

On July 6th, we commemorate our Holy Father Sisoës the Great.

St. Nikolai Velimirovich offered the following about this saint:

Sisoës was an Egyptian by birth and a disciple of St. Anthony. Following the death of his great teacher, St. Sisoës settled on a mountain in the wilderness called St. Anthony's Mount where Anthony lived a life of asceticism earlier. Imposing difficult labors on himself, he humbled himself so much that he became meek and guileless as a lamb. For this God endowed Sisoës with abundant grace so that he was able to heal the sick, drive out unclean spirits and resurrect the dead.

Sisoës lived a life of austere mortification in the wilderness for sixty years and was a source of living wisdom for all monks and laymen who came to him for counsel and advice. Before death, his face shone as the sun. The monks stood around him and were astonished at this manifestation. When this Saint gave up his soul, the entire room was filled with a sweet-smelling savor. Sisoës died in extreme old age in the year 429 A.D.

**During his sermon today, Fr. George will explain this icon and its importance to us.*



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

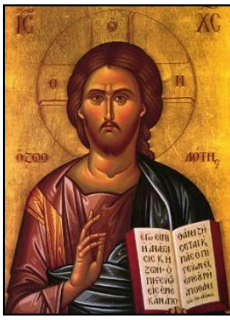
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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, July 6, 2025

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, WE COMMEMORATE SISOES the Great; Holy Apostles Archippus, Philemon, & Onesimus; Loukia the Virgin Martyr, Rixios, & the 24 Companion Martyrs; Juliana the Virgin-Martyr. 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 (Third Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.106-109):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown the mighty power of His arm. He has trampled down death by death, becoming the firstborn of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell and has granted to all the world His great mercy.

3. 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.

4. 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 24:1-12)

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 (Rom. 6:18-23)

Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as you have yielded your members servants

to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when you were the servants of sin, you were free from righteousness. What fruit had you then in those things whereof you are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, you have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 8:5-13)

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him, And saying, Lord, my servant lies at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said to the centurion, Go your way; and as you

have believed, so be it done unto you. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

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

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” (Mt. 21:22)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

“True Freedom in Christ”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

As we commemorate the founding of our nation this Independence Day, we give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty and the sacrifices made to secure it. Yet we must remember: the highest and most enduring freedom is not granted by governments, but by God.

The Apostle Paul proclaims:

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)

This is not a freedom of self-indulgence, but of transformation—a freedom from sin, from fear, and from death. It is the freedom to love, to serve, and to live in holiness.

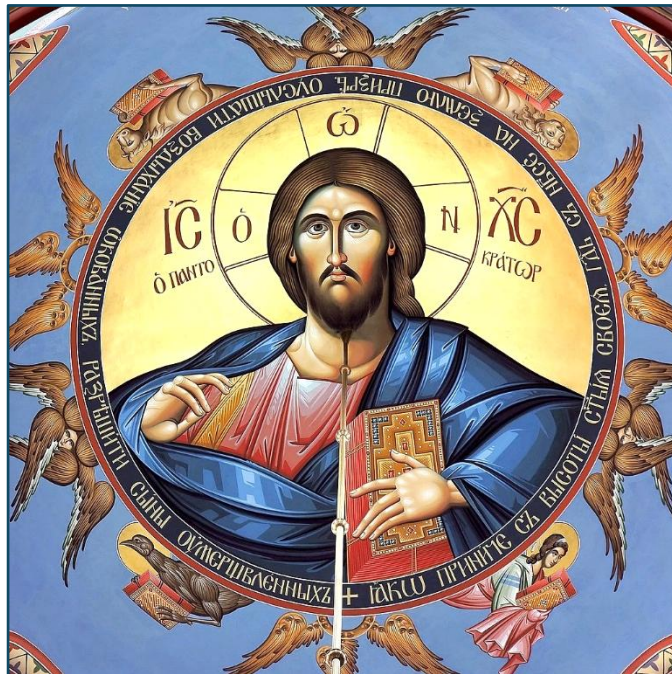
St. Peter exhorts us:

“Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.” (1 Peter 2:16)

Here lies the paradox of Christian liberty: we are most free when we become servants of God. In obedience to His will, we find peace. In surrender, we find strength. In Christ, we find our true independence—from the tyranny of the passions and the bondage of the world.

As citizens of this earthly nation, let us be grateful. But as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, let us be faithful. May our celebration of independence be a renewed dedication to live as those truly free in Christ.

Glory to God for all things.



Christ Pantocrator in the Orthodox Church of St. Alexander Nevsky, Belgrade, Serbia



In July 2025 "Hands of Love"
will be accepting monetary
donations to benefit
Soldiers' Angels



In 2022
Soldiers' Angels
served **877,224**
active-duty
military,
veterans and
their families.
Soldiers' Angels
is approved to
work in the
Atlanta and
Dublin VA
hospitals.

You may Place your monetary donation in the red box in the narthex or
donate online at: stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site

For more ways to support and opportunities to volunteer
virtually and in person, visit www.SoldiersAngels.org

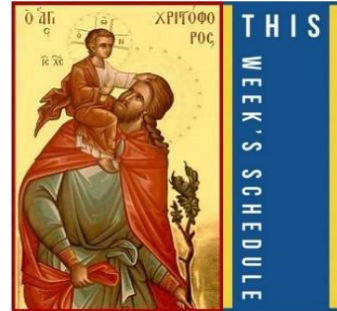
*May No Soldier Go Unloved,
May No Soldier Walk Alone,
May No Soldier Be Forgotten,
Until They All Come Home. 57th*

Faithfully,
Anna Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair

Join Us with Your Family

**Friday, July 4th – American
Independence Day**

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



7:30 Orthros

8:45 Service of 40-Day Blessing

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

Saturday, July 12th

9:00 Philoptochos – Rolling Day

2:00 Sacrament of Baptism (Tentative)

**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

**Following the Divine Liturgy on 7/6, Fr. George will offer The Celebratory Doxology for July 4th.*

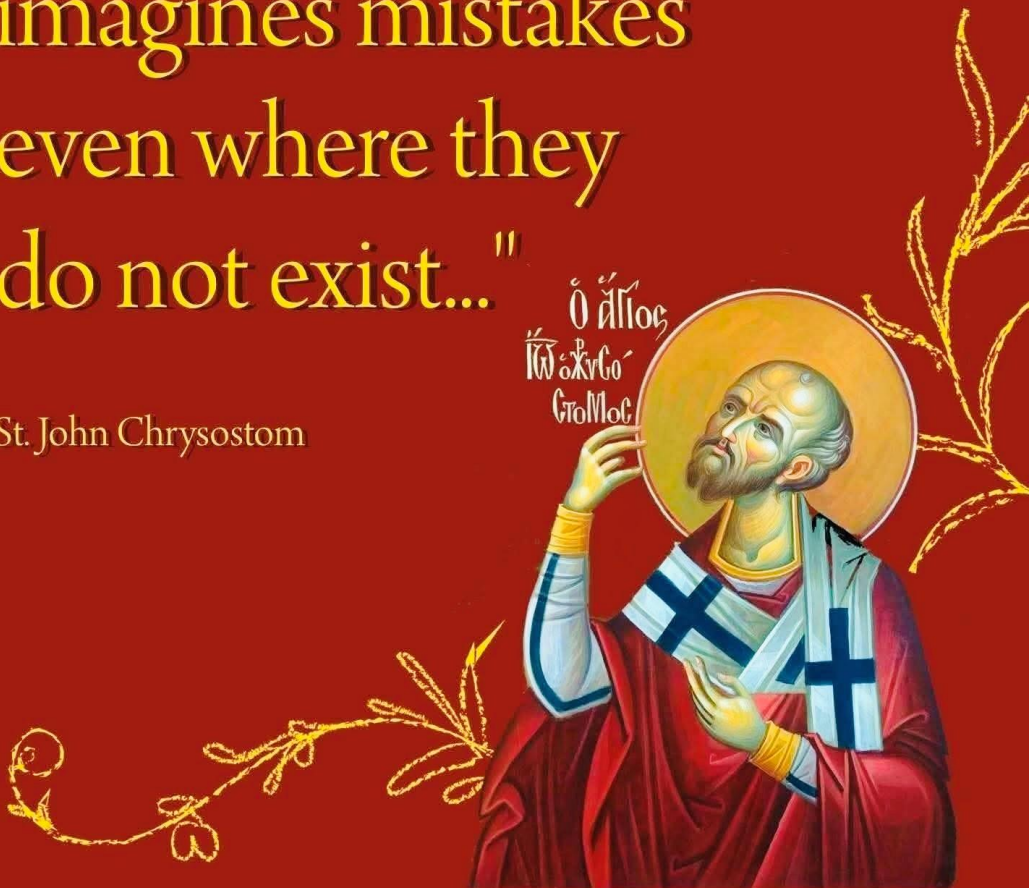
On this the 1059th Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the 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!***

"Love forgives
many mistakes,
while hatred
imagines mistakes
even where they
do not exist..."

St. John Chrysostom





Archbishop Elpidophoros Message on Central Texas Floods

With a heart weighed down by grief and sorrow, I offer the prayers of the entire Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for the victims of the devastating floods that have brought unspeakable tragedy to Central Texas.

We mourn the lives that have been lost—especially the innocent children whose bright hopes were extinguished in the deluge. Their pain is not distant from us. It pierces our hearts, for every child belongs to us all, and in every bereaved parent, we see the Theotokos herself, standing at the Cross.

To those still awaiting word on missing loved ones, especially the families of the young girls from Camp Mystic, we share in your agony. We fervently beseech our Lord Jesus Christ to guard and guide those who are still unaccounted for. May His divine mercy surround the rescue workers who press forward. – *Archbishop Elpidophoros of America*

Fr. George asks us to pray with our families: With hearts full of sorrow, we lift our prayers to You, O Lord. Comfort the grieving, shelter the lost, and grant eternal rest to those taken by the floods. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.