



Sunday, June 29, 2025



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

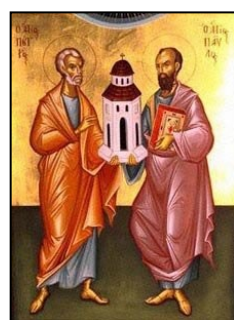
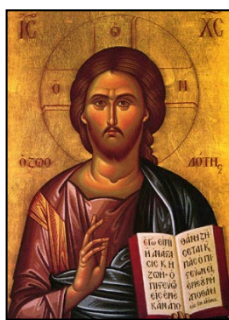
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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



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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, June 29, 2025

ON THIS DAY WE COMMEMORATE THE Memory of the Holy, Glorious, All-Lauded Preeminent Apostles Peter and Paul. *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 (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.

3. Hymn for Saints Peter and Paul – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance. Preeminent Apostles and teachers of the universe, intercede with the Master of all, to grant peace to the whole world and great mercy to our souls.

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.

6. Communion Hymn – (not in Hymnal):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": "Their proclamation has gone out to all the earth, their words to the limits of the universe. (Psalm 18[19]) Alleluia. (3) "

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & 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>	<i>– St. John Chrysostom</i>
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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 (2nd Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9)

To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone dares to boast of — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking like a madman — I am a better one: with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be He forever!) knows that I do not lie. In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of

the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows — was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 16:13-19)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

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

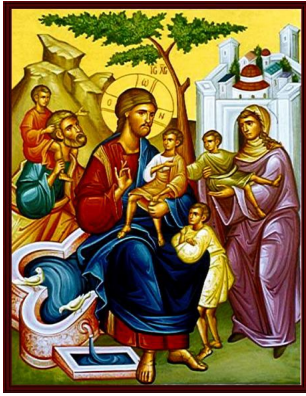
“Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” *(Matthew 9:13)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

“People were bringing little children to Him in order that He might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.” (Mark 10:13-15)

As sons and daughters of our Lord, Jesus Christ instructs us not to do anything to prevent our children – whether our babies or young children – from knowing the grace and power of Jesus! Even more than that, we must actively encourage and help the Lord's “little children” to find their place in Jesus’ family, have their needs fulfilled by Jesus' grace, and use their gifts as part of Jesus' Body.

Prayer for Our Parish Families in Support of Our Youth:



O Heavenly Father, thank You for our precious children. Please help me to never put off a child who needs to know Your love. Help me and use me, O Lord, to show all our youth Your love and help them grow in Your image and likeness to serve for your glory. May Your Holy Spirit guide me in my responsibilities with a spirit of love and mercy.

May all children live a life of love and share that love with those around them. May they always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions. Help them to do what is right and just and fair. Grant that they will learn responsibility, and help them to live a life of thankfulness. Give them health and strength and show them Your path. Take them into Your arms and bless them as You embraced children when You visited us on earth. Hear their prayers each day, and ever remind them that You are always with them. Make them sleep in peace and awaken in the morning to love You and serve You. For to You we give glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



LOOKING AHEAD TO FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

On this blessed day of our nation's independence, we give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of freedom and the many blessings we enjoy in this land. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be faithful stewards of liberty—using it not for selfish gain, but to serve one another in love and truth.

This day reminds us not only of our national heritage but also of our sacred responsibility to uphold truth, justice, and compassion in all we do.

May we honor those who sacrificed for our freedom by living lives of virtue, compassion, and justice. And may the light of Christ guide our nation toward peace and righteousness.

Let us remember that true freedom is found in Christ, who calls us to love one another and to serve with humility. May our gratitude for this nation inspire us to be peacemakers, bridge-builders, and faithful stewards of the gifts we have received.

On this the 1058th 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! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



Beloved in Christ, this is our call to action! The Lord has equipped each of us with gifts not meant to be hidden but shared for the strengthening of His Holy Church. Whether your voice lifts in song, your smile welcomes at the door, your hands guide our children, or your spirit inspires our youth—there is a place for you in God's work. Let us rise together in joyful service, so that through every greeting, every note sung, every lesson taught, we declare His glory and build His kingdom among us. ***Will you answer the call? Join us on Sunday, July 13th at 10:45 a.m. to respond!***

Join Us This Sunday with Your Family

Saturday, June 28th

9:00 Philoptochos – Roll Pites

Sunday, June 29th – Peter & Paul, the Holy Apostles

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:00 Let's EAT! at Broadway Diner

Friday, July 4th – American Independence Day

Sunday, July 6th – 4th Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves (offered by Helen & George Psihountas) & July Commemorations

Sunday, July 13th – Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council

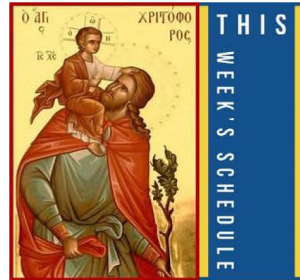
8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:00 Parish Council Meeting

Saturday, July 19th

8:30 Philoptochos – Koulourakia Day



Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles – June 30

The following homily “*On the Holy Apostles*” is by St. Kosmas Aitolos, who lived in the eighteenth century. It is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. +Fr. George Tsahakis

Just as a ruler who has fields and vineyards hires workers, so our Lord Jesus Christ has us as a vineyard. He took twelve Apostles and blessed them and sent them to the whole world. And if men wish to live well and in peace here in this vain world, the most gracious God will have compassion on them and put them in paradise. He counseled them to believe and be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and to keep our God’s commandments. In whatever land the holy Apostles went, the Lord said for them to bless that land. And in whatever land the Apostles went and were not received by men, the Lord said for them to shake the dust from their shoes and to depart.

Receiving the grace of the Holy Spirit, they ran as lightning, and with that grace of the Spirit they cured the lame, the crippled, the blind and those possessed by demons. And with the command of our Christ, they raised the dead. It is meet and proper, brethren, for me, the unworthy and sinful servant, to have a clean heart like that of the pure Apostles and to have that grace of the All-Holy and masterful Spirit, I who have been found worthy to come to your land. But because I am a sinner and I don’t have the grace of the Holy Spirit, I beg our Lord Jesus Christ to send His grace from on high and to bless your land and your possessions and the work of your hands. And first, to have compassion on us, to forgive us our sins, and to make us worthy, my children, to live here well and in peace and to put us in paradise to glorify the Holy Trinity. And in whatever land the Apostles went, they ordained Bishops and Priests. They blessed that land and it became an earthly paradise: joy and gladness, a residence of angels, a residence of our Christ. And in whatever land they were not received, it became a curse and not a blessing, a residence of the devil and not of our Christ. It is meet and proper, my brethren and fellow Christians, to begin my teaching and to thank God when we finish.