



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

February 4, 2022



## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

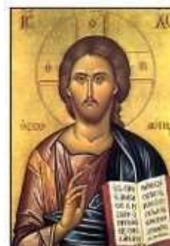
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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



## Message from Fr. George Tsahakis

*Friday, February 4, 2022*



***“For You are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Your departed servant, Nicholas, Christ our God, and to You we offer glory, with Your eternal Father who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and lifecreating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.”*** With these words, Fr. George ended the Memorial service on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> for our beloved *Nicholas Christodouloupoulos*, Stella’s beloved husband of blessed memory. Nick lovingly built our Bishop’s Throne, Chantors Stand, Stasidia and frame for our Epitaphios. Whenever I see his handiwork, assisted by his stepson, George Skouteris, I give thanks to God for their precious gifts that are used in every service. In turn, it gives me pause that every precious gift, while initially coming from God, passes through the hands and encouragement of those He created that are part of our parish family. *That leads me to thank our readers today for what you are doing and for the time and talents you share to ensure we not only maintain but thrive. Sunday’s Gospel spoke it best: “...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.” (Mt. 5:16) I give thanks to God and to all of you for sharing and shining His light each day. Amen.*

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*Related to Sunday’s commemoration of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom, I sought to demonstrate their love for God’s people by imitating what they did: 1) witness the truth, love, and mercy of God from His words from His Sermon on the Mount (just quoted above) and 2) share gifts from three of our parishioners and myself that were intended to remind everyone of God’s presence amidst whatever situation we confront.*

St. Basil, St. Gregory, and St. John Chrysostom gave their earthly possessions to those in need, and by need, we should not limit our interpretation to food, clothing, and shelter. Today, just like when these three saints lived in the fourth century, people often are overlooked... no, not intentionally, but due to the many demands we face from demands from work and families. Without noticing what others are confronting, we inadvertently forget or notice we have many opportunities to remind others that they matter. While not starving or living on the street, there are brothers and sisters in Christ that are separated from us by long distances that isolate them; we forget we have them as friends. We have stopped talking and sharing time together... behavior that affirms their value and respect for them. Perhaps they live alone or are suffering a health issue and must isolate during the pandemic. In these situations, it's easy for them to endure their pain and suffering without the benefit of our encouragement and support. They may feel we no longer care for them. With all these situations and many more, one of the aims from my sermon and gifts yesterday was to lift up the opportunities we have every day to provide unexpected and random words and gifts of kindness... to those in need of being affirmed as worthy of our friendship and love, of our pastoral support and presence, and our respect that they matter... whether they are a widow or widower, are seeking to build up their home, family, and business, are serving others as Godparents, are sharing possessions that go unused and even forgotten, are reminding our young families that they have courage and are commended for building their homes within the Body of Christ, or simply surprising a child with a treasured toy. While someone likened me to playing Santa Claus, my true aim was to witness and demonstrate the lives and philanthropy of the three "pillars of faith", Saints Basil, Gregory, and John. They knew the truth of Christ; they shared it through their speech and actions, and they helped transform countless others in the centuries since their death. ***In response, I received a beautiful note of encouragement and thank its sender for taking time to reinforce my own faith that God's Word overcomes all obstacles:***

*Glory to God!*

*Glory to God!*

*Glory to God!*

*Today's service was glorious!*

*The sermon was outstanding!*

*The Memorial and remarks about the donations by the family, so very special.*

*Anyone watching had to feel Christ, His love, the love of our parish members and their commitment to His Holy Church and one another.*

*May His light shine always in our lives and thru us for His glory.*

*Thank you for such a warm and informative, beautiful offering.*

*Today was just more wonderful than I can express. So appreciative!*

*The choir sang with the angels beautifully.*

*Our next practice will be Thursday at 5:30.*

*Giving glory to our God that [my family] is on the mend and praying for [those who are sick]. We continue to stay separated and pray for complete healing for them.*

*Love to all,*

*Alexandra*

*Faithfully,*

*Jeanie Ellinas*

*\*\*\*When we spoke, Jeanie added that for those watching the service who were not Orthodox, she felt it would make them **want** to become Orthodox. Likewise, for those who were Orthodox that were not coming, it would **draw them in** as well. Thank you, Jeanie, for taking time to share and give your surprise words of kindness and support in response to Christ's divine light and love for all! "What goes around, comes around!"*





Yesterday, I offered two separate commemorative coins. I end with the Scriptural verses they witness as reminders of the strength of God and His desire for us to apply His armor and strength as we put into practice His teachings to help the lives of others He places in our everyday paths.

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*



*Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every*

*prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.”(Ephesians 6:10-18)*

*“do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”(Isaiah 41:10)*



## Prayer of St. Ephraim

○ Lord and Master of my  
life, take from me the  
spirit of sloth, despondency,  
lust for power and idle talk.

But grant unto me, Thy  
servant, a spirit of  
chastity, humility, patience  
and love.

Yea, ○ Lord and King, grant  
me to see mine own faults  
and not to judge my broth-  
ers and sisters. For  
blessed art Thou unto ages  
of ages.

Amen



This past Sunday, after the Memorial Luncheon that *Stella Christodoulopoulos and her family* provided to our parish family, Presbytera Marinda took this photo of me with our grandchildren. When she shared it with me, a tear came to my eye... the very furniture that *Nick Christodoulopoulos and George Skouteris* had built was considered a special place to sit by my young grandson, also named Nicholas and his sister, Evie. *Future chantors... perhaps!* But what better place for kids to feel welcome and special. ***“What goes around, comes around!” May Nicholas’ memory be eternal! Amen!***

THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA  
PRESENTS OUR INAUGURAL

# Festival of Faith Retreat

ENGAGE THE MIND  
RENEW THE HEART  
UPLIFT THE SPIRIT



## Keynote Speakers



*"Raising Children in an Orthodox Environment"*

**His Eminence Metropolitan  
Gregory of Nyssa**

American Cypriot Bishop,  
Orthodox Diocese of the USA



*"Sacramental Living"*  
**Fr. Andrew Houpos**  
St. Paterikios Greek Orthodox Church  
Charlotte, NC



*"Prayer and Family Life"*  
**Dr. Philip Marmalakis**  
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology  
Brookline, MA

*"RENEWING YOU"*  
**Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh**  
St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church  
Jacksonville, FL



*"The Unexpected Beauty of  
an Authentic Christian Life"*  
**Hank Hanegraaff**

President of Christian Research Institute  
Host of "The Bible Answer Man"



*"Spiritual Growth:  
Personal & Communal"*  
**Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou**  
Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church  
Marietta, GA



*"Building a Successful Adult  
Religious Education Program"*  
**Gerry Clonaris**  
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
Charlotte, NC

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)  
FEB 25-26, 2022

Metropolis of Atlanta  
Diakonia Center, Salem SC



## Featured Session Speakers

For more information, contact  
**Gerry Clonaris: 704-574-6179** or  
[gbcmtline@gmail.com](mailto:gbcmtline@gmail.com)

[To register, click here.](#)

# Festival of Faith Retreat

..... Our Journey For Spiritual Growth

*Weekend Agenda*



**CHECK-IN**

**WELCOME**

**BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
Gerry Clonaris

**DINNER AND NETWORKING**

**RAISING CHILDREN IN  
AN ORTHODOX ENVIRONMENT**  
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

**FIRESIDE SOCIAL**  
*Fire Pit, weather-permitting, or Dining Hall*

**1:00 PM**

**4:00 PM**

*Dining Hall*

**4:15 PM**

*Dining Hall*

**6:00 PM**

*Dining Hall*

**7:00 PM**

*Dining Hall*

**8:30 PM**

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**8:00 AM**  
*Panagia Chapel*

**8:45 AM**  
*Dining Hall*

**9:45 AM**  
*Dining Hall*

**10:50 AM**  
*Dining Hall*

**NOON**  
*Dining Hall*

**12:45 PM**  
*Dining Hall*

**2:00 PM**  
*Dining Hall*

**3:30 PM**  
*St. Gregory Hall*

**4:30 PM**  
*St. Gregory Hall*

**OPENING PRAYER SERVICE**

**BREAKFAST & WELCOME**  
Metropolitan Alexios

**RENEWING YOU**  
Fr. Nicholas Louh

**PRAYER AND FAMILY LIFE**  
Dr. Philip Mamalakis

**LUNCH AND NETWORKING**

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH:  
PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL**  
Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou

**SACRAMENTAL LIVING**  
Fr. Andreas Houpos

**THE UNEXPECTED BEAUTY OF AN  
AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
Hank Hanegraaff

**CLOSING REMARKS**  
His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, His  
Grace Bishop Sebastian, and Gerry Clonaris





*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

## RESCHEDULED!

🌐 Our **Vasilopita Luncheon** will be held February 6 after church services. Your Philoptochos Society will be providing the main dish and we are asking you to bring a **side dish** to share. There will be 12 Vasilopitas to bid on to benefit St. Basil's Academy. Thank you for your flexibility!

Reminder: Our bookstore has Vasilopita Coins on sale for \$8 if you are interested!

## Save the Date!!

♥🕒🍷 Mark your calendars! The Ladies of Philoptochos will be hosting an evening for fellowship: Wine and Cheese Tasting event, February 24, 7pm.



Sunday, February 13, 2022

## "Souper Bowl of Caring"



On Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th, we ask *each one of us* to spare one dollar and/or one item of canned food for those in need. This year 2022 all your donations will be delivered to *Fayette Samaritans* in Fayetteville, GA.

You can donate in person in the Hands of Love red box in the church narthex, or online - <https://StChristopherPhiloptochos.Square.Site>

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, serving as a seminary intern.



During the last 3 years alone more than \$ 25,000,000 was generated through the organization, benefitting thousands of local charities. We would like to thank you for your generous donations to the "Loaves and Fishes" ministry at "St. John The Wonderworker" Church in Atlanta last year 2021.

To learn more, visit: <https://tacklehunger.org> and [www.fayettesamaritans.org](http://www.fayettesamaritans.org)

Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair



## Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2022

Email: [communications@goarch.org](mailto:communications@goarch.org)

### **2022 Directory Now Available Online**

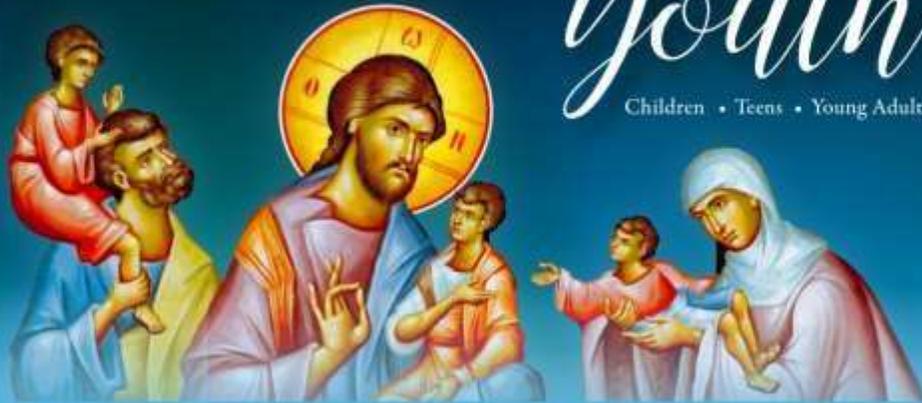
The 2022 Directory of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is now available online at [www.goarch.org/directory](http://www.goarch.org/directory). The Directory can also be downloaded from the website as a pdf and used as a digital book on tablets, smart phones and other digital reading devices.

The Directory is designed as an easy-to-read, accurate, reference handbook of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The new edition includes updated information for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archdiocesan departments and institutions, Metropolises, parishes, clergy, and more. Monthly updates and information on how to submit changes will be available on the website.

Hard copies of the 2022 Yearbook will be available by mail by the end of February. Every parish of the Archdiocese will receive one complimentary copy.

*"Let the children come to Me"*  
Matthew 19:14

YEAR OF *The Youth*  
Children • Teens • Young Adults



## *Meet The Bishops:* TOWNHALLS

*An opportunity for youth to meet hierarchs of the  
Assembly of Bishops in a townhall setting.*

*Hierarchs attending:*



*Metropolitan  
Gerasimos*



*Metropolitan  
Joseph*



*Metropolitan  
Gregory*



*Archbishop  
Michael*



*Bishop Irinej*

**February 23rd | 8:00 pm EST**

*Register: [assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/youth/register](http://assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/youth/register)*



ASSEMBLYOFBISHOPS.ORG

## Opportunity for the Building Fund

Did you know that you can earn money for the Building Fund by doing nothing more than your normal shopping on Amazon? That's right! If you have St. Christopher selected as your charity organization on Amazon Smile, we receive a percentage of all sales made. All monies received from Amazon are earmarked for the Building Fund to help us get to our target goal that much faster. It is very easy to activate, just use the link below. [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).





## CYBER SECURITY WATCH

Provided by the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology



### CYBERCRIME HAS BEEN INFILTRATING OUR LIVES FOR YEARS.

More recently, parishes and religious communities around us are being targeted by a phishing scam where the attacker poses falsely as the parish priest and asks the recipient for money usually in the form of gift cards.

**EDUCATE** yourselves and others about the dangers of emails and phone scams.

**YOUR PARISH PRIEST *should never*** reach out via personal email to request immediate financial assistance. Be vigilant if you do receive an email that fits this description! Here are some *do's* and *do not's* to guide you:

### DO NOT...

- ❌ reply to the message
- ❌ click on any links
- ❌ download any attachments
- ❌ use the contact information provided in the email
- ❌ share personal or financial data via email or phone

### DO...FOLLOW THE 3 V'S

- ✅ **VIGILANCE** requires that you should question every email that comes in
- ✅ **VERIFY** the email by contacting your parish
- ✅ **VERY OFTEN** change your passwords

**REPORT CYBERCRIME IMMEDIATELY** to the following Federal agencies and to the Archdiocese:

- **Federal Trade Commission:** [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
- **FBI:** [fbi.gov/tips](http://fbi.gov/tips)
- **Archdiocese Technical Support:** [techsupport.goarch.org](http://techsupport.goarch.org)

**LEARN MORE** by visiting [blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries](http://blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries) by contacting the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology with your questions at [techsupport.goarch.org](http://techsupport.goarch.org).

[CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES](#)



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SERVICES](#)



**We welcome you to join us in person for church services.**

**Parishioners and visitors who are sick are asked to remain at home to recover and rest. We strongly encourage all parishioners who visit to resume wearing masks to slow the spread of the Delta variant in response to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' request to our Clergy and Parish Councils to do so.**

***Under Georgia law, there is no liability for an injury or death of an individual entering these premises if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. You are assuming this risk by entering these premises.***



For questions, please email [communications@saintchristopherhoc.org](mailto:communications@saintchristopherhoc.org) OR  
call the church office at (770) 347-7729.

**[Click here](#) for Online Giving Instructions**



[Click image to view our parish calendar](#)



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