GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

August 12, 2022

St. Christopher
Hellenic Orthodox Church
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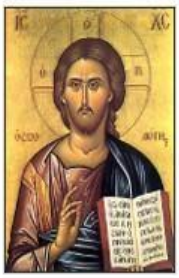
Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org
Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



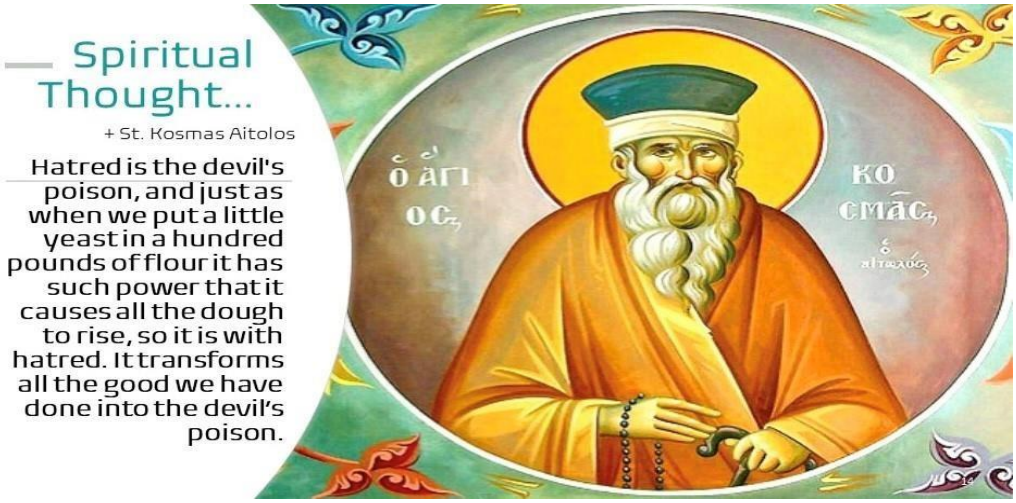
Message from Fr. George for August 12, 2022

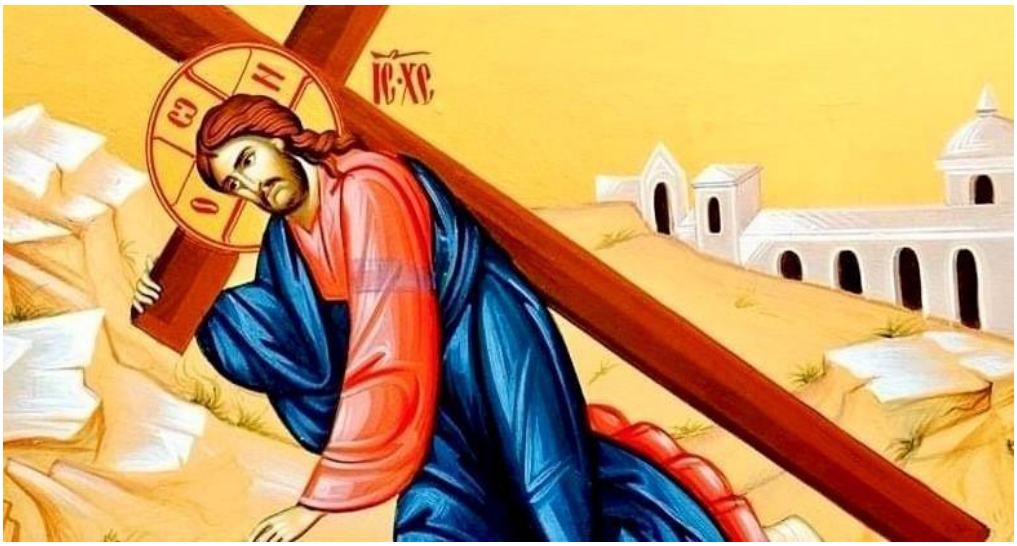
On Saturday, we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a joy for us to learn following the services that Justin & Anna Winter and their children recently traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, to stay at the St. Innocent Orthodox Orphanage and participate in **Project Mexico**. Please click here to read the update from the most recent Chronicles newsletter**.**

On the first Sunday of August, we celebrated Thanksgiving Sunday and offered the Blessing of the Five Loaves on the very day that the Gospel account of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 men along with the women and children with them. We thank Kirk and Dedee Panayis for preparing the delicious artos (breads). If your family wishes to sign-up for this ministry in the future, please click here.

What a blessing when parishioners who are traveling and working stop by to light a candle, offer their stewardship, and share an encouraging message like Frank Tagalos did with Fr. George on Sunday, August 7th. Let us pray for his beloved sister, Mary Tagalos Ramsaier-Kirk as she undergoes her medical treatments and by extension, for all our parishioners who cannot be with us but are part of our parish family as they travel and are confined at home. God bless us all!

Pastoral Reflection from Fr. George:





A strong person works out every day to keep his body in shape, but a follower of our Lord with strength kneels in prayer to keep his soul in shape.

A strong person isn't afraid of anything, but a follower of our Lord with strength shows her courage in the midst of fear.

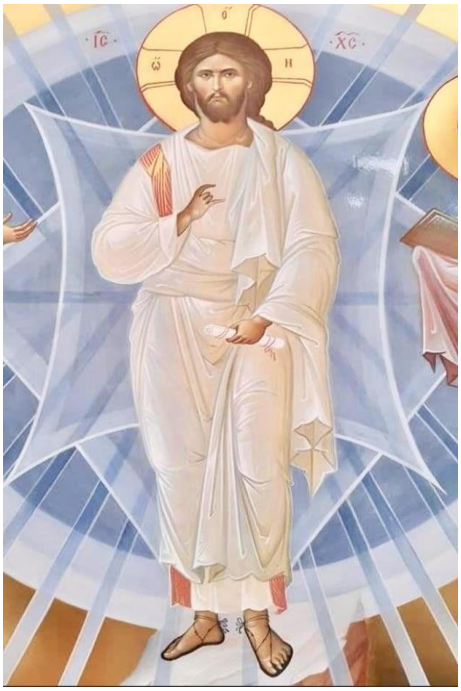
A strong person won’t let anyone get the best of him, but a follower of our Lord with strength gives the best of himself to everyone.

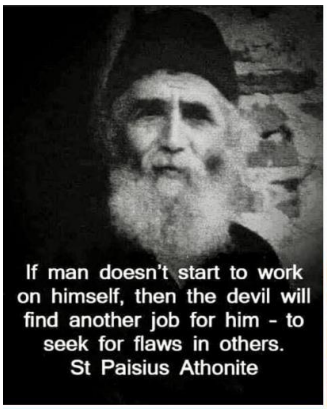
A strong person walks sure-footedly, but a follower of our Lord with strength knows God will catch her when she falls.

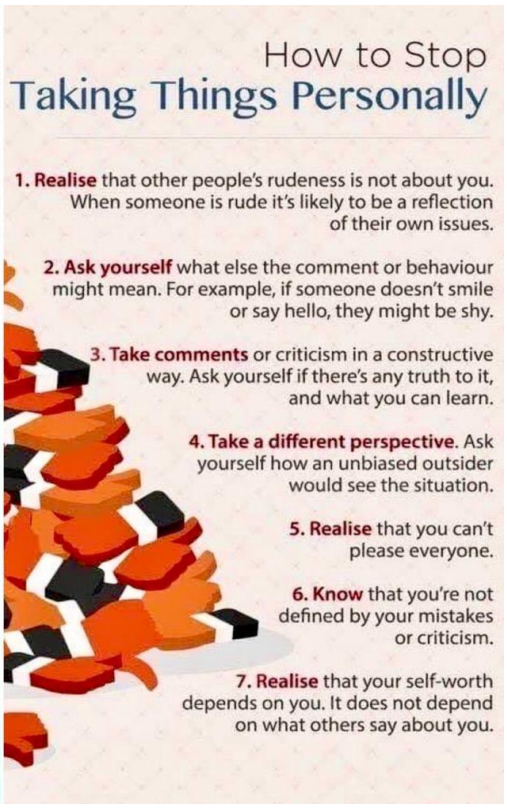
A strong person wears the look of confidence on his face, but a follower of our Lord with strength wears grace.

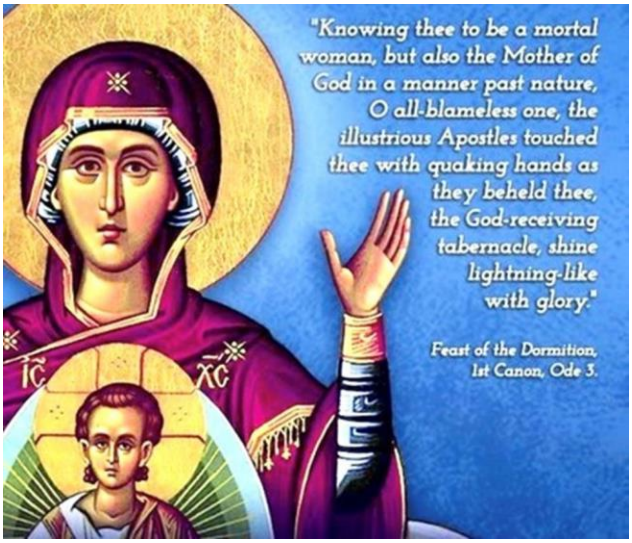
A strong person has faith that she is strong enough for the journey, but a follower of our Lord with strength has faith that in the journey she will become strong.

Are we merely strong . . . or do we rely on our faith to provide the strength to overcome life’s difficulties and gain victory with our Lord?









Fr. George invites you to offer the FIRST NAMES of LIVING family and friends for him to pray for their health and welfare during the August Paraklesis Services. Click here to submit.

Golf Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, August 14th after church

The Golf Committee will be holding a meeting after church **next Sunday** for the volunteers to discuss logistics and responsibilities for final preparation ahead of the golf tournament. The meeting is open to the entire parish family and will last about 30-45 minutes. Don't miss out there is still time to sign up.

This is your chance!

South Atlanta Annual Golf Classic

Silent Auction**!**

The Silent Auction is Back! You don't have to be a golfer to participate in the Silent Auction. Now is the time to get your hands on an incredible item or experience raising money and awareness for our incredible cause.

The Website is open to all bids **starting August 14, 2022.**

- Here is your chance to check out the silent auction without leaving the comfort of your home.
- Click here to register as a participant for the online silent auction to scroll through the items available! This link will take you to the online platform-Givergy**.**
- No need to stress over the registration process and **no** information will be shared with anyone!
- Register and put in your credit card information that is secure. Your card ***will not be charged*** unless you are the winning bid!
- This is a great Silent Auction experience in that if you bid on an item and some else bids, you will be notified via text or email depending on your preferences.
- No need to check your bids daily since you will be automatically notified *But,* you may want to scroll through for additional items that are added after you register.

Prayer Shawls as Covers of Love

We will be partnering with the Cancer Treatment Center of America (CTCA) Atlanta now a part of the City of Hope. Fr. George will bless our next gathering of shawls on Sunday, August 21st as part of the celebration of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. The CTCA also accepts lap blankets for those patients who prefer to have their knees and legs covered.

Please contact Susan Kleto at (678) 877-9115 or sbkleto@gmail.com to either become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions or suggestions.

PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS...

'SAFE AND SOUND' EVENT

Please join us for a Special Presentation and Supper featuring Sgt. Brown of the Peachtree City Police who will inform us about Personal and Internet Safety. A brief meeting to be held afterwards.

WHEN: August 25th at 6:00 SHARP

WHERE: Harry Norman, Realtors

665 Hwy 74S, Suite 110

Peachtree City

YOU MUST RSVP no later than August 19th to reserve your spot as seating is limited to 26 persons.

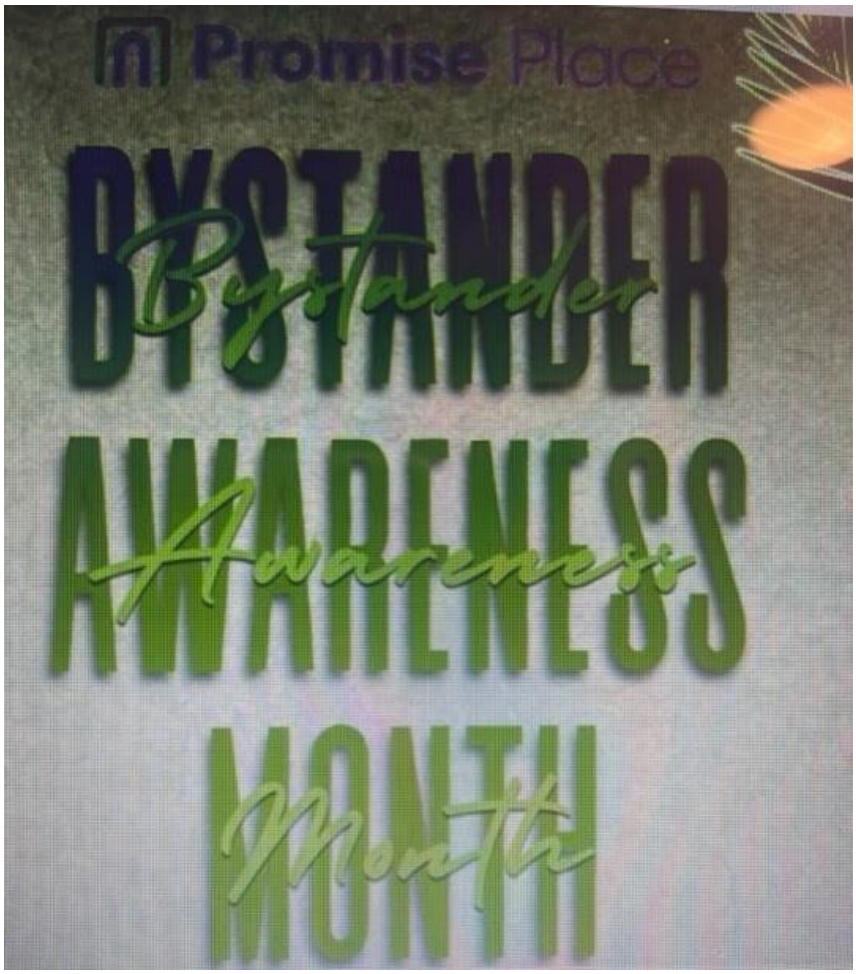
CLICK HERE TO RSVP:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49a9a72ca3fd0-safe

These Photos by Unknown Author are licensed under CC BY-SA

The attached article comes from the Promise Place monthly Newsletter. I was not familiar with Bystander protocols but feel that it is information we can all learn and possibly utilize to help someone in a domestic violence situation that is occurring in public. It speaks to being "our brother's keeper".

Susan Kleto



Bystander awareness is so important and could allow a victim to feel like someone cares.

Bystander Intervention is a social science model that predicts the likelihood of individuals(or groups) willing to actively address a situation they deem problematic.

How can you intervene safely, remember the four D's- Direct, Distract, Delegate, and Delay. Call out negative behavior, tell the person to stop, or ask the victim if they are okay!

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

National Philoptochos Approved $50,000 in Emergency Funding in response to the Catastrophic Fire at Balukli Hospital in Constantinople

For Immediate Release: August 5, 2022

New York, NY – Today, the National Board of the Philoptochos, in response to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros' call for assistance in mitigating yesterday's devastating fire damage at Balukli Hospital in Constantinople, approved a $50,000 emergency disbursement. The funding will be used to provide care to the now suffering elderly Orthodox Christians in Poli who have been displaced by the fire as well as to mitigate damage. The Philoptochos Executive Board sought immediate approval to respond to this tragedy, as is customary for Philoptochos when such catastrophic events occur.

National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, stated, "The National Philoptochos is saddened to hear today's news of the devastating fire at Balukli, a Patriarchal Ministry which we have supported for decades. It is particularly poignant for us since the Philoptochos has visited Balukli during each of our pilgrimages. Our love for the institution is profound, and we stand ready to assist His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in any way we can to address the damage that occurred. We are thankful to Our Lord that all were safely evacuated and there were no injuries."

On Thursday August 4th, a fire started on the roof of Balukli Hospital, prompting the evacuation of over 100 patients and staff. Thankfully, there are no casualties reported because of this horrific fire, but the damage to this historic structure is extensive.

We are truly saddened that this devastating fire has touched our most vulnerable Orthodox faithful who throughout their lives have stood sentinel for us all in Turkey. The Balukli Hospital is one of the few hospitals that serve the remaining Greek Orthodox community in Constantinople. It is imperative that this hospital be able to continue its mission of caring for our elderly and sick.

On Tuesday, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros will be in Constantinople and will visit the Phanar and Balukli and will convey our concern and support to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on behalf of the National Philoptochos, His Eminence released a statement regarding this tragedy, which can be read here.

Philoptochos prays for the safety and wellbeing of the Balukli Hospital patients and staff in this time of trauma and distress, with hopes that this contribution will assist with care, cleanup, and repair for a fully functioning facility.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Society has historically responded immediately and generously when floods, hurricanes, devastating fires, and other disasters affect those around us. For more info, check out www.philoptochos.org.

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Wellspring Living

HANDS OF LOVE

All Sundays in August:

Wellspring Living

Together

Transformation is Possible

Wellspring Living transforms the lives of girls and boys 12-17 and young women 18-32 in our area, who are at risk, or are victims of sexual exploitation. Headquartered in Atlanta, the non-profit organization has provided restorative services through its residential and community-based programs for the last 20 years.

"Hands of Love" – a ministry of our Philoptochos Society will be accepting monetary and in-kind donations during August. To donate please click here: stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site

For information about the 20th anniversary Wellspring Living upcoming Gala in October 2022, planned gifts, matching gifts and other ways to give and volunteer: https://wellspringliving.org

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

Soldiers Angels – May NO Soldier Go Unloved!

- *While Soldiers Angels supports our active-duty personnel, we also heavily support our veterans! Soldiers Angels offers incredible opportunities for volunteers to serve our veterans both in person and from home. If you're feeling isolated and need to finally get involved, look no further!*
- *Every month in Atlanta, Soldiers Angels provides food to over 200 needy veterans through the Mobile Food Drive. Are you a member of a group who would like to come and volunteer your team and perhaps sponsor the food for that month?*
- *If you are interested in supporting our troops through other teams, check these out: Letter Writing, Ladies of Liberty (supporting our female troops), Angel Bakers, Cards Plus, Baby Brigade, Women of Valor (supporting our care givers to wounded veterans), Adopting a family and so much more!*
- *Check out these teams at www.soldiersangels.org and if you're interested, contact Faye Georgeo at fgeorgeo@soldiersangels.org.*

The Orthodox Chronicles

A Newsletter of the Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association
Vol. 1, No. 3, August 2022

The Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association (AIOPA) is a team of clergy and laity representatives from different canonical Orthodox parishes around the Atlanta area. The goal of AIOPA is to foster connections among different parishes and jurisdictions, to develop a strong sense of one local Orthodox Christian Family and, as such, to contribute to the unity of the Orthodox Church in the United States of America as defined by the Assembly of Bishops. AIOPA is a committee of the Atlanta Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood (AOCB), which seeks to bring people the knowledge of the Orthodox Church and to assist those throughout the city of Atlanta who are in need. Both AOCB and AIOPA use www.atlocb.org for communication.

Letter from Fr. Christos Mars, Chairman of AIOPA, *Annunciation Greek Cathedral, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA)*

Welcome to another edition of the Orthodox Chronicles! As we are in the summer months and many people are traveling, we have not forgotten about the work that is taking place with AIOPA. As we visit many places of interest, the AIOPA team is still praying and working towards closer Christian fellowship.

This working closely together for a common goal reminds me of a beloved saint of mine, Saint Phanourios, who celebrates his feast on August 27. He was a Martyr and Miracle Worker. The saint's name sounds similar to the Greek verb "phanerono", which means "to reveal" or "to disclose." In fact, people pray to Saint Phanourios to help them find lost objects, to reveal lost or hidden spiritual matters of the heart, to redirect them or reveal actions which should be taken, and to restore health. When a lost object is discovered, or when prayers reveal what is needed, a symbolic cake called a phanouropita is baked and brought to the church where it is blessed by the priest and then distributed among the parishioners.

Little is known about Saint Phanourios beyond the fact that he lived during the Roman period and was persecuted because of his Christian beliefs. In fact, everything that we know about him – his life, his martyrdom, and even his name – was revealed by an icon discovered several centuries after he lived. His feast day became the anniversary of the icon's discovery, the 27th of August.

Tradition states that when the island of Rhodes fell to the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century, the new Muslim occupiers wished to rebuild the walls around the city.

(cont. on pg. 2)

Click here to read the rest of the Orthodox Chronicles.

We welcome you to join us in person

to encounter Our Lord & Savior.

"For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20) We welcome you to join us at St. Christopher Church for worship, fellowship, service, and witness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we encounter Him together, may our collective intercessions help to bring a spirit of healing and peace to our world. We encourage you to bring your family and friends and grow ever closer to God together with our parish family.

During your visit, please be aware according to CDC guidelines, indoor mask mandates are relaxed for those areas of the US where hospitals are not greatly impacted by COVID-19 cases. In response, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios on March 2nd wrote to the Metropolis of Atlanta faithful offering His guidance. Please read it by clicking here.

As before, those who continue to wear masks have every right to do so, whether or not our parish falls into a low or medium risk area. Whether others continue to wear masks for the sake of their friends or family, or even out of caution for their own health, their decisions should be respected as demonstrations of Christ-like love.

Note: ***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.***

CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES

CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SERVICES

Click Image for Online Giving

For questions, please email 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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