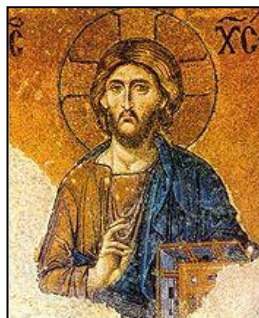
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlmetropolis.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: 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, July 30, 2023

ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus & Andronicus the Apostles of the 70 and Julitta of Caesaria. *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 (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. 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.

4. Kontakion for Feast of Transfiguration – (Hymnal-pp.284-287):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your disciples as much of Your glory as they could bear, so that when they see You crucified they will know that You suffer freely, and they will tell all the world that You are truly the radiance of the Father.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>– St. John Chrysostom</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (John 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the

body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that He had said these things to her."

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 1:10-17)

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:14-22)

¹⁴When He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. ²²Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name's sake." (Psalm 79:9)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

A strong person works out every day to keep his body in shape, but a follower of our Lord with strength kneels in prayer to keep his soul in shape.

A strong person isn't afraid of anything, but a follower of our Lord with strength shows her courage in the midst of fear.

A strong person won't let anyone get the best of him, but a follower of our Lord with strength gives the best of himself to everyone.

A strong person walks sure-footedly, but a follower of our Lord with strength knows God will catch her when she falls.

A strong person wears the look of confidence on his face, but a follower of our Lord with strength wears grace.

A strong person has faith that she is strong enough for the journey, but a follower of our Lord with strength has faith that in the journey she will become strong.

Are we merely strong . . . or do we rely on our faith to provide the strength to overcome life's difficulties and gain victory with our Lord?

St. Christopher Church's

BLESSING of the BACKPACKS

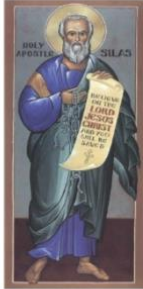
Sunday, July 30
after Divine Liturgy



Don't forget to bring your
backpacks to church on **Sunday, July 30!**



Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY



Prison Awareness Sunday July 30, 2023

Mission

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

What is OCPM?

For Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, OCPM helps them return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. For both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, OCPM provides spiritual care, enabling prisoners to find hope and purpose in their lives.

What does OCPM Do?

- They correspond with prisoners to provide personalized spiritual care, Bibles, books, catechism, and study courses.
- Provide spiritual guidance to families of those incarcerated.
- They catechize prisoners in the Orthodox faith through a series of correspondence study courses.
- They train Orthodox priests and laypersons to visit and counsel those in prison and to provide the Sacraments.
- Provide ongoing guidance to those released from prison.
- OCPM advocates for correctional facilities around the country to recognize the Orthodox faith so that priests can enter prisons and administer the Sacraments and the services.



Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

JOIN THE MOVEMENT **Matthew 25:36 Fellowship**

"I was naked, and you clothed Me, I was sick, and you visited Me, I was in prison, and you came to Me." (Matthew 25:36)

The Matthew 25:36 Fellowship is a faithful group of monthly donors following Christ's commandment to visit those in prison. By committing to a monthly donation of \$25.36, people from all walks of life make this life-changing ministry a part of their daily lives.

How is Your Parish Called to Serve? **Level 1**

- Become an OCPM Advocate and raise awareness of the need for prison ministry.
- Donate to OCPM and support local prison ministries across the country.

Level 2

- Send a postcard or holiday card to someone in prison.
- Become a Certified Parish Reentry Partner for ongoing support of freed prisoners.

Level 3

- Become a Certified Prison Correspondence Pen pal
- Support families of the incarcerated by bringing Storybook Connections to your local prison.
- Teach a Church History class in your local prison.

All information taken from OCPM website – the ocpm.org



In July 2023 "Hands of Love"
will be accepting monetary
donations to benefit
Soldiers' Angels



In 2022 Soldiers' Angels served
877,224 active-duty military, veterans
and their families. Soldiers' Angels is
approved to work in the Atlanta and
Dublin VA hospitals.
You may Place your monetary donation in
the red box in the narthex or donate

online at : stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site

\$ 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

\$500 - can purchase a laptop for a wounded warrior with injuries,
paralysis, loss of sight or voice to help them be independent and
connect with family, friends, and battle buddies. For more

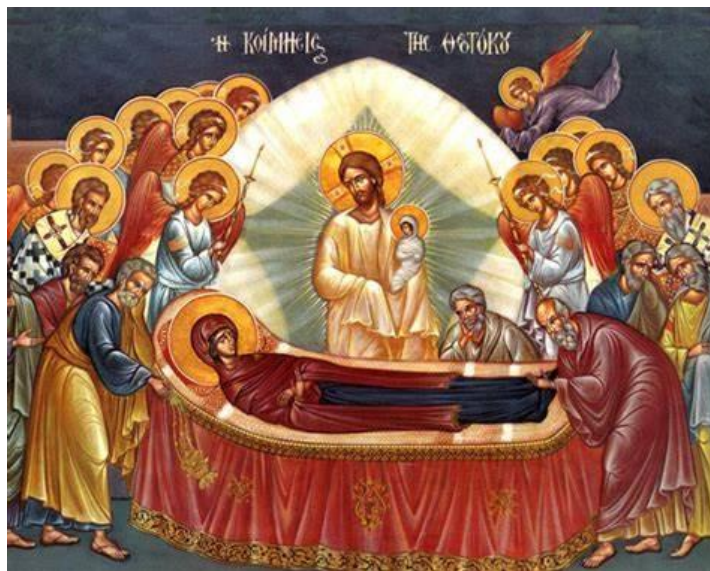
opportunities to volunteer virtually and in person, visit
www.SoldiersAngels.org

*May No Soldier Go Unloved,
May No Soldier Walk Alone,
May No Soldier Be Forgotten,
Until They All Come Home. M*

Faithfully,

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair

Submit Names Online for Fr. George to Pray for During August Paraklesis Services Leading Up to the Dormition of the Theotokos Feast



[Use this link to submit the names of your LIVING family & friends. It also is on the homepage of parish website.](#)
[Fr. George regrets he cannot accept lists of names submitted in person before or after church services.](#)

["Follow" & Like"](#) **our Facebook page.** Check for updates and photos.

On this the 964th 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 30 (Eighth Sunday of St. Matthew):

7:45 a.m. Orthros Service

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Sunday,
Soldiers Angels Presentation, & Blessing of School Backpacks

11:30 a.m. Let's EAT! (at Broadway Diner in Fayetteville, GA)

Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!



THIS
WEEK'S
SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 29, 2023, 1:00 PM
Sacrament of Baptism

Sunday, July 30, 2023
8th Sunday of St. Matthew

Sunday, July 30, 2023
Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday

Sunday, July 30, 2023, 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Orthros (Matins)

Sunday, July 30, 2023, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Divine Liturgy, Blessing of the Backpacks, OCPM Presentation & Soldier's Angels Presentation

Join us with your family and friends.

Sunday, July 30, 2023, 11:30 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...!

August 1, 2023 - August 14, 2023
Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 8:00 AM
Paraklesis Service

We will pray for the health and welfare of all - please join us.

Friday, August 4, 2023, 8:00 AM
Paraklesis Service

We will pray for the health and welfare of all - please join us.

Sunday, August 6, 2023
Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

Fish, oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from meat, dairy and eggs.

Sunday, August 6, 2023, 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM
Orthros (Matins)

Sunday, August 6, 2023, 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM
Divine Liturgy

Join us with your family and friends.

Sunday, August 6, 2023, 10:15 AM
Blessing of Five Loaves & August Commemorations

Join us for our monthly "Parish Thanksgiving Sunday" event. We thank Dedee & Kirk Panayis for offering the five loaves (Artos).

The cover icon of today's Liturgical Guide features the icon for the following reflection, "The Litany of Completion of the Divine Liturgy – Grant This, O Lord". It was written by His Eminence Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos and Agiou Vlasiou. It is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. +Fr. George Tsahakis

The "completions", namely the entreaties we address to God during the Divine Liturgy and other services, are said by the Priest or the Deacon. And the people each time respond with the phrase: "Grant this, O Lord", that is, Lord, we beg you to give us what we beseech.

The people at the Divine Liturgy and in every service, to the entreaties of the Priest, sometimes respond with "Lord have mercy", that is, have mercy on us, Lord, and sometimes with "Grant this, O Lord", that is, Lord, we beg you to give this to us. We ask for God's mercy, His compassion and His gift. We are like beggars, who understand our poverty on the one hand, and God's love and philanthropy on the other. We feel that we are very poor and small, but we have a rich and great God, we are sick, but we have near us the true Physician. Thus, we ask for His help.

Of course, supplication should not be limited to words; we cannot ask only out of necessity or plead on a theoretical level, but we must pray with our whole being, and do it completely. This means that we must adapt our lives to God's will and keep His commandments. Christ Himself told us that if you love me you must keep the commandments that I gave you.

Also, entreaty is not the only kind of prayer to God. Of greater value and importance are thanksgiving and glorification to God. When one learns more to glorify God, then one proves to be a real child of God, has absolute trust in Him and feels His glory. The prayer of the Angels in heaven is a constant praise and the prayer of the righteous in the heavenly altar is a perpetual praise, but also the endless prayer of the saints in Heaven will be an unceasing praise to the Triune God. We see this strongly in the Book of Revelation of John the Evangelist.

At the end of the "completions" we justify why we addressed these supplications/entreaties to God. The Priest says: "Through the compassion of Your only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages."

This means that we beseech and glorify the Triune God, "through the compassion of Your only-begotten Son." The compassions of Christ poured out abundantly upon us with His incarnation. He richly showed His love to us, and this gives us strength, consolation, hope. After all, through Christ in the Holy Spirit we know the Father. Thus, we glorify and celebrate the entire Holy Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, because they are the givers of all good things.

Our participation in the Divine Liturgy is life, it gives us hope, offers us love and beautifies our whole life. May we never be absent from her.