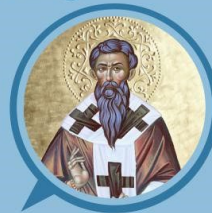


## Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 12.1.23

“

[Christ] does not tell us to sell our goods, because they are by nature evil, for then they would not be God's creatures; He, therefore, does not bid us cast them away as if they were bad but distribute them; nor is anyone condemned for possessing them, but for abusing them.

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT



@goarchDRE

This past Sunday, our Gospel reading was about the Parable of the Rich Young Man (Luke 18:18-27). The difficulty for the rich young ruler was not that he had riches, but that he trusted in them above all else. Christ teaches us that He is the One Who provides us with all things, and our trust is in Him alone. He invites us to ask ourselves, what is our true treasure, our true love? What do we desire above all? What is our highest priority?

Saint Basil the Great says, “He does not tell us to sell our goods, because they are by nature evil, for then they would not be God's creatures; He, therefore, does not bid us cast them away as if they were bad but distribute them; nor is anyone condemned for

possessing them, but for abusing them.” Jesus says, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”

The image of a camel going through the eye of the needle is a simple analogy of impossibility. However, it is not the riches that create the impossibility, but the love of wealth. Apart from the love and grace of God, we cannot find eternal life. This is true whether we are rich or poor because when we love things – anything – more than the God who loves us, we live selfishly and close ourselves to Him.

What is impossible with man is possible with God because this is the will of the God who loves us and has redeemed us. To trust the Lord in all things is to have a treasure in Heaven. What is possible with God is what God desires, which is to save us and unite us with Him. He is our Father in Heaven, Who gives us all we need. *[From Archdiocese Department of Religious Education]*

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His Name. ” (Ps. 100:4)

At our General Parish Assembly on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, nearly everyone approved the conceptual plans illustrated below. We thank God for giving us the gifts to pursue our new building complex. We also thank you and everyone supporting us. Glory to God for leading us forward; may He bless us as we continue to plan and finance our future church complex.

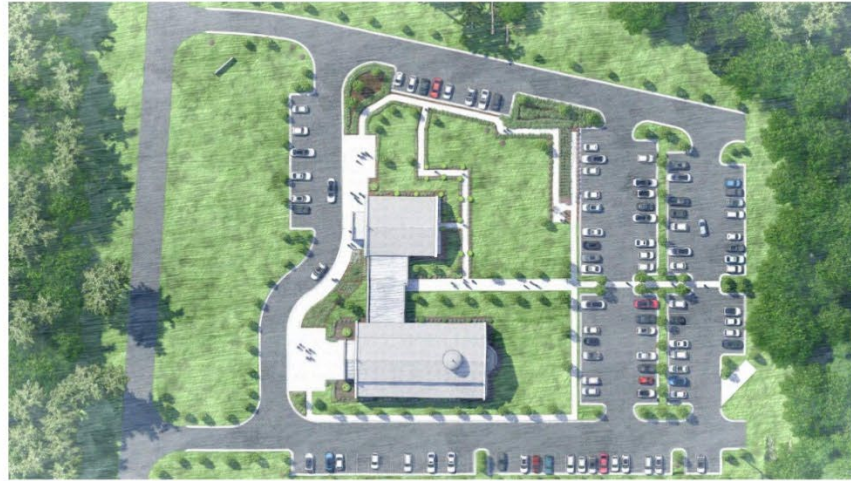


Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***



ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH, FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
OCTOBER 8TH, 2023

JEFFERSON\_



CONCEPTUAL RENDERINGS - SCHEMATIC

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OCTOBER 6TH, 2023

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@goarchDRE

Redirect your heart  
and gaze to Christ.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE)



[Click to share a thought that comes to mind  
from the above image with Fr. George](#)



If you see a married couple still in love through the years, you may think how lucky they are. But in marital relations, there's no such thing as luck.

They made many compromises, they overlooked each others faults. They forgave many mistakes & endured many problems. They spent years learning to understand one another.

Love has never been a matter of luck. It's mutual giving, compromise, shared dreams, care, respect, mercy & patience. <3



This past Sunday, Fr. George spoke about St. Stylianos the Hermit, the fifth-century saint who is usually pictured holding a swaddled infant in his arms. He is considered a patron saint of children and barren women. St. Stylianos was well known for his smile and cheerful disposition as he served those in need. The prayers of St. Stylianos have worked many miracles, both during his earthly life and since his repose. He is of special help to children who are ill and to childless couples. He is known as a protector of orphans. I offer thanks to God for our children. Through the prayers of St. Stylianos, may God bless all our children with good health and joy.

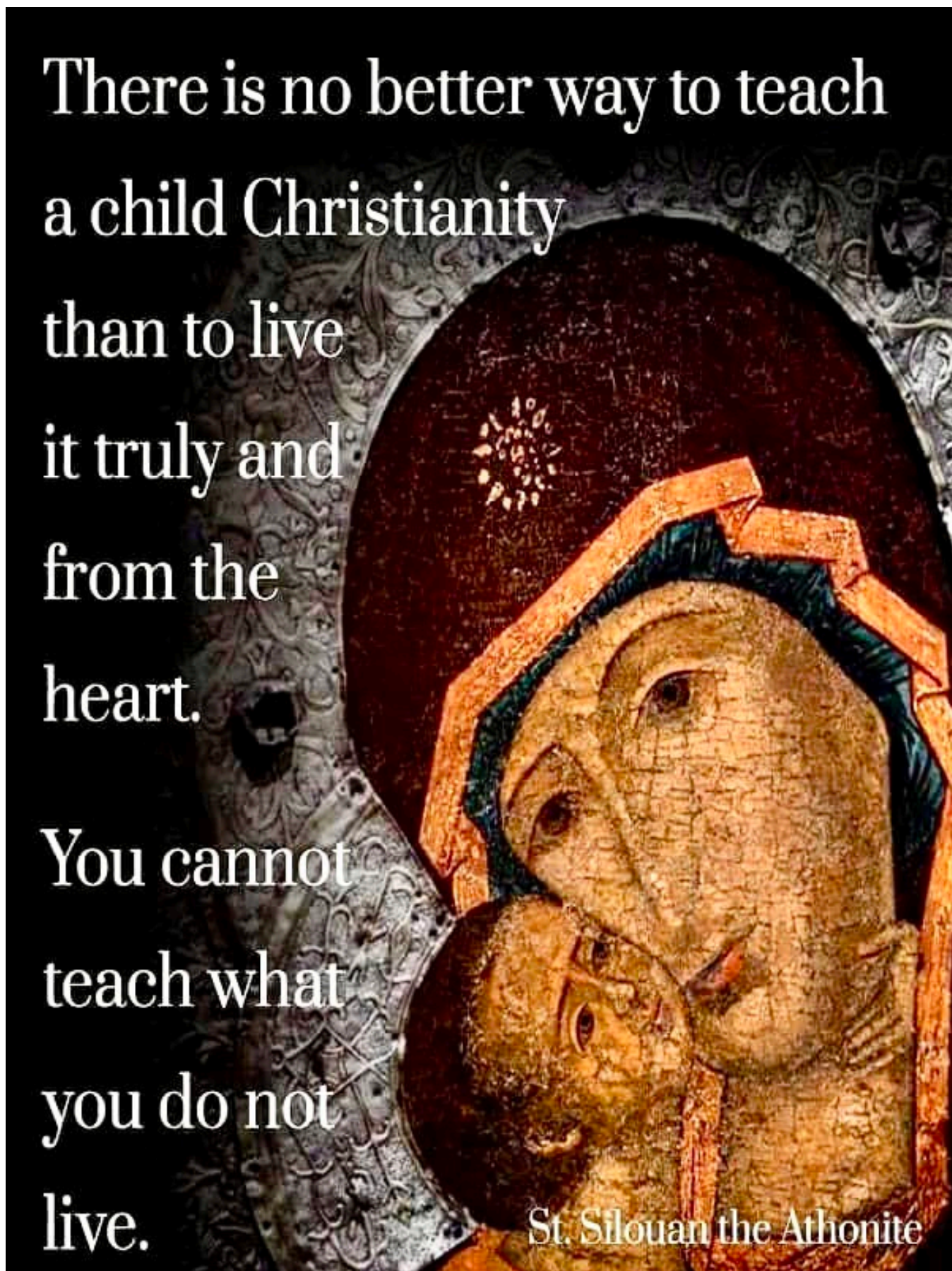




There is no better way to teach  
a child Christianity  
than to live  
it truly and  
from the  
heart.

You cannot  
teach what  
you do not  
live.

St. Silouan the Athonite







**St. Christopher  
Christmas Pageant  
on Sunday,  
December 17<sup>th</sup>**

A cherished tradition in Orthodox parishes is for our youth and adults to offer a Christmas pageant in remembrance of the Nativity of our Lord

Jesus Christ. During religious education classes on the next two Sundays, we will assign and rehearse parts and music. **Parents**, please bring your children and support their participation. **Adults**, we welcome your involvement. ***Think of it this way:***

**Sunday, 12/3 + Sunday, 12/10 + Sunday, 12/17 = 3 Sundays**

**3** like the 3 Persons of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

**& then Sunday, Christmas Eve, 12/24, followed by the Nativity of our Incarnate Lord on Monday, 12/25! Join us!**

**November 30, St. Andrew the First-Called  
(St. Christopher Church)**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy**

**December 3, 14th Sunday of St. Luke**

**7:45 Orthros**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves**

**offered by Susan & Pete Kleto & December Commemorations**

**11:00 Religious Education Classes**

**Noon Community Tree Decorating – all invited to assist**

**Noon Deadline for Parish Council Nominations to be received by  
Board of Elections members**

**December 4, Feast of St. Barbara (Archangel Michael Chapel)**

**8:15 Orthros & Divine Liturgy**

**7:00 Parish Council Candidate Training Seminar via Zoom**

**December 6, St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (St. Christopher Church)**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy**

**December 10, 10th Sunday of St. Luke**

**7:45 Orthros**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy, 40 Day Memorial, Prayer Shawls Blessing, &  
Special Presentation**

**11:00 Religious Education Classes    Noon Parish Council Meeting**

