



## The Precious & Life-Giving Cross



**Sunday, September 17, 2023**



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

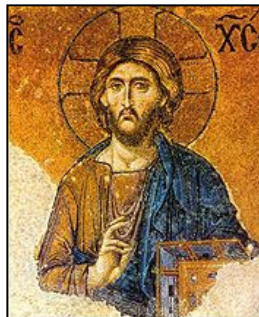
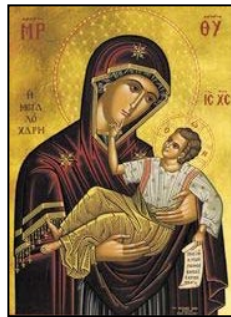
*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)*

*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, September 17, 2023**

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, we commemorate Saint Sophia, and her three daughters, Faith, Hope & Love, and Herakleides & Myron, Bishops of Crete. *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<sup>nd</sup> Antiphon Hymn Commemorating the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-p. 28):**

*This hymn replaces hymn on pgs. 28-29. Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, as we sing to you, Alleluia.*

### **2./4. Hymn for Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.180-181):**

This hymn, "Save, O Lord" – is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance. Save, O Lord Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

### **3. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):**

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

### **5. 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.

### **6. Kontakion for the Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.232-235):**



*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* Bestow Your mercies on the people called by Your Name, Christ God, Who freely let Yourself be raised on the Cross. To all who battle evil give joy in Your power, by gracing them with victory over every foe, for having You as their ally they possess a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy of victory.

### **SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY**

<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> – St. John Chrysostom
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### **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 During Divine Liturgy (Galatians 2:16-20)**

*...yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 8:34-9:1)**

*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. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some*

*standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."*

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

**(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):**

"Educate your children in the way in which they should go, and when they are grown, they will not depart from it." *(Proverbs 22:6)*

**PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:**

In ancient Greece it was customary for peddlers who walked the streets with their wares to cry out, "What do you lack?" The idea was to let people know they were in the vicinity, and also rouse the curiosity of the people. Coming out of their houses they would want to know what the peddler was selling. It might be something they lacked and needed, or simply something they desired.

*What do you lack?* We may have sight and hearing, but what do we lack? Take an honest inventory of yourself. Have you found contentment? Are you close enough to God to receive His guidance and strength? Have you secured peace of heart and peace of mind, invaluable assets in life? Deciding what we lack is the first step in securing it. Christ can fulfill our needs – needs that are to some extent physical, but, more so, the deepest needs of heart, mind, and soul.

Our Lord Jesus Christ encountered those who were deaf. They lacked the physical ability to hear. But many of us lack the spiritual

ability to hear. We suffer a kind of spiritual deafness. The affliction of not listening to people, or, to put it another way, the affliction of physically listening to people, yet failing to comprehend, to understand, and come to grips with what they are saying, is a plague upon the Church. For, you see, it is possible to listen to a person, yet fail to really hear them.

To carry this notion of proper spiritual understanding further, I encourage you to reflect inwardly on the question, “Who Is Our True Leader?” Amidst so much international, national, and local debate about whom to follow and whom to select as our leaders, I hope we will consider reflecting upon what our world truly lacks . . . the acknowledgment and faithful response to our one true leader - our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.



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

On this *the 971<sup>st</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!***



**Saturday, October 14th, 2023**

**6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner**

**The Shipyard at Trilith**

**COME ENJOY A TASTE OF GREECE!**

**DELICIOUS FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • GREEK DANCING**



**Tickets: \$150 for Individual**

**\$250 for Couples**

**Sponsorships Available!**

**To purchase, please use the QR code.**

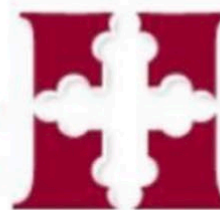
**Questions? Contact Tammy at [tammy@soulakos.org](mailto:tammy@soulakos.org) or 404-625-4663**

**Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**





*All Sundays in September 2023:*  
*Holy Cross School of Theology*



*Hands of Love* ministry will be accepting *monetary donations* to benefit the school.



As the *sole Greek Orthodox* School of Theology in the United States, education here is an integration of learning and faith. Located in Brookline, Massachusetts, *Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology* offers graduate programs leading to advanced degrees in Divinity and Theology. The school is the *alma mater* of many orthodox priests - <https://www.hchc.edu/holy-cross>. You may *place your donations* in the red box in the church narthex or online at <https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site>

Thank you for your generosity,

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

## September 17

### Sunday After Holy Cross

- 7:45 Orthros
- 9:00 Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 Blessing of Fanouropites & Sale
- 10:45 Religious Education Classes
- 11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting
- 2:00p GreekFest Field Trip
- 2:00p Sacrament of Marriage



## September 23

### Saturday

- 9:00 Philoptochos Ministry – Making Kourambietes

## September 24

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of St. Luke

- 9:00 Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 Memorial Service for John & Evangeline Georgeo & George & Penelope Spetsios
- 10:45 Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 **Community Luncheon** - One of our parishioners is celebrating a special anniversary and is treating our entire parish with lunch. We hope you and your family will join us.

## Fanouropites Silent Auction



Sunday, September 17  
Begins at Coffee Hour  
Ends at 11:30



Benefits Youth Activities in our Metropolis

We will have a **kids \$1 table**, too!!

# GREEKFEST FIELD Trip

THE TOWN @ TRILITH  
& THE SHIPYARD

**SUNDAY, 9/17/23**

After Philoptochos  
General Meeting

**WE WILL  
CARAVAN OVER  
TO SEE WHAT  
ALL THE HYPE  
IS ABOUT! AND  
STOP & ENJOY  
DONUTS, ICE  
CREAM,  
COFFEE,  
SHOPPING &  
MORE!**



**VISIT & ENJOY AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE - THERE  
ARE NO REQUIREMENTS OR EXPECTATIONS :)**



## Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos reflects on the Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14<sup>th</sup>

Today is the feast of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross. We celebrate the first and the second elevation of the Cross of Christ in Jerusalem.

The first happened on September 14, in the mid-fourth century, after Saint Helen, the mother of Emperor (Saint) Constantine, found the Cross.

The second elevation happened on September 14, in the mid-seventh century, after the Cross was stolen by the Persian King. Emperor Herakleios fought them, brought the Cross first to Constantinople and then back to Jerusalem, and the Patriarch elevated the Cross again in Jerusalem.

This feast is connected with the feast of the Holy Transfiguration. The Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor happened exactly 40 days before His Crucifixion. So we celebrate Transfiguration on August 6, which is exactly 40 days before September 14.

The Cross of Christ is a symbol of victory against our adversaries (the evil ones) and of conquering death. In this way, the Holy Cross is a source of spiritual renewal, life, and joy.

We elevate the cross during the church service, and our hearts are elevated to Christ. And we ask God to save us through the power of the Cross.