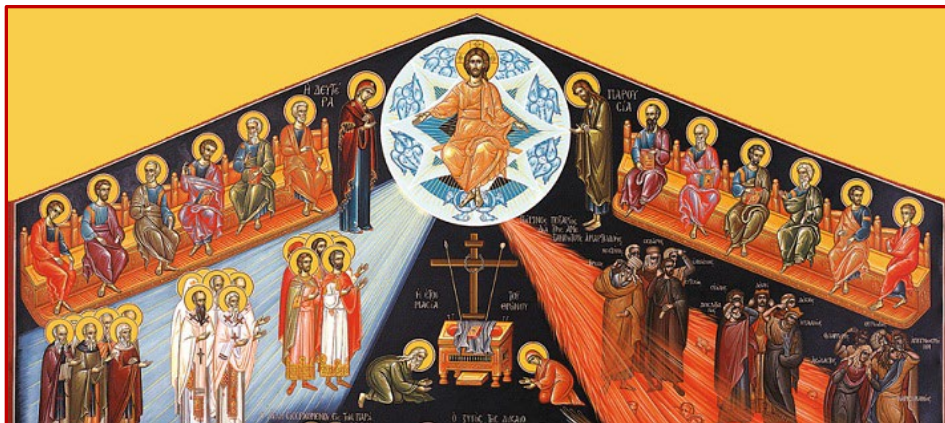




Today's Sunday is dedicated by the Church to the Holy Fathers who gathered for the Fourth Ecumenical Synod in Chalcedon and dogmatized regarding the two natures in Christ, the divine and the human, and about how these two natures acted in His single person. *Please read reflection of back cover for insights on today's Gospel reading in response to this event.*





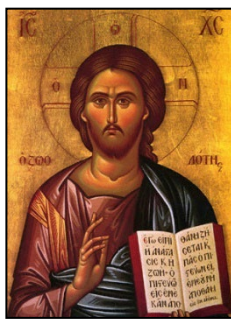
SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, July 13, 2025

ON THIS DAY, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES the 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon (+451); **WE ALSO COMMEMORATE** the Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel; Stephen of Mar Sabbas Monastery; Holy Martyr Golinduc; Marcian the Martyr of Iconium; and Serapion the Martyr. *Through the intercessions of the Holy Fathers, O God, have mercy upon 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 (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn of the Holy Fathers – (Hymnal-pp.170-171):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be 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 – (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 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 (Luke 24:12-35)

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. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this

morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading (Titus 3:8-15)

Titus 3:8 The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone. 9 But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 After

a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, 11 since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned. 12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Make every effort to send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way, and see that they lack nothing. 14 And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with all of you.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 5:14-19)

Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.” (Psalm 29:2)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE

“Prisoner Ministry Awareness Challenge”

from Last Sunday, “Your Turn to Share”

After church services last Sunday, I invited our faithful to consider writing an imaginary letter to a prisoner, as a means of raising our awareness of their spiritual needs and the support they need. In support, I wrote a hypothetical letter from a prisoner, reflecting his tone of humility, spiritual searching, and a desire for connection with the Church.

After reading it, I encourage you to prayerfully write a response to the imaginary prisoner, answering issues raised in the letter. Your reply doesn't have to be long. Email your reply to me: frgeorge@saintchristopherhoc.org and specify if you approve me sharing it if time permits. Our aim is to raise awareness of the spiritual needs and ministry of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. The deadline for me to receive is July 20th.

Hypothetical Prisoner Letter Received by Fr. George

Dear Fr. George,

I pray this letter finds you well and under the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to you from a place I never imagined I would be. The walls around me are made of concrete and steel, but the heavier

burden is the one I carry inside—regret, sorrow, and the weight of choices that cannot be undone. I have been sentenced to spend most, if not all, of my life in prison. That reality is still sinking in.

I was raised Orthodox, though I wandered far from the Church in my younger years. I remember the smell of incense, the chanting of the hymns, the flicker of candlelight during Holy Week. I didn't understand it then, but now I find myself longing for it. I don't know what brought me to write you—perhaps it is the memory of midnight on Pascha, when we sing “*Come receive the light,*” and I wonder if that light can still reach someone like me.

Father, I don't ask for pity. I know what I've done. But I do ask for guidance. Is there still a place for someone like me in the Church? Can a man who has wasted so much time still find repentance? I read the Scriptures when I can, and I find comfort in the Psalms—especially when David cries out from the depths. I feel like I'm in those depths now.

If you have any prayers, readings, or words of encouragement, I would be grateful. I want to learn how to pray again. I want to understand the feasts and fasts, and how I might live a life of repentance even here, behind bars. I know I may never walk freely again, but I hope my soul can still be free.

Please pray for me, Fr. George. My name is Ody, and I am trying to find my way back to Christ.

With respect and hope, Ody [Prison ID 8699283162]

Be sure to guard in your heart the joy of the Holy Spirit, and do not allow the evil one to pour out his bitterness. Beware! Beware, lest the Paradise that exists in you turns into Hell.

St. Nectarios of Aegina

Focus on your partner's strengths – not their flaws. No one is perfect. What you focus on magnifies. See their good. Celebrate their beauty. Speak their greatness aloud. A loved partner becomes even better.



Join us on Saturday, August 16



Join us on Monday, October 27



"A Night in Greece" – 2025 ***Saturday, August 16th***

**~ ~ We need EVERYONE's Help to Sell Tickets
and Sponsorships ~ ~**

Share the link below with family, friends, coworkers!!

Click for Sponsorships & Tickets: <https://www.greekfestfayette.com/>

**This is a Fundraiser to support OUR Building Fund and
Charities within OUR community.**

With a \$125.00 ticket OUR Guests will Enjoy ALL of this!

- Appetizers - Spanakopita, Tiropita's, and Dolmades
- Dinner - Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Green Beans, Pastitsio, Souvlaki, Gyros, Giouvetsi, Fresh Baked Bread, Tzatziki Tzatziki
- Dessert - Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia
- Water, soft drinks, beer and wine

***Guests will enjoy a Live Greek Band and Greek Dancing – OPA!**

Facebook link to share with friends and family!!

**[https://facebook.com/events/s/greekfest-fayettes-a-night-in-
/1146921094115751/](https://facebook.com/events/s/greekfest-fayettes-a-night-in-/1146921094115751/)**

Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-
greekfest#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-greekfest#/)**

Any Questions?

Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs

Emilia Moraitis – emoraitis@bellsouth.net

Claudia Sliwinski – claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com

Julie Skouteris – gsjs401mg@gmail.com

Thank you for YOUR Support!





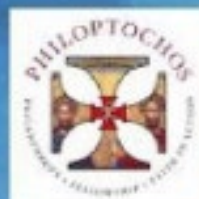
Join us for

A Night in Greece

We're bringing Greece to you!

Everyone welcome for this community event.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



Saturday, August 16th, 2025
6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner
The Shipyard at Trilith



Tickets include an all-you-can-eat Greek buffet,
open bar, live Greek music, Greek dancing, & more!
To purchase, please scan the QR code or visit
www.GreekFestFayette.com

Questions? Contact Emilia at greekfestfayette@gmail.com or 678-749-1550
Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



Join us for

A Night in Greece

We're bringing Greece to you!

Sponsorship Levels

Proceeds benefit St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church's building fund, Beyond Performance & local charities. Thanks for your support!

OLYMPIAN \$5000

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating
Program Recognition
Title/Name Mentioned During Event
Full Page Ad in Program

ATHENIAN \$3000

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating
Program Recognition
Title/Name Mentioned During Event
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SPARTAN \$2000

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating
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AGAPI \$1000

4 Tickets with Reserved Seating
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OPAL \$500

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1/8 Page Ad in Program

August 16th, 2025 at The Shipyard at Trilith
6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner

To purchase a sponsorship, please scan the QR
code or visit www.GreekFestFayette.com



Questions? Contact Emilia at greekfestfayette@gmail.com or 678-749-1550
Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



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: stchristopherphiloechochos.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.™*

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

On this the 1060th 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!***

Join Us Often with Your Family

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

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service, A Call to Action & GreekFest Update, followed by Memorial Brunch offered by Gail Ericsson

12:00 Parish Council Meeting



Saturday, July 19th

8:30 Philoptochos – Koulourakia Day

Sunday, July 20th – Sixth Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service, followed by Memorial Brunch offered by Philoptochos

11:00 Philoptochos Board Meeting

This reflection, “The Light and the Lights (Matthew 5:14-19)” is by Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos and Agiou Vlasίου for the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Synod. It is reprinted from www.mystagogyresourcecenter.com. +Fr. George Tsahakis

Today's Sunday is dedicated by the Church to the Holy Fathers who gathered for the Fourth Ecumenical Synod in Chalcedon and dogmatized regarding the two natures in Christ, the divine and the human, and about how these two natures acted in His single person.

The Gospel reading refers to the words of Christ He told His Disciples that they are lights in the world and that they should shine with their teaching and works. But to be able to shine both in teaching and in works one must be a light himself, having received the Light of God within himself and having a connection with the eternal uncreated Light, the Light of God. After all, the Disciples first received the Light of God and then shined with their whole being.

We should look a little at this course taken by the spiritual light, about which Christ refers. Let's say it's a triangle. In the upper corner of the triangle is God who is the Light of the world, as He Himself has said. This Light is sent to the Disciples who are at the bottom of the triangle, so they also become lights, because they partake of the eternal Light. The Disciples must not keep this light to themselves, but send it to the people, who are at the other corner of the triangle. And as soon as people see the Light of God, through the saints, then they glorify the eternal Light, God, that is, the Light returns to the upper corner of the triangle. Thus, this spiritual Light comes from God, is directed to the Apostles and Fathers who are illuminated, and through them it radiates to people and returns to God again.

If at some point there is an interruption of the movement of this Light, then there is an obscuration, what we call a "blackout". Then man and the world are in darkness, and they paralyze everything. What is done in the sensible world is done in the spiritual world. It is terrible for man to live in spiritual darkness, not to know what God is, what is the purpose of man's creation, what Christ brought to earth with His incarnation, what salvation is and how it is achieved, etc.

The Apostles and the Holy Fathers were the Light of the world, not because they were good people and had studied the science of their time, but because they had a relationship with the eternal Light, God himself. One does not become light by being a good person and having virtues, but by receiving the Holy Spirit within. Saint Symeon the New Theologian says that the blacksmith, in order to make various shapes with the iron, also uses tools, but if he does not have the fire to heat the iron, the tools cannot help. For our spiritual training the tools are the virtues, but the fire is the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

We should trust the Holy Fathers, because within them is the Light of God that illuminates them. But we should know that whatever gift we have, God, the Heavenly Light, must be glorified with it, because from Him all good things come and to Him, they must end up.