



*The Nativity of the Theotokos, remembered tomorrow – join us for liturgy at 8:30 a.m.*

***Sunday, September 7, 2025***



## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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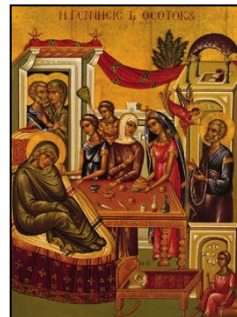
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)

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 7, 2025**

**ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY *BEFORE* THE FEAST OF THE UNIVERSAL CELEBRATION OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST AND THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY,** we also commemorate Sozon the Martyr; Kassiani the Hymnographer; John and Sergios, Bishops of Lerna; Daniel Katounakiotis of Smyrna; Euodos and Onesiphoros, Apostles of the 70; and John the Wonderworker of Novgorod. *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 (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 for the Eve of the Nativity of the Theotokos – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung before and after the Small Entrance.* Unto us is born today Mary the child of God, as the branch from Jesse's root, and as the fruit of David's loins, and all creation is re-created and deified. O heaven and the earth, rejoice in unison. Sing praises unto her, O all you Gentile clans. Joachim is exultant, and Anna is keeping festival, crying out: "The barren woman bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

### **4. Kontakion for the Eve of the Nativity of the Theotokos – (not in Hymnal):**

*It is sung after the Small Entrance.* On this day the virgin Maid, Mary the true Theotokos, the inviolate bridal room of the heavenly Bridegroom, by the will of God is born of a barren woman, to prepare to be the carriage of God the Logos, as for this she had been destined, to be the gateway of God and Mother of Life.

## **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 (Mark 16:1-8)**

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

### **Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Gal. 6:11-18)**

*<sup>11</sup>See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup>It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup>May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. <sup>18</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.*

### **Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (John 3:13-17)**

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into Heaven except the One Who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

#### **THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE:**

“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.’”

*(Mark 8:34)*

On this the 1068<sup>th</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! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



## ST. PHANOURIOS

(Άγιος Φανούριος, meaning “the revealer”)

Festal Hymn (August 27<sup>th</sup>): A heavenly hymn of praise on Earth is brightly performed, the state of angels now celebrate merrily an earthly feast, high above with hymns they praise your feats, down below the Church, your heavenly glory, which you found by your pains and struggles, glorious Phanourios.

## PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, let us pray for God's mercy to help our world find peace, healing, and unity in His Holy Body.



### **24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service for 9/11 at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine**

On September 11, 2025, a memorial service will be held at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine in honor of the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist

attacks. This solemn event, which will be presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, will begin at 3:00 PM and is open to the public.

The Saint Nicholas Church, which was originally established in 1916, was the only house of worship destroyed during the attacks on September 11, 2001. For years, it served as a beloved spiritual home for the Greek Orthodox community in Lower Manhattan. In the aftermath of the tragedy, plans were set in motion to rebuild the church as a national shrine dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives on that fateful day. The new Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, which now stands as a beacon of light on a hill, was consecrated in 2022, symbolizing hope, resilience, and the enduring spirit of faith.

# Join Us Often with Your Family



## **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Before Holy Cross**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Artoklasia, Blessing of Fanouropites, September Commemorations, Lunch, Bake Sale & Auction

11:15 Religious Education Classes

12:15 Philoptochos Board Meeting

## **Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

8:30 Divine Liturgy (note earlier starting time)

*God can create  
great beauty  
from complete desolation  
and nothingness.*

*+St Olga of Alaska*