



Sunday, July 16, 2023



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

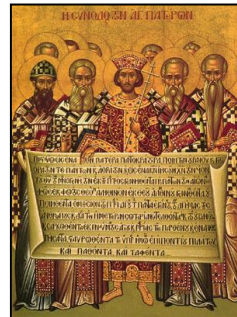
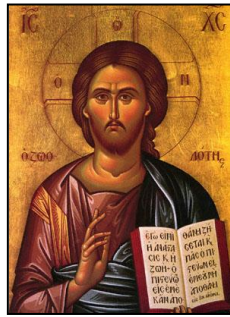
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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 16, 2023**

**ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES** the 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon (+451); **WE ALSO COMMEMORATE** Athenogenes the Holy Martyr of Heracleopolis; Julia the Virgin-martyr of Carthage, 1,015 Martyrs in Pisidia, Helier the Hermit, Martyr of Jersey. *Through the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O God, have mercy upon 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 (Plagal of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

### **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 24:36-53)**

*While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and My feet; see that it is I myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what My Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then He led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.*

### **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.*”

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

On this *the 962<sup>nd</sup>* 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 16 (Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council):**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service for Emanuel & Mary Ellinas & Theodoros Sarantis, & Golf Classic Presentation, followed by Philoptochos Meeting/Cookout, 106 Kimmer Road, Peachtree City, GA

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



## **Dress a Girl Around the World**

Imagine a world where every girl owned at least one dress...

Our Philoptochos Society members were busy on Saturday, July 15, 2023, making dresses for this ministry. After church, one of our youth will "model" the finished dress... we hope to have made at least 32!

If you have time, we invite you to join us to complete our dresses this Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m. Even if you didn't get to be with us on Saturday, we hope you will consider helping us finish this donation. If you have a sewing machine, iron, and ironing board, please bring them.

Faithfully yours,

Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis, Chair, 2023 Dress a Girl  
Ministry, Philoptochos Society

## Holy Martyr Aimilianos of Silistria in Bulgaria (+362)

On the 18th of July, we commemorate Holy Martyr Aimilianos. *The following account of his life is reprinted from [www.johnsanidopoulos.com](http://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.