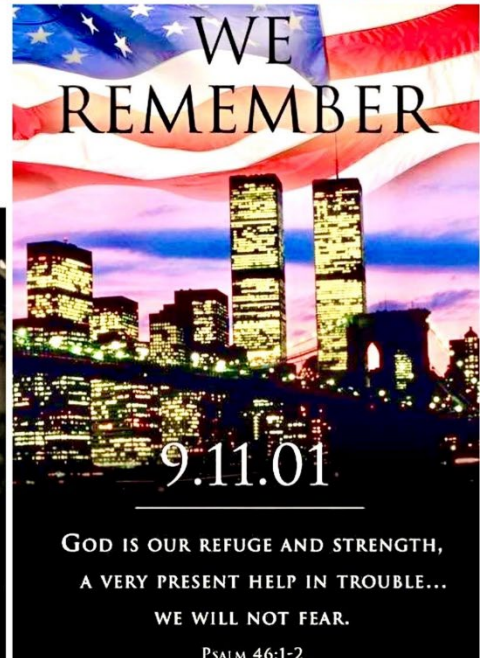


**Sunday, September 10, 2023**





St Nicholas stands before you today to tell the world that light will always shine on through the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it! Faith will always triumph over doubt. Hope will always vanquish despair. And love will always conquer hate. #September11



**“The attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> were intended to break our spirit. Instead, we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic, and religious freedom, the rule of law, and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom.”**

**– Rudolph W. Giuliani, December 31, 2001**



## 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, September 10, 2023

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY *BEFORE* THE FEAST OF THE UNIVERSAL CELEBRATION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST,** we commemorate Menodora, Metrodora, & Nymphodora the Martyrs and Poulcheria the Empress. *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 Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.176-177):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance.* Your birth, O Theotokos, has filled the world with joy, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. He destroyed the ancient curse and replaced it with a blessing, thus confounding death by giving us eternal life.

### **2. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the First 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.

### **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 Nativity of the Theotokos – (Hymnal-pp.228-231):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Your holy birth delivered Joachim and Anna from the reproach of childlessness and liberated Adam and Eve from death's corruption, O Pure One. Thus free from the stain of sin, we, your people, honor your birth, crying out to you: A woman thought barren brings forth the Theotokos who nourishes Christ our life.

## **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 (Mark 16:9-20)**

*Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and He upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. Amen.*



### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 6:11-18)**

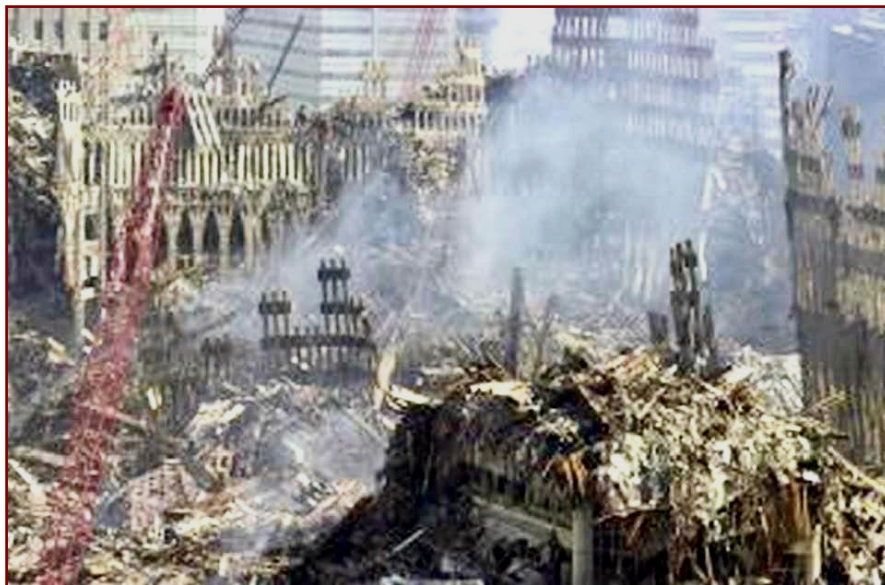
*<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. <sup>18</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 3:13-17)**

*<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into Heaven except the One Who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.*

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

*“He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.’” (Mark 8:34)*



## **PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

Tomorrow, we join as a nation in prayers and remembrance for the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks. Please continue to pray for God's peace and healing mercy on our world. We thank all the surviving families for the sacrifices of their loved ones who rescued others 22 years ago. We thank the countless angels who ever since have been caring and supporting the survivors from this tragedy. May the memory of the 9/11 victims be eternal. ***Today, we offer a Trisagion Service for them.*** And finally, may we all share the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God with those we encounter to effect peace and goodwill among all. Amen.

22 years ago, in response to the vast devastation from the terrorist attacks, I remember the unity and goodwill of our citizens; they willingly lifted the burdens of others and realized that our freedom depended on our mutual sacrifices to defend and preserve it. *The following tribute captures this spirit.*

It is an editorial about the U.S.A. that appeared in a Romanian newspaper. It was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title “C'ntarea Americii”, (meaning “Ode To America”) in the Romanian newspaper *Evenimentul zilei* “*The Daily Event*” or “*News of the Day*”.

## **An Ode to America**

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs.

On 9/11, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the Army, or the Secret Service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about.

Instead, the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps, and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing. On every occasion, they started singing: “God Bless America!”

I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player,



who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being?

Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy. *What on earth unites the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic Power? Money?* I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs, and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace, I thought things over, I reached but only one conclusion... ***Only freedom can work such miracles.*** - Cornel Nistorescu

A years ago I noticed the online post at right that further reflects this spirit of unity and respect for each other...

In closing, let us remember always: ***“Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’”*** (John 8:31-32) - Fr. George Tsahakis



## **September 10**

### **Sunday Before Holy Cross**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Trisagion for  
Victims of 9/11

10:30 Join us for Update from our  
GreekFest Committee

11:00 Religious Education Classes

12:00p Parish Council Meeting



## **September 13**

### **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrated of Eve of Feast**

5:30p Special Service of the Exaltation of  
the Holy Cross

6:00p Divine Liturgy, followed by Community  
Dinner (bring fasting food please)

## **September 14 (Day of Strict Fast)**

### **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

## **September 17**

### **Sunday After Holy Cross**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:15 Blessing of Phanouropita and Sale

10:45 Religious Education Classes

11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting

2:00 Tentative Sacrament



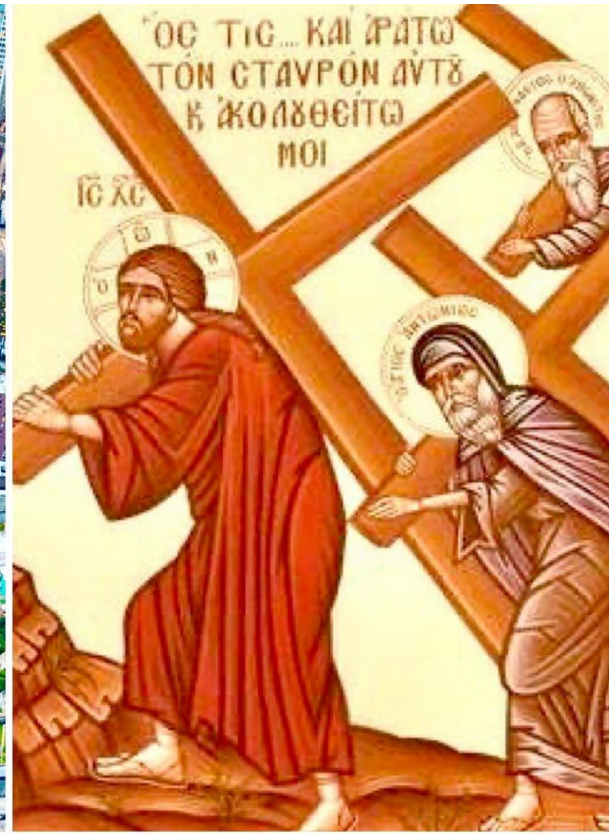
 ["Follow" & "Like"](#) our Facebook page. *Be sure to check our status for updates and photos.*

On this the 970<sup>th</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! ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros asked Fr. George & his Brother Chancellors to serve in the very first service of St. Nicholas National Shrine – Great Vespers – on Sunday, July 3, 2022. The next day the Archbishop consecrated the National Shrine. Fr. George & Presbyteria Marinda felt privileged to have participated in both blessed events.**





Following 9/11/2001, Fr. George's Senior High School Religious Education Class at Holy Trinity Church in Charleston, SC, designed and painted the Memorial Tribute panel above. Entitled **"Let God be our light for hope and peace"**, it includes the blue cross with students' names (including our Katie Tsahakis Wilson's). The lit candles in front of the dark wall with the slightly open door remind us of our ability to brighten the world using God's light to achieve peace and hope... amidst the darkness of 9/11. ***May we always reflect God's light!***