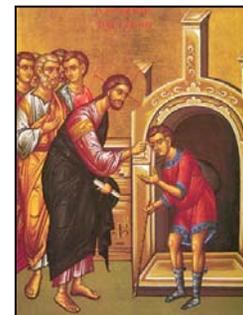
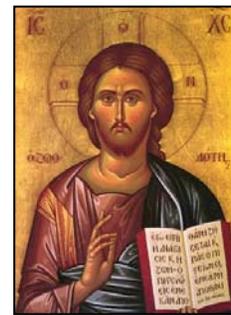




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

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, June 2, 2019

ON THIS DAY, THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA, THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THE OCCASION OF JESUS PASSING THROUGH THE TEMPLE, WHEN HE SAW A MAN WHO HAD BEEN BLIND SINCE BIRTH. HE HAD COMPASSION ON HIM, AND SO, PUTTING CLAY OVER HIS EYES, HE SAID TO HIM: “GO TO THE POOL OF SILOAM AND WASH.” AND AS THE MAN WASHED, HE RECOVERED HIS SIGHT; AND HE PROCLAIMED THE GLORY OF GOD. BUT HIS RELATIVES ASKED HIM: “WHO OPENED YOUR EYES THAT NO LIVING CREATURE CAN HEAL?” AND HE ANSWERED: “A MAN CALLED THE MESSIAH, OF WHOM MOSES WROTE IN THE LAW; HE IS THE SAVIOR OF OUR SOULS.” WE ALSO COMMEMORATE *Nicephorus the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople; Erasmos of Ochrid & His Companion Martyrs; Demetrios the New Martyr of Philadelphia; and Constantine the New Martyr of the Hagarenes. In your infinite mercy, O Giver of light, Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.*

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.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

From the Service of Vespers for today's feast: "But his relatives asked him: 'Who opened your eyes that no living creature could heal?' And he answered: 'A man called Jesus. He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He is truly Christ, the Messiah, of Whom Moses wrote in the Law: 'He is the Savior of our souls.'"

Holy Ascension – This Week

We invite you to join us this Wednesday evening (June 5^h) to celebrate the Feast Day of the Ascension of our Lord on its Eve – Great Vespers at 5:00 p.m. & Divine Liturgy at 5:45 p.m.

Please bring non-fasting food to share for dinner fellowship.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha – (see music distributed):

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.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Clergy:

On the occasion of the Paschal period, 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!"

4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of 1ST) – (Hymnal-pp.114-117):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

5. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung in both Greek and English 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.

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

It is 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) – (not in Hymnal):

Today, the following hymn is sung instead of "Axion Estin" or "Truly it is proper to call you blessed...": The Angel cried aloud to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again I say Rejoice. Your Son has truly risen from the grave on the third day. With one voice, O Virgin, we the believers call you blest. O rejoice, You the Lord's gate; city animate, rejoice. Lady, rejoice, for today the light of the resurrection from the dead of the Son whom You have borne, has shone on us.

8. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-pp.318-319):

On the occasion of today's feast, the following hymn is sung instead of "Aineite" or "Praise the Lord": Receive the Body of Christ; drink from the font of immortality. Alleluia.

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 (Acts 16:16-34)

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour. ¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened

and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Gospel Reading (John 9:1-38)

As He walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether He is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does listen to one who worships Him and obeys His will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when He found him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in Him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and the One speaking with you is He." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near Him heard this and said to Him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (SEE IF YOU CAN COMMIT IT TO MEMORY):

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things..." (Psalm 119:18)

“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!

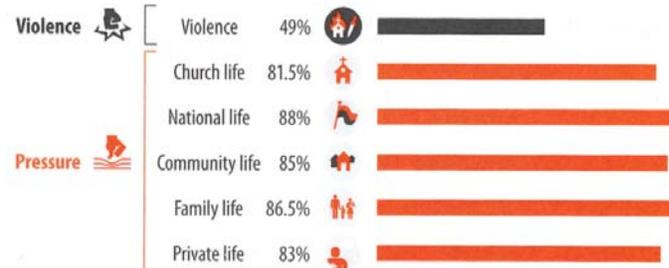


Iraq

Source of persecution Islamic oppression
Population 39,340,000
Christians 225,000
Main religion Islam
Government Federal republic
Leader Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi

Profile of persecution

Based on World Watch List 2019 data



Rebuilding but not recovered from Islamic extremism

In Iraq, the territorial defeat of ISIS reduced the level of persecution across the country. However, threats from extremist groups make it difficult for returning Christians to feel safe and secure. In fact, the number of Christians killed during the reporting period slightly increased, and Christians continue to be physically or mentally harmed, threatened and harassed. This is especially true for Christians from Muslim backgrounds.

Prayer points

- Pray for the next generation of Christians in Iraq to find hope and security to remain in their country as salt and light.
- Thank God for the many internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been able to return to their villages and rebuild their homes in the Nineveh Plain.
- Pray for priests and pastors ministering in Iraq, that they might be living examples of Christ’s presence.

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

Too often we fail to see God. We miss out on seeing the sacred that He has placed right in front of us.

Helen Keller, whose only ability to “see” was through touch once, wrote:

I, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch.

I feel the delicate symmetry of a leaf.

I pass my hands lovingly about the smooth skin of a silver birch, or the rough shaggy bark of a pine....



I feel the delightful, velvety texture of a flower, and discover its remarkable convolutions; and something of the miracle... is revealed to me.

At times my heart cries out with longing to see these things. If I can get so much pleasure from mere touch, how much more beauty must be revealed by sight.

Yet, those who have eyes apparently see little. The panorama of color and action which fills the world is taken for granted....

It is a great pity that, in the world of light, the gift of sight is used only as a mere convenience rather than as a means of adding fullness to life.”

The gift of sight is being able to “see” what’s around us, and more importantly, spiritually seeing our Risen Lord.

On a flight to New England a few of years ago, as we began our final approach, I glanced out of the window. The late afternoon sun highlighted fall’s vivid colors across the mountains and valleys. I put away my magazine, and took in the breathtaking canvas that only our Creator-God could paint.

Unfortunately, the urgency of life, and the pressure of deadlines have caused us to miss many “God-moments”.

Romans Chapter 1 contains a profound truth. *“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world His eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has made.” (Rom. 1:19-20)*

In short, in these two verses, St. Paul encourages us to approach life with a “spirit of expectation” — *to see Him through His invisible attributes* – His Eternal Power and His Divine Nature. They are clearly evident and visible in His creation.

“The heavens declare the Glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.” (Psalm 19:1)

Has the pace of life robbed you of enjoying His handiwork? Are your daily pressures stealing His eternal power from your soul? Has pain left you feeling that His divine nature could never fill your hurting heart?

If so, slow down. No – STOP! Whatever you are doing, right now, just stop.

Go outside and experience His creation with your family and friends. Enjoy His handiwork. Psalm 46:10 says, *“Be still and know that I am God”* — because He is. Allow the precious gift of sight to *add fullness to your life*. It just might turn your life around. Amen.

[Special thanks to Katie & Steven Wilson for giving me the beautiful lily pictured above several years ago for my birthday – just a few days ago it bloomed for the first time this year.]

Graduates Remembered Today

Fr. George and our St. Christopher parishioners commend our graduates and their families, along with their teachers and friends who assisted in their success. May today’s gifts from us always remind them that God is ever present in their lives and no matter where their future studies or work takes them, there is an Orthodox Church nearby waiting for them to join and become active. The Body of Christ is refreshing and gives us life in abundance. In turn, may we share our gifts with Him and His Holy Vineyard... *today and always.*

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 eighth of our “Parish Thanksgiving Sundays,” **Tammy & Costas Soulakos** are offering the five Artos (loaves of bread) in thanksgiving for the health and welfare of our parish family and God’s blessings in their lives.*



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 June. 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.



“Follow” & “Like” our Facebook page. Check for updates and photos.



**JOIN US FOR
HOPE/JOY SUMMER KICKOFF**

**When: Sunday, June 2nd
12:30 – 3:00**

**Where: Summer Grove East Lake Pool
39 Lake Cove Approach, Newnan**

**There is a Splash Pad and a Lazy River with pool floats.
Be sure to bring your towels and sunscreen.**

Hope to see you there for some fun and fellowship!

Kindly RSVP by May 26th

Katie (404) 434-0877 and Emilia (678) 749-1550



Hands of Love: June

"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 June : Monetary donations for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Throughout the month of June, we will be accepting monetary donations for the **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry**. OCPM is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, chartered in 2005 and is one of the ministries of the **Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America**. The **mission** of this ministry is to bring **hope and healing through the Love of Christ** to incarcerated men and women, to lessen the impact to their families, and to help them re-integrate into society and live a productive life. Some of the activities of OCPM:

- ♦ make available Orthodox publications, Study Bibles, prayer books, icon prayer cards, and catechism courses to those in prison and to prison chapel libraries.
- ♦ link prisoners to Orthodox priests, who provide them with a sacramental life
- ♦ offer spiritual guidance and publications to families of people in prison
- ♦ educate clergy and future clergy at targeted seminars
- ♦ train clergy and laity for prison ministry and correspondence ministry
- ♦ link people coming out of prison with Orthodox churches in their area
- ♦ provide guidance to clergy and laity in churches receiving people from prison.



Yours in Christ,
Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, **Hands of Love** Chair

On this the 757th 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, June 2: (Sunday of the Blind Man):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

**9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Memorial Service – Angeliki Soulakos (15 years)
& Christos Soulakos (40 Days)**

10:30 a.m. Blessing of Five Loaves & June Commemorations

11:00 a.m. Graduate Sunday & Memorial Luncheon

12:30 p.m. Hope & JOY Pool Outing

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