



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Today is the Blessing of New Religious Education School Year &
Introduction of Religious Education Teachers & Class Assignments**

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 20, 2023



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

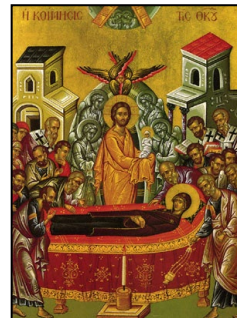
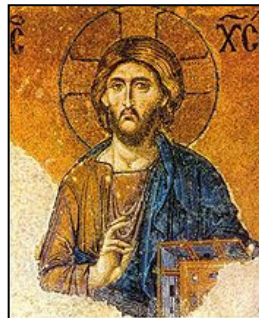
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, August 20, 2023

ON THIS DAY, THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Samuel the Prophet; Holy Martyr Luke of Bouleutos; Stephen, First King of Hungary; Hierotheos, Bishop of Hungary; & Oswin the Martyr, King of Deira. 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./3. Hymn for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.222-223):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance. In giving birth you remained a virgin, and in your dormition you did not forsake this world, O Theotokos. For as the Mother of Life, you have yourself passed into life. And by your prayers, you deliver our souls from death.

2. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, 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 for the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.288-289):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. She is our vigilant intercessor, the Theotokos, our sure hope and protection. Neither death nor tomb held any power over her, for as the Mother of Life, she was taken into life by that very one who deigned to dwell in her ever virgin womb.

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 21:15-25)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to Him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this He said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is My will that he remain until I come, what is that to You? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to You?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 9:2-12)

²If I am not an apostle to others, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³This is my defense to those who would examine me. ⁴Do we not have the right to our food and drink? ⁵Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? ⁶Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? ⁷Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military service? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk? ⁸Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? ⁹For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. ¹¹If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ¹²If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 18:23-35)

Matt. 18:23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had

happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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:



Holy Prophet Samuel, Feast Day - August 20

Today is the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Samuel. The following reflection is from <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com> and teaches us about his influential life in Old Testament times. This most holy man, a Prophet of God from childhood and the last Judge of Israel, was from the city of Ramathaim, of the tribe of Levi, the son of Elkanah and Hannah the Prophetess, born around 1155 BC. His mother gave him the name "Samuel", which means "asked of God", because, having previously been childless, she asked God for a child, with many supplications and fervent tears.

When she had given birth to him and weaned him, she took him to the town of Shiloh, where the Ark of God was then, and, although he was still an infant, she dedicated him, in accordance with her promise, to the service of God, and she gave thanks to Him, singing the Third Canticle of the Old Testament: "My heart is strengthened in the Lord...." She then returned to her home and later gave birth to three more sons and two daughters. Samuel, however, stayed in Shiloh under the protection of Eli, who was High Priest of the Hebrews at that time, and served in the Tabernacle of God. On account of his reverent behavior, he was well-pleasing to God and to other people, according to the testimony of Holy Scripture: "But the child Samuel led his life and he grew and matured and found favor both with the Lord and with men" (1 Kings/1 Samuel 2:26).

While this good young boy was sleeping in the Tabernacle, where the Ark of God was, he heard a voice three and four times calling him by name and

saying, "Samuel, Samuel!" The voice was the voice of God, which announced to Samuel God's decision about the future destruction of Eli. For Eli had two sons, called Hophni and Phinehas, very lawless young men who held God in contempt, and he did not concern himself in any way with correcting them. The divine decision was fulfilled in due course, and all of Eli's family was wiped out in one day - a terrible example of those who neglect the good upbringing of their own children and the appropriate chastisement of their wrongdoings.

Samuel was chosen after this to protect the people and he judged them in holiness and righteousness, setting them an example of good works, and considering it a great sin if he ever stopped praying for them and beseeching God for the remission of their transgressions. As he said in the presence of all: "Far be it from me to sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will serve the Lord and show you the good and right way" (1 Kings/1 Samuel 12:23). The justice and selflessness with which he directed the people and judged the cases of each one was acknowledged by all when he asked them, with God as witness, to say conscientiously whether he had ever wronged anyone, or taken property, money or a gift, even as much as a worthless sandal. They unanimously replied: "You have not wronged us or oppressed us or crushed us, nor taken anything from anyone's hand" (1 King/1 Samuel 12:2-4).

When he was growing old and the people asked for a king, he anointed Saul for them. Saul, however, before long disobeyed the divine commandment, and Samuel reprimanded him on the Lord's behalf. Leaving Saul, he anointed David at God's command.

Having lived for ninety-eight years beyond reproach in every respect and being an example to all of a life well-pleasing to God, he died in about 1057 BC. The books of Judges and Ruth and the first twenty-four chapters of the First Book of Kingdom [First Book of Samuel] are ascribed by many scholars to him.

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

On this the 967th 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! ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

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Join the angels this Sunday



For our Adult Religious Education Class, Fr. George will be introducing our new course outline that begins with the heavenly hosts. He welcomes cradle Orthodox, converts, those interested in learning about Orthodoxy, and catechumens preparing for the Sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation. Just as Fr. George prepares for weekly classes, he is hopeful our parishioners will not just focus on the business/busyness of our parish activities but likewise learn and share the essentials of our Orthodox faith that lead us to eternal life. ***Your participation helps all!***



Don't Miss Out!

South Atlanta Annual Golf Classic

Silent Auction!

The Silent Auction is now Open! You don't have to be a golfer to participate in the Silent Auction. We are already seeing some fierce competition for items. Now is the time to get your hands on some incredible items while raising money and awareness for the charities we support and for our building fund.

The Website is now open to everyone – not just within our parish. Consider sending the link to friends and family.

- Here is your chance to check out the silent auction without leaving the comfort of your home.
- [Click here](#) to see what's available in the online silent auction - scroll through the items available!
- No need to stress over the registration process and **no** information will be shared with anyone!
- Register and put in your credit card information that is secure. Your card will not be charged unless you are the winning bid!
- This is a great Silent Auction experience in that if you bid on an item and some else bids, you will be notified via text or email depending on your preferences.
- No need to check your bids daily since you will be automatically notified *But*, you may want to scroll through for additional items that are added after you register.

Join in on the fun! We are less than a week away from the event. There is still time to participate. We still need volunteers. Sign up here: [Volunteer Sign up](#) Volunteer t-shirts will be available for distribution after church this Sunday, August 20, 2023.



College Student **SUNDAY** AUGUST 27, 2023

Orthodox Christian Fellowship offers college students rich community in Christ, inspiring a life-long love of God and neighbor. Through national programs, weekend retreats, virtual gatherings, and over 250 on-campus chapters, OCF is an invitation to thrive during school.



**DONATE TODAY AND HELP OCF OFFER COLLEGE STUDENTS
AN INVITATION TO THRIVE DURING THEIR TIME IN SCHOOL.**

Scan the QR code or visit [OCF.net](https://www.OCF.net) to give.

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Sunday, August 20

11th Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & 40 Day Memorial
for Eugenia Frang

10:30 Blessing of New School Year &
Introduction of Religious Education
Teachers & Class Assignments

11:00 Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

12:00p Philoptochos Board Meeting

Sunday, August 27

12th Sunday of St. Matthew

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

12:30p Let's EAT!



Religious Education 2023-2024

Teachers:	Grade Levels:	Location:
Susan Kleto Jackie Sarantis	3yr- Kindergarten	Back Classroom (Between restrooms)
Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis Jeanie McGee	1st-4th Grade	Upstairs Classroom
Becky Butler Angelique Soulakos	5th-7th Grade	Bookstore
Katie Wilson Dedee Panayis	8th-12th Grade	Conference Room
Fr. George Tsahakis	Adults	Church Nave

<u>First Semester Religious Education Class Dates:</u>	
<u>August Classes:</u> August 20, 27	*Blessing and First Class August 20, 2023
<u>September Classes:</u> September 10, 17, 24	*No Classes September 3, 2023
<u>October Classes:</u> October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	*Classes every Sunday in October
<u>November Classes:</u> November 5, 12	*No Classes November 19, 2023 *No Classes November 26, 2023
<u>December Classes:</u> December 3, 10, 17	*December 17 is the Christmas Pageant *No Classes December 24, 2023 *No Classes December 31, 2023