



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

December 8, 2023



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

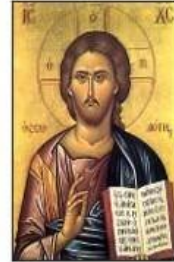
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

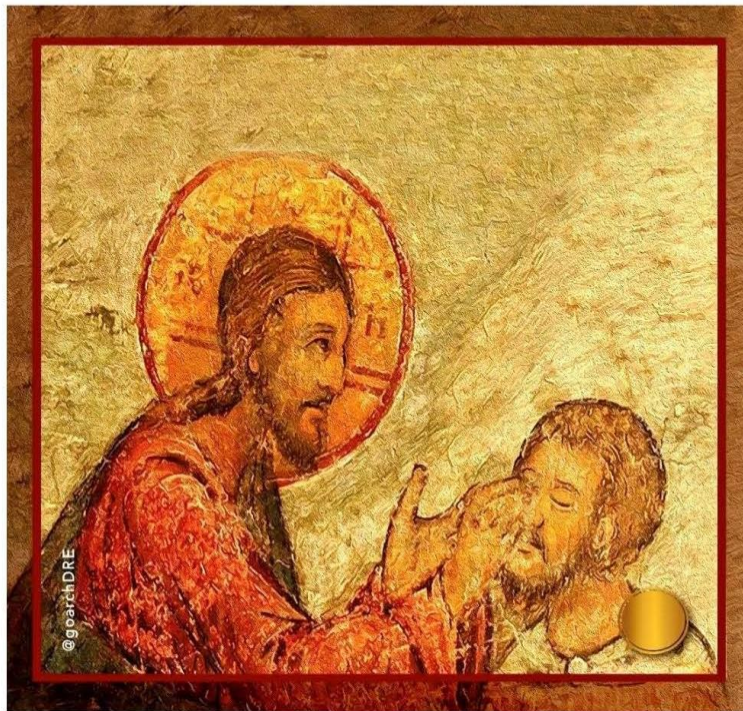
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



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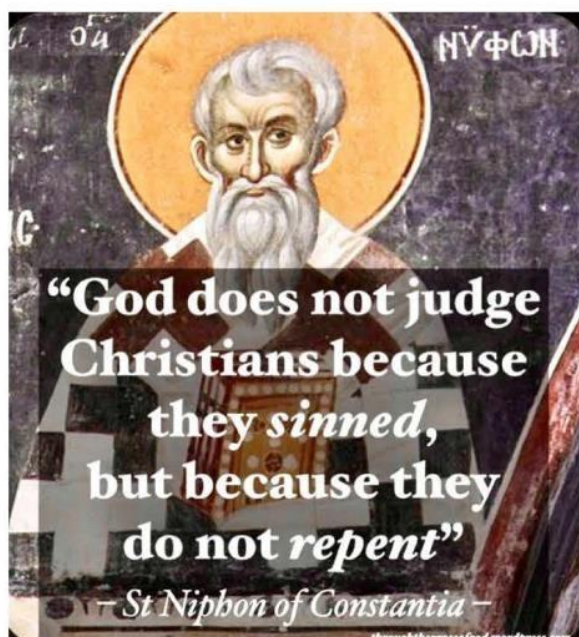
Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 12.8.23



This past Sunday, our Gospel reading was about the Blind Man of Jericho Healed (Luke 18:35-43). How wonderful that a sincere, short prayer from the heart (a cry for help such as “have mercy on me”) is readily received and answered by the Lord. The disposition of our hearts is vital. Recall that the thief on the cross was the first to go to paradise and all he asked was for the Lord to remember him in His Kingdom. The Lord answered him because he asked in repentance and humility.

Even though the blind man was only one voice on the fringes of a crowd, the Lord saw his strong faith, hope, sincerity, and responded in love and compassion. The blind man asked for mercy, and he received mercy. He asked to be healed, and the Lord opened the eyes of his body as He had already opened the eyes of his soul. He received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God, and when they saw it, all the people gave praise to God!

There is a progression in the story that teaches us how the love of God connects to our faith: first, in His grace, He opens the eyes of our hearts to see. Then, in faith, we present ourselves and our needs to Him and He answers us in love. As a result, we follow Him and glorify Him. In this way, the Gospel is spread, as others come to see and rejoice in God's mercy and give Him praise. May our hearts ever be filled with faith and longing for the mercy of the Lord, so that we may always rejoice and praise God. *[From Archdiocese Department of Religious Education]*

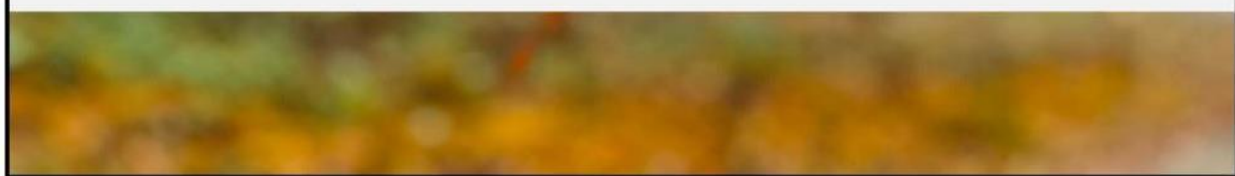




[Click to share a thought that comes to mind
from the above image with Fr. George](#)



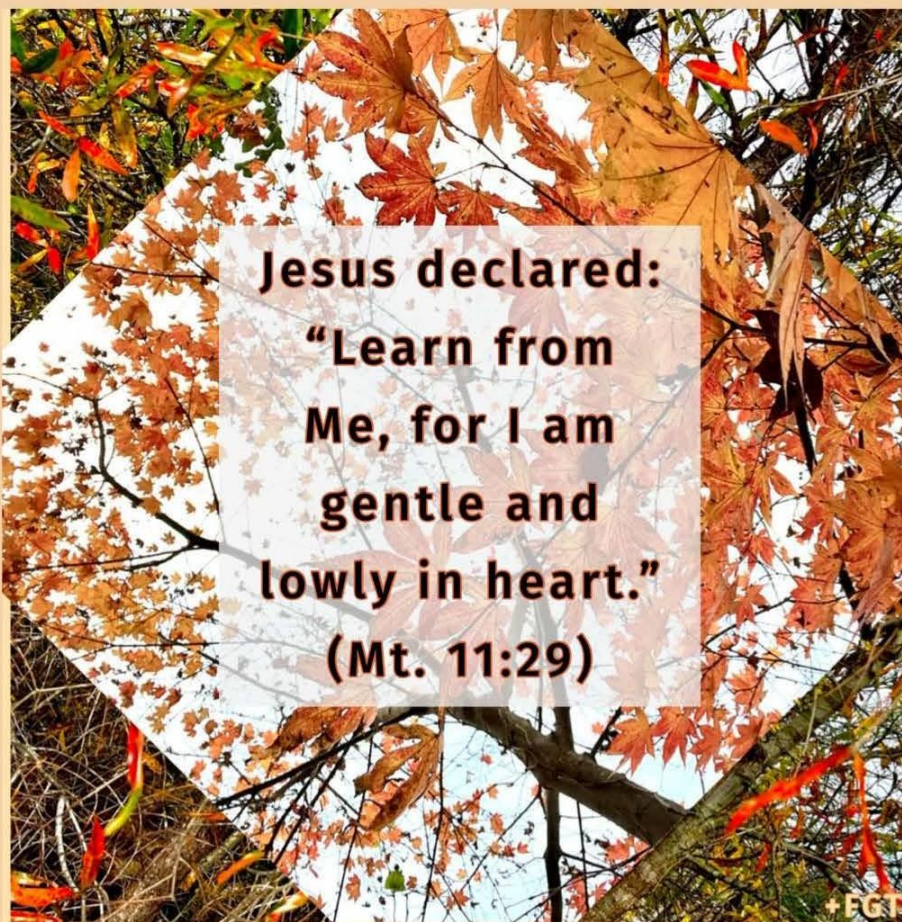
Fog inspires us of possibilities...
beyond black and white!



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession is a "second baptism, a baptism of tears," in which one confesses his or her sins and asks for forgiveness and healing. Please [email](#) Fr. George for an appointment.



PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE AND SELF-CENTERED. FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY. IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE YOU OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES. BE KIND ANYWAY. IF YOU ARE HONEST, PEOPLE MAY CHEAT YOU. BE HONEST ANYWAY. IF YOU FIND HAPPINESS, PEOPLE MAY BE JEALOUS. BE HAPPY ANYWAY. THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY MAY BE FORGOTTEN TOMORROW. DO GOOD ANYWAY. GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE AND IT MAY NEVER BE ENOUGH. GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY. FOR YOU SEE, IN THE END, IT IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD. IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.

—MOTHER TERESA



REHEARSING

2023 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECORATING 2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE





**St. Christopher
Christmas Pageant
on Sunday,
December 17th**

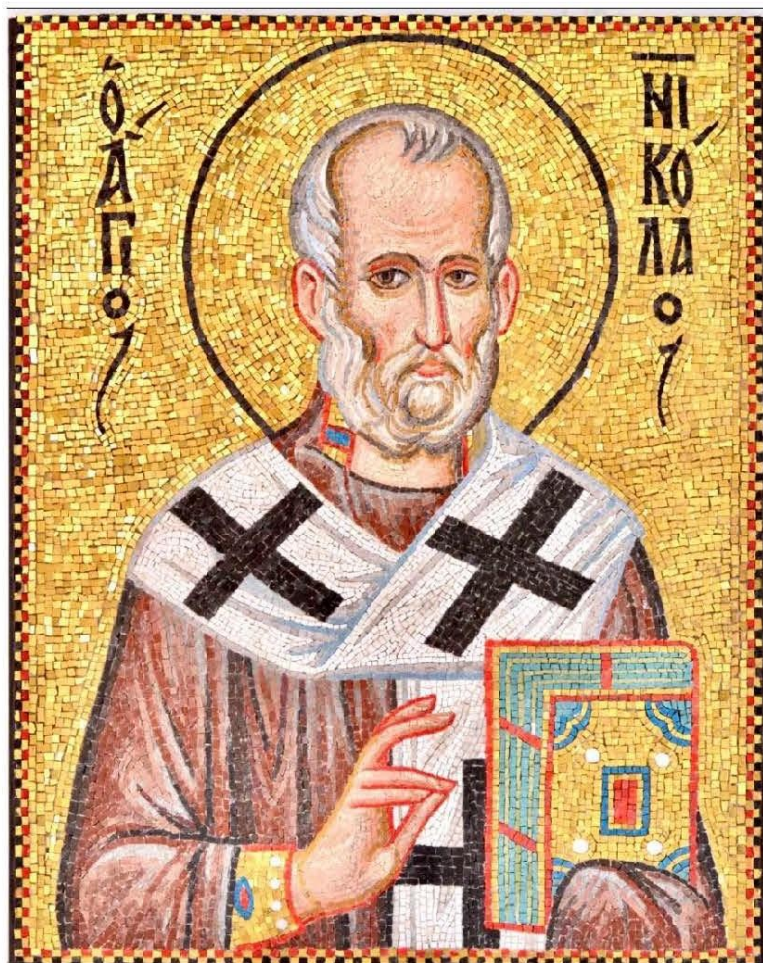
A cherished tradition in Orthodox parishes is for our youth and adults to offer a Christmas pageant in remembrance of the Nativity of our Lord

Jesus Christ. During religious education classes on the first 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!



On Wednesday, December 6, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast of our Father among the Saints Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker. Fr. George offered the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and has arranged for a special presentation about St. Nicholas this coming Sunday. *Please join us with your children and family members.*

From St Nicholas to Santa Claus

This icon shows the miracle of St. Nicholas saving three girls from prostitution by giving their father three bags of gold for their dowry so that they could get married into good families. He tossed the bags through an open window one by one, secretly, and they landed inside stockings left to dry near the chimney. After the first two times that his daughters found bags of gold inside their stockings, the father stayed up to discover who was helping them. When a bag of gold was thrown into a stocking that night, the father rushed out to find St. Nicholas.

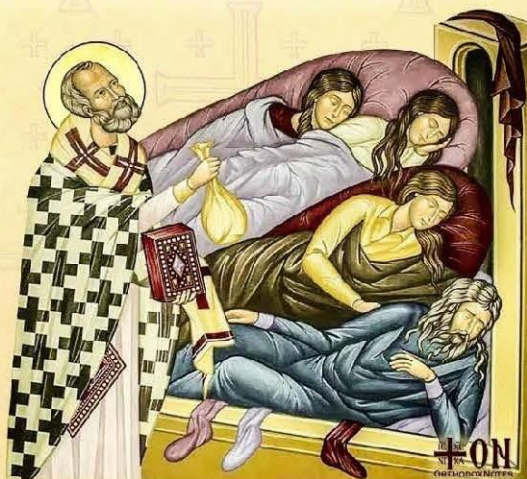
*Blessed
St. Nicholas
Name's day*
December 6

ΧΡΟΝΙΑ

ΠΟΛΛΑ

عيد مبارك

Fr. Alyman Khatif



Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the
naked, forgive the guilty,
welcome the unwanted, care
for the ill, love your enemies,
and do unto others as you
would have done unto you.



The priest . . . no matter where he is located, the diocesan priest has to be the sharer of secrets, the carrier of burdens, the fountain of consolation, and the pillar of strength. Solitary, he is called father by thousands; poor, he enriches the lives of thousands; weak, he gives strength to thousands; unimportant, he does things each day whose importance cannot be told in any tongue on earth. He is never too busy to hear another's sorrows; often too busy to realize his own burdens. He is a 24-hour-a-day man. He is called from his dinner; wakened from his sleep; disturbed at his prayers. He is at the beck and call of any of his people. He is the target of God's enemies, the magnet of God's needy. Occasionally, he attracts attention; but usually he works unnoticed and unclaimed while he does the noblest work on earth — keeps Christ in the lives of the people.



Consult your Parish
priest or ask for
information today

**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 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Noon Parish Council Meeting

December 11 (Archangel Michael Chapel)

9:00 Divine Liturgy

December 12

6:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting

December 13, St. Lucia the Virgin Martyr (St. Christopher Church)

9:00 Divine Liturgy

December 17, 11th Sunday of St. Luke

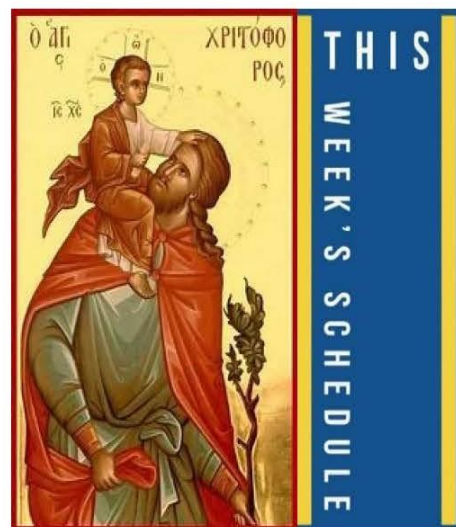
7:45 Orthros

**9:00 Divine Liturgy, Sacrament of Chrismation, & Special Blessing for
Expectant Mother and Family**

11:00 Annual Christmas Pageant

11:30 Community Luncheon & Parish Council Elections (end at 1:00 pm)

5:00 Candlelight Service & Christmas Concert at Annunciation Cathedral (Pan-Orthodox)



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

presented by the
Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood

Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm
at the
Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

*Christmas Concert
following
the Service*

His Grace
Bishop Sevastianos
will officiate this
Pan-Orthodox
Service

*Fr. Michael Tishel
will offer the Homily*



Featuring Choirs from

Atlanta Cathedral Men's Choir	Saints Constantine and Helen
Atlanta Cathedral Mixed Choir	St. John The Wonder Worker
Holy Transfiguration Marietta	Saints Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene

Reception to follow in Carlos Hall

***We are so blessed that Becky Butler and Lydia McGee will be singing with the Cathedral Mixed Choir representing our parish.**



ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

313 DIVIDEND DRIVE, SUITE 210
PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269
770/347-PRAY OR 770/347-7729
PASTOR: VERY REV. FR. GEORGE TSAHAKIS

December 5, 2023

Dear Parishioners:

We, the Board of Elections Committee, invite all Parishioners in Good Standing of St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church to vote in the upcoming Parish Council Elections in order to fill three (3) current vacancies on the Parish Council.

Elections shall take place Sunday, December 17, 2023, at St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

A Parishioner in Good Standing who is eligible to vote in this election is defined as a person who is:

- a). At least 18 years of age or older.
- b). Baptized/Chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, who lives his/her life and activities according to the Orthodox faith and canons of the church.
- c). Current in his/her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish.

A new parishioner of the Parish may vote in the election if he/she has become a member in good standing at least three (3) months prior to the election.

A Sample Ballot for your review is included.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming elections, please feel free to contact any Board of Elections Committee member as follows.

Steven Wilson	(Chairman)	swilso26@yahoo.com
Aimee Panos	(Secretary)	aimee.panos@gmail.com
Bobby Spezzano	(Member)	butcher@spezzanos.com

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Yours Faithfully,
The Board of Elections Committee

SAMPLE PARISH COUNCIL BALLOT

On Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm,
Parishioners in Good Standing can

VOTE TO FILL 3 (three) OPEN POSITIONS
FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
ST. CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC
ORTHODOX CHURCH

(You may vote for no more than three persons.)

_____ Tom Farmakis

_____ Anna Andreeva Naydenova

_____ Kirk Panayis

_____ Tammy Soulakos

_____ Steve Theodorakis



EXECUTE

EXECUTE

EXECUTE

I recently watched a video of a Navy Seal, telling of his job as a Breacher. He was responsible for going ahead of the team and setting the bombs. After he set the bomb he would turn around to ensure the team was ready. And what he saw were sets of green eyes looking at him, waiting for 3 essential words. Those words were Execute, Execute Execute! When he spoke those 3 words, the team knew the bomb would explode, all heck would break loose and they would crush their enemy. He said that's what wrong now - people don't make plans, they do not execute. He went on to say if you don't execute, you're not just cheating yourself, you're cheating your family and whatever group of which you are a part. It's bigger than you!

So what does this have to do with Stockings for Veterans? We executed! This was planned for a year, and when the request for help went out to cover the cost of the stockings (each one runs at least \$20), the call was answered. With the help of some families from St. Christopher's, Soldiers Angels this week delivered 95 full stockings for the Veterans at the Atlanta VA Hospital - yeah, we executed!

It's not too late for your family to do something to bless people at Christmas. St. John the Wonderworker needs help with their Christmas gifts and luncheon, IOCC has programs to help Israel and the Ukraine - Soldiers Angels always needs help supporting our deployed!

So while you're kicking back, sipping on some Christmas cheer, think of where the Lord wants to send YOU - to Execute Execute Execute!

Faye Georgeo

Soldiers Angels thanks these families for their generous donations!





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	Cold Cereal	Diapers
Dishwasher Detergent	Pancake Mix	Pull-Ups
Cleaning Supplies	Syrup	
Dish Detergent	Jelly	
Wal-Mart/Target Gift Cards	Canned Foods	
Grocery Store Gift Cards	Mac and Cheese	
	Bottled Water	



Join Us For A Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Immediately following the Christmas Pageant

*Main Course Offered by Philoptochos – Shrimp Yiouvetsi
(Shrimp with Orzo), Peel n Eat Shrimp, Popcorn Shrimp,
Salad, Bread & Beverages*

~Please bring a Lenten side dish that will feed 8 – 10 people~

Everyone is Welcome!!!

Thank you to Misty Duke for this brief write up on the Real Life Center in Tyrone that she spoke to us about at church this past Sunday. Please click the links below to find out more.

The Real Life Center in Tyrone is located on the Dogwood Church campus. They're a food bank that directly serves the public in Fayette and Coweta Counties and offers other programs as well that you can see on the link below. Clients can browse the clothing and food rooms themselves with the assistance of a volunteer and choose items that work for them. I volunteered with Real Life Center regularly for about a year maybe three few years ago.

[Home - Real Life Center](#)

[Programs - Real Life Center](#)



2023 Nativity Card

The Nativity of our Lord is nearly upon us. Our Philoptochos chapter is offering a parish Christmas card once again.

Please consider donating to this worthy cause for the benefit of our friends in need.

Your name/names will be included on the parish Christmas card that will be sent to all parishioners. You can donate online visit the sign up table after church for the next 2 Sundays, 12-3 and 12-10. December 10 will be the deadline at midnight.

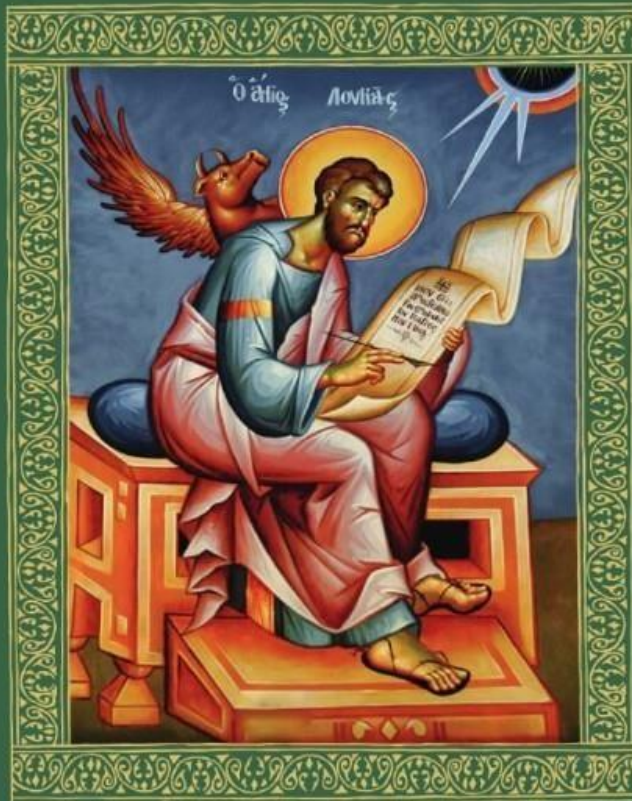
The cards will be mailed by December 18, 2023.

Thank you for your generosity to our Lord's Church.

[Click here for online donation.](#)

Faithfully,

Lydia McGee



Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace among men with whom He is pleased!

-LUKE 2:14



"Hands of Love" will be accepting monetary donations in the Red Box in the Church entryway, or online:

<https://saintchristopherphiloctchos.square.site>

To benefit "St. John the Wonderworker" Orthodox Church
Christmas Program

Through their website SaintJohnWoonderworker.org Christmas Program link you can purchase a gift of your choice to fulfill the wish of a child on their list.

Or sign up to volunteer on the day of the "Toy and Food Box Event": Saturday, December 16, 9am-Noon
and

for the Christmas Day Meal with the "Loaves and Fishes" family
December 25th at Noon



Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Chair



*Invitation From The St. Nicholas - Tele-Santa
Executive Committee*



December 6th - December 24th, 2023

Sign up for a personalized

**Virtual Call
from Santa**

for your younger children



Don't miss this opportunity
to share the

**Spirit
of Christmas**

with your family & Santa!

Sign up by QR code or visit our website:

www.stnicholas-tele-santa.com



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

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



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[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



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