



Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ *(celebrated August 6)*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, August 3, 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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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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

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ON THIS DAY, THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Isaacius, Dalmatus, & Faustus, Ascetics of the Dalmation Monastery; Salome the Holy Myrrhbearer; & Theoctistus the Wonderworker. *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 (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrhbearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your 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 for 8/6 Feast of Transfiguration – (Hymnal-pp.284-287):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your disciples as much of Your glory as they could bear, so that when they see You crucified they will know that You suffer freely, and they will tell all the world that You are truly the radiance of the Father.

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 (John 20:11-18)

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and Your Father, to My God and Your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that He had said these things to her.”

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 1:10-17)

¹⁰*Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the*

same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 14:14-22)

¹⁴When He went ashore, He saw a great crowd; and He had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. ²²Immediately He

made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name's sake." (Psalm 79:9)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

The Sanctity of Life

"Beloved, do you not see the image of God in every soul?"

— St. John Chrysostom



St. John Chrysostom taught his catechumens with the fire of divine truth. He reminded them—and reminds us still—that every human life, from the moment of conception to the final breath, is a sacred gift from God. Life is not measured by utility or strength, but by the divine image it bears.

To harm the innocent, to neglect the poor, to ignore the suffering—these are not merely social failings, but spiritual wounds. For Christ Himself said, *“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.”*

Let us then be vigilant stewards of life. Let us speak for the voiceless, care for the vulnerable, and honor the dignity of every person. In doing so, we do not merely serve humanity—we serve Christ Himself.

Prayer:

O Lord, Giver of Life, grant us the courage to defend the sacredness of every soul. May we see Your image in all people and love them as You have loved us. Through the prayers of St. John Chrysostom, strengthen our witness to the Gospel of Life. Amen.



"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/>

Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-greekfest#/>

Any Questions?

Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs

Emilio 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!

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
1/2 Page Ad in Program

SPARTAN \$2000

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating
Program Recognition
Title/Name Mentioned During Event
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AGAPI \$1000

4 Tickets with Reserved Seating
Program Recognition
Title/Name Mentioned During Event
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OPAI \$500

2 Tickets with Reserved Seating
Program Recognition
Title/Name Mentioned During Event

PILLAR \$150

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



Wellspring Living



All Sundays in August 2025:

Wellspring Living

Wellspring Living **transforms the lives** of girls and boys 12-17 and young women 18 and older in our neighborhoods, who are **at risk** or **victims of sexual exploitation**.

Headquartered in **Atlanta**, since 2001, it provides **restorative services** - housing, healing and education through its residential, community-based programs and post-program support. It impacts the lives of more than 300 individuals yearly.

"Hands of Love" ministry will be accepting monetary donations in the red box in the church narthex.

For online donations:

<https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site/product/hands-of-love/57?cs=true&cst=custom>



The **"Wellspring Treasures" store** on 116 Peachtree City East Shopping Ctr. in **Peachtree City** is also accepting **gently used furniture and clothes**. To learn more or to volunteer: **<https://wellspringliving.org>**

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

On this the 1063rd 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, August 3rd – Eighth Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service, Artoklasia & August Commemorations, & Blessing of Backpacks - We thank Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi for offering the five loaves.

11:00 Memorial Brunch offered by Eva Sarantis & Family

Wednesday, August 6th – Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Grapes

Friday, August 8th

8:00 Paraklesis Service (*join us as we pray for health & welfare*)

Sunday, August 10th – Ninth Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Blessing of New Religious Education School Year

11:00 Religious Education Classes "Meet & Greet" Teachers/Assistants

12.00 Parish Council Meeting

*Come, and be strengthened in your witness
of Orthodoxy through regular worship,
fellowship, and service with us.*

The following homily on the Feast of the Transfiguration was written by St. John of Damascus and is reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com. He was a Byzantine Monk and Priest who lived in the 7th-8th centuries. May his thoughts inspire us as we prepare for Wednesday's Great Feast. Join us for the Divine Liturgy. +Fr. George Tsahakis

"Of old when Moses saw God, he experienced the divine darkness, indicating the symbolic nature of the law; for as Paul has written, the law contained only a shadow of the things to come, not the reality itself. In the past Israel could not look at the transient glory on the face of Moses; but we, beholding the glory of the Lord with unveiled faces, are being transformed from one degree of glory to another by the Lord Who is the Spirit. The cloud, therefore, that overshadowed the disciples was not one of threatening darkness but of light; for the mystery hidden from past ages has been revealed to show us perpetual and eternal glory. Moses and Elijah, representing the law and the prophets, stood by the Savior because He Whom the law and the prophets proclaimed was present in Jesus, the giver of life.

And a voice from the cloud said: 'This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.'

The voice of the Father came from the cloud of the Spirit: *'This is my beloved Son.'* He Who is seen in human form Who became man only yesterday Who lives humbly in the midst of us, and Whose face is now shining, is He Who is. *'This is my beloved Son, the eternal, the only begotten of the only God, He Who proceeds timelessly and eternally from Me, His Father, Who did not begin to exist after Me but is from Me and with Me and in Me from all eternity.'*

It was by the Father's good pleasure that His only begotten Son and Word became incarnate; it was by the Father's good pleasure that the salvation of the world was achieved through His only begotten Son; it was the Father's good pleasure which brought about the union of the whole universe in His only begotten Son. For humanity is a microcosm linking in itself all visible and invisible being, sharing as it does in the nature of both, and so it must surely have pleased the Lord, the creator and ruler of the universe, for divinity and humanity and thus all creation to be united in His only begotten and consubstantial Son, so that God might be all in all.

'This is My Son, the radiance of My glory Who bears the stamp of My own nature, through Whom I created the angels, through Whom the vault of heaven was made firm and the earth established. He upholds the universe by His powerful Word, and by the Spirit Which proceeds from His mouth, that is the life-giving and guiding Spirit. Listen to Him. Whoever receives Him, receives Me Who sent Him by the authority not of a stern master but of a Father. As a Man He is sent, but as God He abides in Me and I in Him. Whoever refuses to honor My only begotten Son refuses to honor Me, His Father Who sent Him. Listen to Him, for He has the words of eternal life.'