



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΕ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

November 10, 2023



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

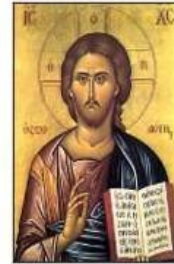
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

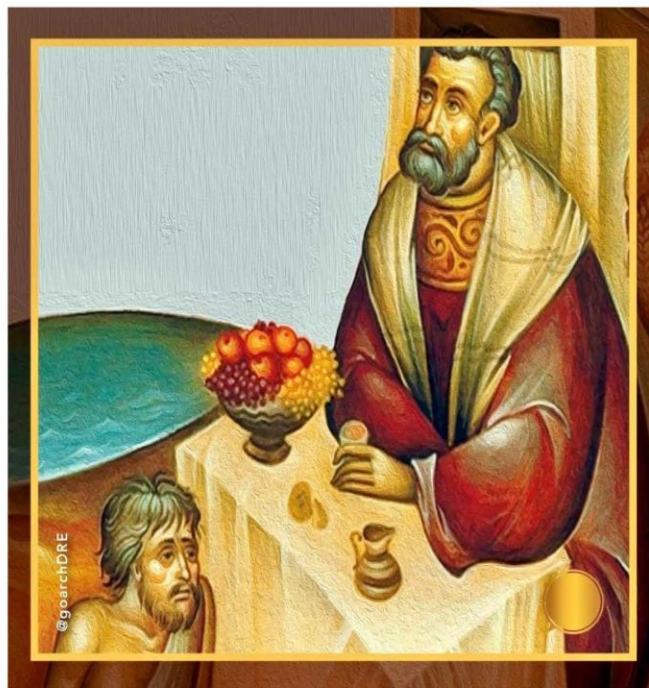
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



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Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 11.10.23



This past Sunday's Gospel lesson from Luke 16:19-31 presented the story Jesus told of the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man has become a stranger to God's love because he spent his life rejecting that love, so now he cannot join Lazarus and Abraham in blessedness. The rich man's name is never given in the story because, in a real sense, his memory is not eternal. God is the source of our identity and humanity. If we forget God, we forget ourselves, even our own names,

so to speak — because then we lose our humanity. The rich man had hardened his heart against God's love and the love of his neighbor. During his life, he had no compassion, and he closed his eyes and hands to the one suffering in front of him. Now, in the eternal state, he is also incapable of loving, so his soul cannot receive the water to cool his soul.

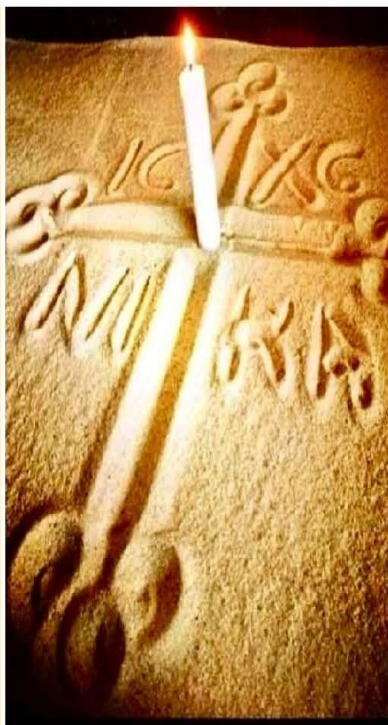
The rich man asks Abraham to warn his brothers who are left in this life. As Saint Augustine of Hippo reminds us, in this life, we should relieve those we can, since hereafter, even if we are well received, we will not be able to give help to those we love. Abraham explains that if we do not believe the Word of God in the Scriptures (which tells us to love the Lord our God with all our soul, mind, heart, and strength), neither will we believe Christ Himself, Who is risen from the dead.

The Word has been given to us, Christ is risen, and He pours the love of God into our hearts in the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is to receive Him, be open to Him, and in this way, His love will overflow to others, especially those in need. To love others in practical, concrete ways, when done out of a heart filled with the love of God, unites us with Christ. This openness to God in our lives gives us a sure hope that when we leave this world, we will be with Abraham, the Father of the Faith, receiving that which he had sought all along — the comforting, illuminating, and life-giving love of God. *[Archdiocese Department of Religious Education]*



“For we
are God’s
fellow
workers.”
(1 Cor. 3:9)

*“...let your
light shine
before others, so
that they may
see your good
works and give
glory to your
Father Who is
in heaven.”
(Mt. 5:16)*



[Click to share a thought that comes to mind
from these images with Fr. George](#)



**Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers:
Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel
(November 8)**

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaia 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honoring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him -(Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Festal Hymn of the Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangels

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high!"

Another Hymn of the Feast of the Synaxis of the Archangels

Chief Commanders of God; ministers of divine glory; guides for men and leadership of the Incorporeal; as Chief Commanders of the Incorporeal, plead for our welfare and for great mercy.



On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and our Metropolis co-workers, Fr. George wishes to thank the following parishioners for joining us at the 2023 Archangel Michael Feast & Honors Banquet this Saturday, November 11th at the Annunciation Cathedral to support our parish honorees. Likewise, he adds additional thanks for the generosity of the *asterisked families* who offered sponsorship support to cover costs of our Honors Weekend apart from the banquet tickets. We are proud of our parish honorees, Anna Naydenova and Steven Wilson, and we commend them!

Stephen & Becky Butler

Gail Ericsson

***Michael and Joanne Kuprian**

***Fr. Tony and Lydia McGee (*unable to attend but are donors*)**

Anna Naydenova, Gregory Williams, and Anna Naydenova

George and Helen Psihountas

***George Skouteris**

***Fr. George and Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis**

***Steven, Katie, Evie, and Nicholas Wilson,**

and Gary and Lorraine Wilson

Approaching Thanksgiving & Helping Others

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving celebration as a nation, our families will plan and share cherished memories with each other as they express thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has given us. Our Philoptochos ministry enables us to serve local, diocesan, national, and international ministries in addition to other charities that we hold dear. I commend you for supporting the needs of others and want to share something new that my family is looking forward to doing this year.








In addition to sharing with Philoptochos and other favorite charities, Presbyteria Marinda and I want to teach our grandchildren about the needs of those around the world.




Specifically, we are planning to assist them to pray for those in need while at the same time enabling them to offer tangible support for the basic health needs of others. Toward that aim, at an upcoming birthday celebration for our three-year-old granddaughter, Andrianna, we have plans for our grandchildren and their parents to help us assemble and donate 100 Hygiene Kits for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to give to those in need.

Health Kit Checklist


INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

			
<input type="checkbox"/> One cotton hand towel measuring approximately 15"x28" to 16"x32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or microfiber)	<input type="checkbox"/> One cotton washcloth (no microfiber)	<input type="checkbox"/> One wide-tooth comb removed from the package	<input type="checkbox"/> One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
			
<input type="checkbox"/> One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper	<input type="checkbox"/> One toothbrush in the package	<input type="checkbox"/> Ten standard size Band-Aids	


Place all items inside a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.



Pack all assembled kits in a box. Print IOCC return label for each box and mail to:



IOCC / CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Brethren Service Center Annex
601 Main St. • P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188



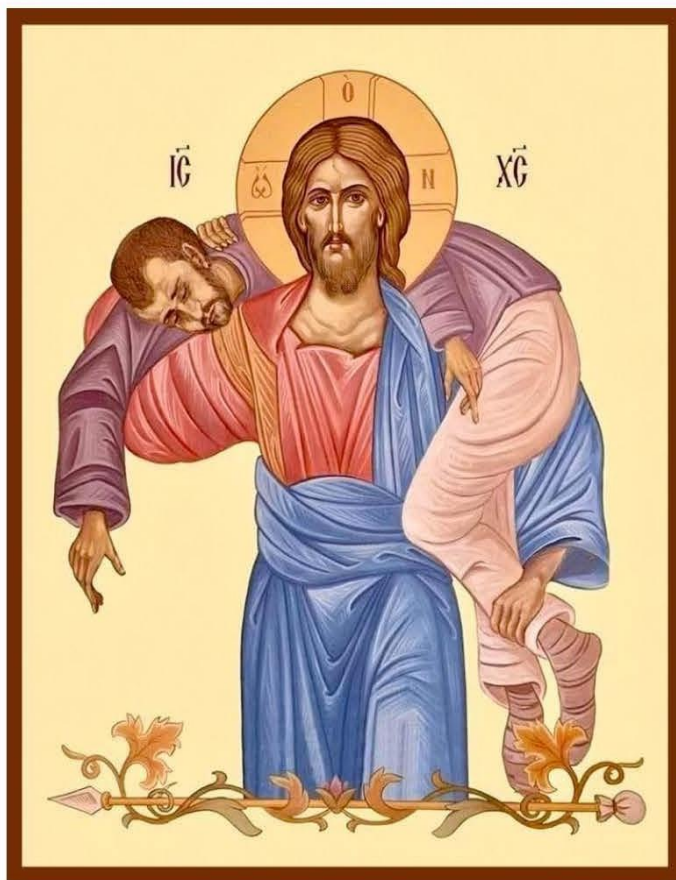
IOCC
ioccc.org/kits

We will put together the 100 small assistance packages which will make a big difference. The need around the world is great and IOCC's website stresses it can never have too many on hand. Assembled in the U.S., they will be shipped to people in need in other parts of the world. [Click here for additional information.](#)

We were inspired by the sweet faces of these students that IOCC posted on its website. We want to share that enthusiasm with our grandchildren and help them understand the many possibilities for relieving the suffering of those in our midst.



We are excited to begin this new family tradition in preparation for Thanksgiving, while preserving cherished and time-honored ones as well. *Perhaps you are planning an opportunity with your family... if so, please share with us.* I pray your efforts with your family are fruitful and bring you joy. **May God bless our efforts!**

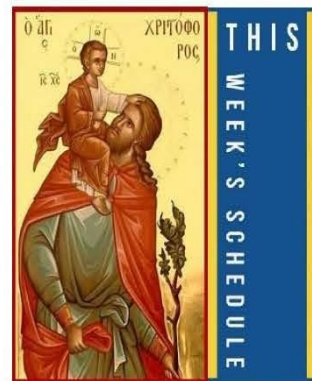


November 11

5:00 Great Vespers (Annunciation

Cathedral in Atlanta)

**6:00 Archangel Michael Honors Banquet
(Cathedral)**



November 12, 8th Sunday of St. Luke

8:00 Orthros at Annunciation Cathedral

9:30 Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at

Annunciation Cathedral 2500

Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329



Parish General Assembly



Sunday, November 26
Immediately after the
Divine Liturgy

Sharing the Christ of Christmas



Promise Place is a source of refuge for women and children in Fayette County seeking protection from Domestic Violence. It is also a home where they can begin to rebuild their confidence and their lives. On December 10th, Fr. George will bless our next gift of prayer shawls. These shawls will let us share our love of Christmas through Christ with the women who are seeking protection and assistance from Promise Place. We hope the love we pray into our shawls will bolster these women as they make critical changes in their lives. Promise Place Executive Director, Ashley Williams, will be with us to receive the shawls and to provide us with an update.

Rectangular shawls should be 24"- 30" wide and 68"- 72" long with fringe or some other decorative finish at each end. Triangular shawls should be 60"- 72" across the longest side, 24"- 30" to the point with fringe along the two short sides or some other decorative finish all around. Please attach the sew-in label. Shawls made of soft, cuddly yarns in comforting or bright colors will help make the recipients feel incredibly special.

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 for improving this ministry.

Other Ways to Help Promise Place

Making a Prayer Shawl is not the only way you can help Promise Place. Please consider bringing any of the following items on Sunday, December 10th to help fulfill their Pantry Needs:

Paper Towels
Dishwasher Detergent
Cleaning Supplies
Dish Detergent
Wal-Mart/Target Gift Cards
Grocery Store Gift Cards

Cold Cereal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Jelly
Canned Foods
Mac and Cheese
Bottled Water

Diapers
Pull-Ups



Philoptochos Final Baking Dates

Wednesday, Nov 8, Baklava, 9-3

Friday, Nov 10, Paximadia&Kourambiethes, 1-5

Monday, Nov 13, Boxing, 4pm



**Pick up Days:
Friday, Nov 17, 3-6
Saturday, 9-12**



Philoptochos General Meeting Monday, Nov 13 6:30pm



**Christmas Cards
for Shut –Ins**



**Boxing Pastry
Begins at 4pm**



**Stuff Stockings
for Shut-Ins**



All Sundays in November:
Ecumenical Patriarchate Charities

Hands of Love, a ministry of our Philoptochos Society will be accepting monetary donations to support the charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to benefit children from all faiths.



"Faith alone will not overcome the problems of our time, but the challenges of our time will certainly not be overcome without faith. Research and medicine are gifts from God. They supply answers to the question: How? Faith and theology are also gifts from God.

They supply answers to the question: Why?

...

We, faith leaders are called humbly and patiently to cooperate with leaders in the scientific and academic worlds as well as the corporate and political domains.

...

The earth unites us beyond any doctrinal, social or cultural differences."

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the University of Notre Dame.

October 28, 2021

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey is the seat of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, *primus inter pares* or "first among equals" with other leaders of the various Orthodox Churches. As the 270th Bishop of one of the Five Apostolic Sees of the Pentarchy, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is considered a successor of Andrew The Apostle.

His All Holiness is the direct administrative superior of dioceses and archdioceses serving believers in modern day Turkey, South and North America, West Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the Far East, as well as Mount Athos.

"For as rain comes down, or snow from heaven, and does not return until it saturates the earth, and it brings forth and produces, and gives seed to the sower and bread for food, so shall My word be, whatever proceeds from My mouth. It shall not return until it accomplishes whatever I willed, and I shall prosper your ways and My commandments." Isaiah 55:10-11



For more information please visit :

<https://www.patriarchate.org/>

To donate:

<https://stchristopherphiloctocho.squaresite>

Faithfully,

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, **Hands of Love** Chair

November 3, 2023



CENTER
FAMILY CARE

What's New This Week

INTRODUCING



POTHOLES ON THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM:

Navigating the
Stress of the
Nativity Season

A Small Group Guide



Center *for* Family Care

We are excited to announce the launch of our newest small group guide, *"Potholes on the Way to Bethlehem: Navigating the Stress of the Nativity Season."*

This series, intended for small-group family ministries, contains six short clips taken from our *"Potholes on the Way to Bethlehem"* webinar featuring Fr. Alex Goussetis, Director of the GOA Center for Family Care, and Dr. George Stavros, Executive Director of the Danielson Institute at Boston University.

Each clip offers pastoral perspectives to navigate difficulties frequently associated with the Christmas season with follow up questions for families to discuss with one another.

The objective of this series is to acknowledge the stress that comes with the hustle and bustle of the period without forgetting that our hearts' destination is the manger in Bethlehem. Let us also go, in imitation of the Magi, to meet the Christ Child!

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE HERE](#)

"When you're in pain, the
world stops and I listen."

John Gottman



Becoming One



Prayerfully reflect on:

- 1) How attuned are you to your spouse to know when he/she is in pain?
 - 2) How do you respond when your spouse is in pain? Then, discuss with one another what each of you does well and how you can do better to both recognize pain in the other and respond with love and compassion.
-



“Strange it was for the weak in faith and the unwise that, though born blind, thou couldst see and know, not only the present, but also the future, for they knew not that the power of God is fulfilled in human weakness. And we, blessed mother, seeing the wisdom of God manifested in thee, cry out to God: Alleluia.”



Akathist to St. Matrona

St. Matrona of Moscow was physically blind, however she possessed spiritual sight - a special gift known to a chosen few. The power of her prayers healed diseases, cast out demons, and comforted lost souls. When faced with physical challenges we can take heart in her life's witness. God wishes to work His power in...[continue reading.](#)



Praise for our *Crowns of Glory & Honor* workbook for couples:

"The authors draw skillfully from the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition in creating exercises that invite intimate and healing encounters between spouses, opening them up to God's loving presence in their relationship. They offer couples the rare opportunity to take a shared spiritual journey into the heart of marriage."

Get your copy today → <https://amzn.to/3QsO5sv>

Philoptochos Presents

"Comedy Night"

Starring New York's

Ellen Karis

"The Greek Goddess of Comedy"



Friday, November 10, 2023

*7:00 pm ~ Atrium Reception
~ Cash Bar ~*

*Krasaki + Mezethakia + Parea = Kefi
Wine + Appetizers + Friends = Fun*

*8:00 pm ~ Kartos Ballroom
"Showtime"*

Followed by Live Greek Music

*Proceeds will support Philoptochos
Philanthropy & Outreach*

*Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
2500 Clairmont Road Atlanta, GA 30329*



*Tickets \$50 pp
includes Mezethakia*

*Purchase on
Cathedral Website:
atlgoc.org
on Comedy Link*

*Purchase Deadline:
November 5, 2023*

*No Tickets will be
Sold at the Door*

Save the Date

"Individual and Group Crisis Intervention Training" (GRIN)

*Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – Thursday, November 16, 2023
Atlanta, GA*

IOCC was awarded a grant from the American Red Cross to provide psychosocial support to survivors of Hurricane Ian. In preparation for field deployments for this grant program, IOCC is hosting a training in partnership with Crisis Response Care on the topic of Assisting Individual & Group Crisis Intervention (GRIN). This training will develop intervention skills that address diffusing different types of psychological and/or emotional crisis among both individuals and groups.

IOCC would like to offer spots, free of charge, to the Orthodox Clergy in the Atlanta area, or any clinicians or mental health workers that they may identify in their parishes, who would feel this training would be beneficial, and in the hopes that they would potentially consider becoming involved with the IOCC Frontline program.

LOGISTICS:

- Location: Atlanta, GA
- Training sessions are Tuesday – Thursday 8:30am – 5pm.
- IOCC will cover the costs of the training, meals, and relevant materials.



More information to follow. For questions, please
contact Krista Hamann at usprograms@iocc.org

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



WALK IN THE LIGHT

COLLEGE CONFERENCE 2023



December 27 - 30, 2023

College Conference Midwest

St. Iakovos Retreat Center

Kansasville, WI

College Conference East

Antiochian Village

Bolivar, PA

Registration is now open! →

Registration & Travel Scholarships Are Available

All registrants must pay a non-refundable \$100 deposit to secure their spot at College Conference 2023. The remaining balance of \$285 may be fully or partially covered by a scholarship. Scholarship applications will be open from September 9-October 31, 2023 and will be awarded based on need on a rolling basis. Additionally, students may apply for up to \$300 in travel scholarship to cover the cost of a flight. Once a travel scholarship amount is approved, the recipient must submit their flight receipt to be reimbursed the full amount of the scholarship or the full amount of the flight, whichever is less. Travel reimbursements will be distributed after the conference in January.



[See the details, meet the speakers, & register now. →](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF HELLENIC DESCENT!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2023-2024



\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

20 Awards of \$10,000 each

based on academic achievement, financial
need, & Hellenic values

*\$20,000 allocated to music or arts majors

20 Awards of \$2,500 each

based on academic achievement &
Hellenic values

In order to apply students must:

- Be U.S. Citizens/U.S. Permanent Residents and living in the U.S
- Be of Hellenic descent
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.5
- Be enrolled at an accredited university/college in the U.S. as of Fall 2023
- Be full-time students who are pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree

Applications are due

January 31, 2024

The application, criteria, requirements,
and guidelines are available at

www.panhellenicsf.org

For inquiries please email
scholarships@panhellenicsf.org or
call our office at **(312) 357-6432**



**PANHELLENIC
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432
📞 312.872.0090
🌐 panhellenicsf.org
✉ info@panhellenicsf.org

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For questions, please email communications@saintchristopherhoc.org

or call the church office at (770) 347-7729.

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