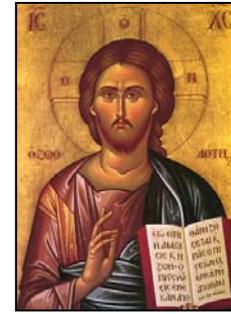




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlanta.goarch.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, May 5, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE 2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA, WHICH WE REFER TO AS ANTIPASCHA – THE SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS, WE COMMEMORATE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DOUBT OF THOMAS CHANGING INTO A PROFESSION OF FAITH. HIS AUDACITY IS STRESSED TOGETHER WITH THE INFINITE KINDNESS OF CHRIST WHO GAVE HIM THE MOST STRIKING PROOFS. THE SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS OF JOHN IS COMMEMORATED TOGETHER WITH THE PHYSICAL CLOSENESS OF THOMAS. ON THIS DAY WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Irene the Great Martyr; Neophytos, Gaius, & Caianus the Monk-martyrs; The Righteous Martyr Ephraim the Younger; and Euthymios the Wonderworker, Bishop of Madytos. *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.

DURING THE 40 DAYS FOLLOWING OUR LORD'S PASCHA/PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE, ORTHODOX FAITHFUL ARE ENCOURAGED TO GREET ONE ANOTHER UPON FIRST ENCOUNTER AS FOLLOWS:

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./5. Hymn for Sunday of St. Thomas – (Hymnal-pp.154-157):

Sung after the Great Doxology and after the Small Entrance: While the tomb was sealed, You shone forth from it as light, O our life, Christ our God. And though the doors were closed, You appeared in the midst of Your disciples. O Resurrection of all, through them restore in us a new spirit in Your great mercy.

2./3./9. Special Hymn for the Feast of Pascha (our Lord's passover from death to life):

Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

4. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of the Feast of Pascha, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, Who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"

6. Kontakion for Pascha – (Hymnal-pp.274-277):

Sung after the Small Entrance: Into the grave You descended, Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades, and as victor You arose, O Christ our God; You proclaimed to the myrrh-bearing women a greeting of joy, You brought peace to Your holy apostles, and to the fallen You granted resurrection.

7. Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (Hymnal-pp.308-309):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": “You are the shining light and the Mother of God, of incomparable glory and higher in dignity than all creatures; with songs of praise we magnify you.”

8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.320):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord...": “Exalt in the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. Alleluia.” (Ps. 147[147B])

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p>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</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Matthew 28:16-20)

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Epistle Reading (Acts 5:12-20)

¹²Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that

Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. ¹⁷Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, ¹⁸arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.”

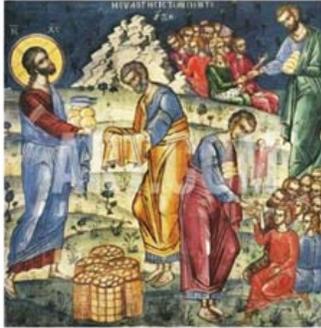
Gospel Reading (John 20:19-31)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.” A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name.

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

“Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.” (1 Chr. 16:10)

Today is “Parish Thanksgiving Sunday”



... the custom of offering the Five Loaves monthly reminds us of the generosity and multiplication of the gifts of fish and bread that our Lord multiplied and shared with all present. Through this Orthodox Service, we return thanksgiving to God for multiplying our own gifts and hence, the icon of this miracle has been selected as our logo for

“Parish Thanksgiving Sunday” ... *the first Sunday of every month!*

*On this seventh of our “Parish Thanksgiving Sundays,” **Fr. George Tsahakis** is offering on behalf of him and his family our five Artos (loaves of bread) in thanksgiving for*



Mother’s Day and his birthday next Sunday, for your prayers for healing of his brother Nick and Presbytera Marinda, and for His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios’ health and ministry upon announcing His retirement to the Ecumenical Patriarch yesterday at the Phanar. Many years!

Likewise, today we thank God and celebrate Name Days, Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and other special occasions that occurred recently or will occur during the month of May. The Artos (blessed sweet bread) will be distributed to everyone during Coffee Fellowship. Join us! Congratulations to everyone celebrating their special events today and thanks to all who offered our parish their gifts for God to use and multiply.

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

¹²When they were satisfied, Jesus told His disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. (John 6:12-13)

In considering these Scriptural verses from Jesus’ feeding of the multitudes, I would offer that in life, while we love some leftovers, others we prefer to do without. In this specific Bible passage, I appreciate the fact that there are twelve baskets of leftovers – one for each of the Disciples of our Lord.

While it was customary in Jesus’ time as it is today, to clean up after a meal, I do not believe that our Lord’s concern was the mess left over. Instead, I believe our Lord wanted to emphasize to His Disciples that they would be faced with impossible challenges and situations that they could not begin to handle.

Jesus’ miracle would remind them that their power was from Him and not from themselves. While His followers had picked up the scraps with their own hands and collected the leftover food, what remained was truly the tangible grace of their Lord left for them to see and to touch. It would serve as a powerful reminder that their meager resources, together with prayer, would more than meet the needs of those whom our Lord would place in their paths once He had ascended into Heaven.

One week ago, we celebrated Holy and Great Pascha. As we continue with our festal commemoration of this life-saving event, I pray that we may receive our Risen Lord's Good News and use the leftovers of His mighty work for His glory. May God enable us with our faith to use them to move mountains, heal diseases, and perform works that without His power and presence in our lives, we could not begin to understand nor imagine. Indeed, let us always consider it a privilege to "pick up the leftovers" and offer them in glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!



Hands of Love: May

"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land." (Deut. 15:11)



All Sundays in May: We will be accepting monetary donations for Midwest Food Bank - Peachtree City

Midwest Food Bank (MFB), a faith-based, non-denominational charitable organization, was started in 2003 when the Kieser family began serving about 10 food pantries in McLean County, IL. out of a building on their family farm.

Eight distribution centers combine to distribute \$9.5 million of food to over 1400 agencies each month. The Georgia center in Peachtree City began in 2011 and now serves over 320 agencies in 52 counties in the southeastern US.



We thank you for your faithful and continuous support,

Anna Andreeva Naydenova,
"Hands of Love" Chair

► PEACHTREE CITY, GA

“World Watch List of 2019” – the 50 countries where it’s most dangerous to follow Jesus. May we offer prayers in support of their efforts and pray for God’s peace and good will to prevail!

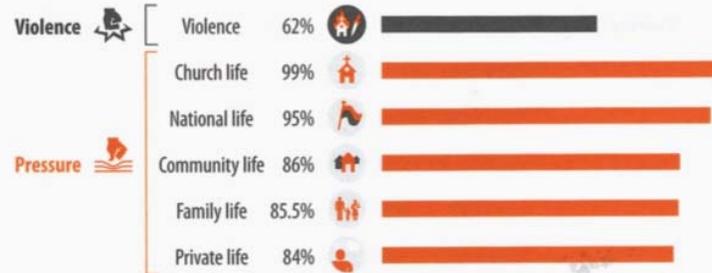


Iran

Source of persecution Islamic oppression
Population 82,012,000
Christians 800,000
Main religion Islam
Government Theocratic republic
Leader Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei

Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



Illegal to convert, illegal to preach

Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with non-Christians. Therefore, church services in Persian, the national language, are not allowed. Converts from Islam face persecution from the government; if they attend an underground house church, they face the constant threat of arrest. Iranian society is governed by Islamic law, which means the rights and professional possibilities for Christians are heavily restricted.

Prayer points

- Any Muslim who leaves Islam faces a charge of apostasy and can be thrown in jail or worse. Pray that the laws will change, allowing for freedom of religion.
- Pray for secret believers who meet in house churches, that they will be protected and will be faithful witnesses to the surrounding culture.

Today's Adult Religious Education Class

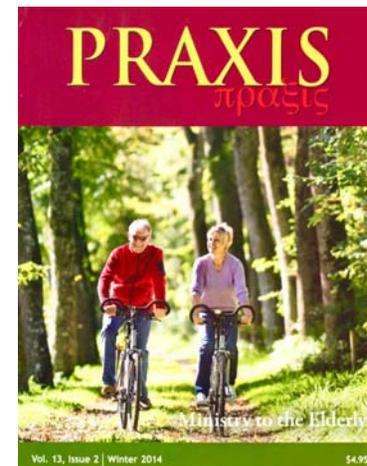
May 5, 2019: "Helping Children Understand & Navigate Aging & Death. It is part of the "Ministry to the Elderly" Series we will be studying.

*Fr. George will teach this lesson today...
come and join us!*



"Follow" & "Like" our Facebook page. *Check for updates and photos.*

On this the 753rd 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!



COMMUNITY SCHEDULE *(CHECK WEB CALENDAR FOR MORE...)*

Sunday, May 5 (Antipascha – Sunday of St. Thomas):

- 7:45 am Orthros Service
- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:15 am Blessing of Five Loaves & May Commemorations
- 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship Reception
- 11:15 am Religious Education Classes *(for all ages)*

Note Earlier Starting Time on Mother's Day, May 12th:

We are blessed to have a baptism next Sunday on Mother's Day. Please adjust your calendars today to remind yourselves that Orthros is from 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. next Sunday, with the Sacrament of Baptism beginning at 8:30 a.m. during the Divine Liturgy. What a blessing that on this day we honor our mothers, we also will be joining to Christ and His Holy Body a precious young child. Glory to God for this blessing. By starting 30 minutes early, we conclude at our regular time.

***Your continued support and mutual encouragement
are essential and appreciated!***