



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

March 24, 2023



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

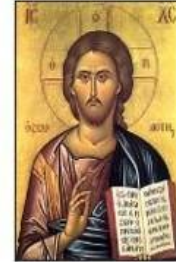
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



Message from Fr. George for Friday, March 24th, 2023

Save, O Lord, Your people



and bless Your inheritance,

We are called to carry our personal cross, including our trials in this life. When we set aside the things that take us farther from God and choose the path of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, gentleness, self-control, and other virtues.

The Lord Jesus calls us to consider ourselves dead to our sins so we can be made new in Him. Even if our cross becomes heavy, we always carry it

with Christ. He is always with us, ready to help us when we ask. We also have our brothers and sisters in Christ to help us as we help one another. The Divine Light of God shines in and through us. This is why the Lord revealed that light to His disciples in the Transfiguration, which took place right after He spoke these words.



granting victory to the faithful
over the enemy,



The last sentence of this Gospel reading – “there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power” – refers to the Transfiguration of Christ. Jesus says that some of the disciples surrounding Him would not die before they see the Kingdom of God come with power. Indeed, Peter, John, and James see the Lord manifest His divinity on Mount Tabor.

We participate in the Lord’s Glory whenever we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. We join in this movement of Christ toward the Father, in full communion with the Holy Spirit, in the intimate fellowship of the Trinity. We experience the energies of God through the tremendous resources within the Orthodox spiritual tradition, including the call to pray without ceasing and the practice of the Jesus Prayer (Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me).

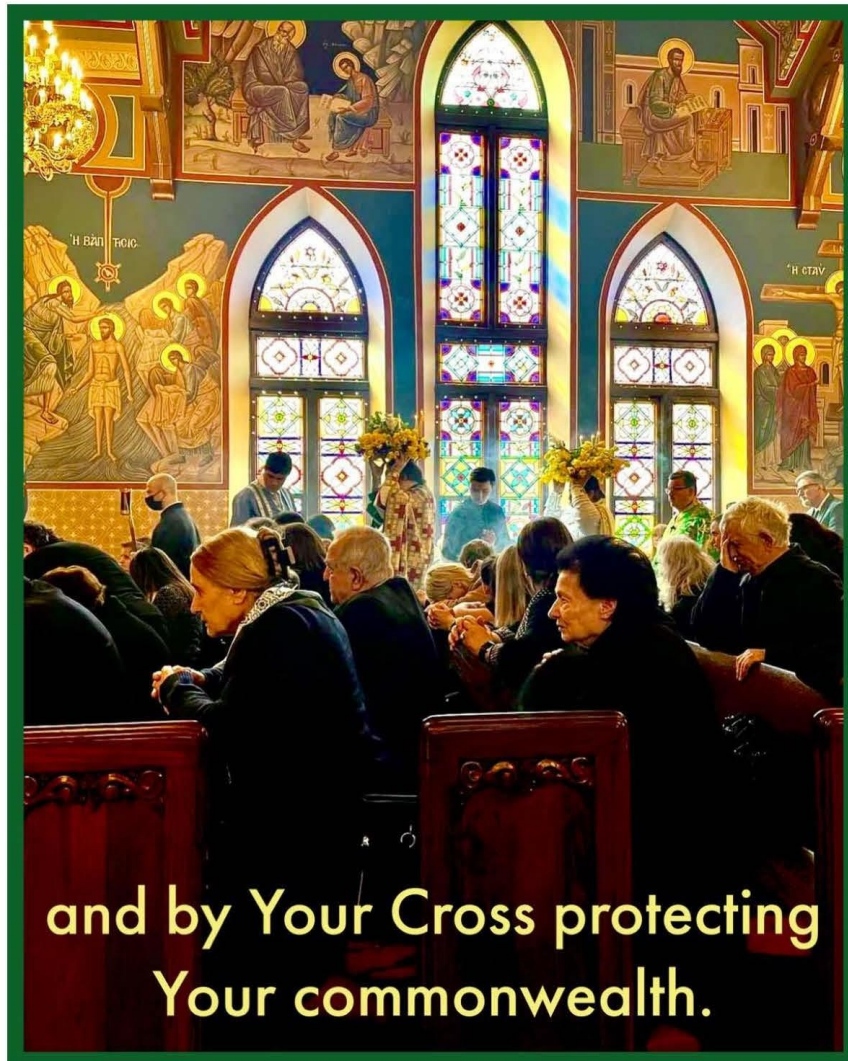


Bearing a cross takes work. It involves denying ourselves and our own will. It requires preparation to receive Christ. It entails emptying ourselves so we can be filled with the Holy Spirit. We learn to live in faith, hope, and love by taking up our cross and following Him. We help others do the same, as we are all called to reach our potential as persons created in the image and likeness of God.

In faith, we know He is with us even in trials. In hope, we see the Light of the Resurrection shining through the Cross. In love, we learn that humility and service are the way to that glory. As we progress through Great Lent,

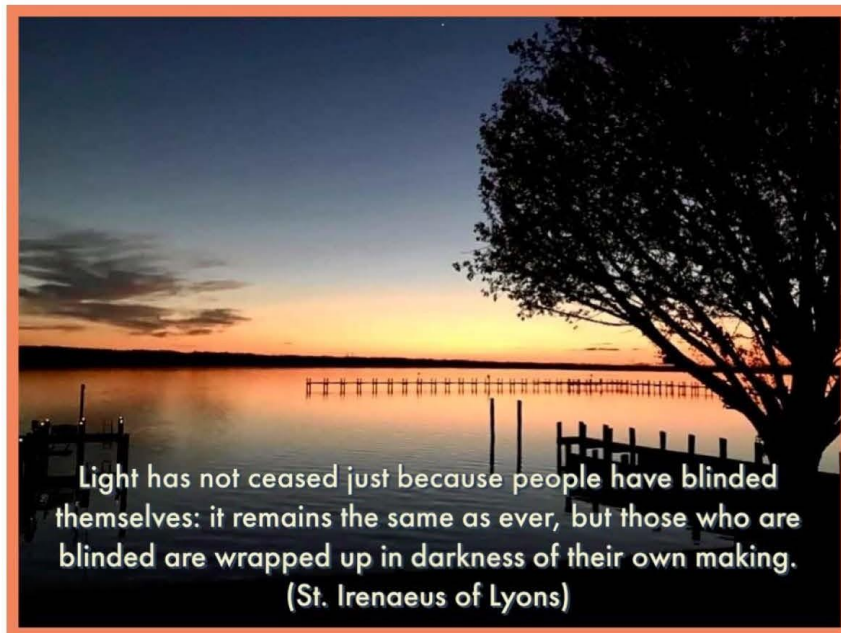
we carry our crosses joyfully, placing our trust and confidence in God because behind every cross is the Resurrection.

*(reprinted from Archdiocese Department of Religious Education
for the Veneration of the Holy Cross)*





The key to spiritual progress is, therefore, love for one's enemies. This is first of all - something very simple, but very difficult - the refusal to judge, the refusal to assert oneself in despising or condemning others. Only such an attitude of mind brings detachment and peace. The rest is secondary.
(Olivier Clement)



Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat... We must find each other.

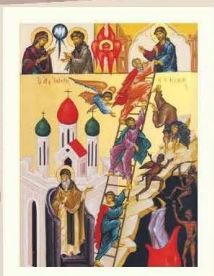
+ St Teresa of Calcutta +

Christ, who approached prostitutes, tax collectors and sinners, can hardly be the teacher of those who are afraid to soil their pristine garments, who are completely devoted to the letter, who live only by the rules, and who govern their whole life according to rules. (St. Maria of Paris)



During our community
 lenten dinner we will
 view a feature length
 video on the Greek
 War of Independence
 of 1821-1832 and see
 how modern Greece
 was born and got its
 independence from
 the Ottoman Rule.
 (Pilgrimage talk has
 been postponed.)






Family Connections

Sunday of St. John Climacus

Jacob's Ladder

Read the OT story of Jacob's Ladder, which is found in Genesis 28:10-17. Discuss how Jesus came down the ladder in order to show us how to ascend it to heaven. Talk about things that help us climb up the ladder and things that make us slide down. The game Chutes and Ladders can be helpful in illustrating this point.



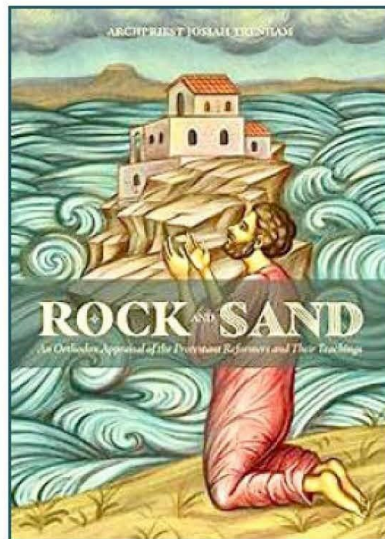
DARE TO SPEAK!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
ORATORICAL FESTIVAL 2023

St. Christopher Church

"Dare to speak
the word with
greater boldness
and without fear."
Philippians 1:14

We are proud of our youth who will present their
Orthodox witness this Sunday. Join us.



This Sunday, our Adult Religious Education Class will review *Chapter 5 of our textbook, "The Life and Teachings of John Calvin"*. He was the greatest of all the second generation Protestant Reformers, and was born in 1509 in France. *Join us!*



Let us support one another
during our Lenten Journey...



Christopher Church Egg Decorating Class (Pysanky)



Sunday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.

at Holly & Jeff's Freebird Farm

Click on the QR code below to register yourself and members of your family who are old enough to complete the 2.5 - 3.0 hour class with other parishioners. The address is provided in the registration confirmation.

Registration for St. Christopher
Church Egg Decorating Class
(Pysanky)





March 26 General Meeting

Join us for an informational meeting. Learn about your Philoptochos chapter, share fellowship, and learn what's coming up this spring!

Everyone is welcome to our meeting!

Agenda:

- Join Philoptochos
- Election Committee Appointed
- Review of Pascal Events
- Appoint representatives for June Philoptochos Convention in Tarpon Springs

Light Lenten refreshments will be served.



March is membership month!

Join [online](#) or in person!



Will you pass the light?



shutterstock.com 577272810

[Click](#) here to support the flower fund for decorating the Kouvouklion.



You're invited!

In preparation for Holy Friday Night's Lamentation Service, at which we commemorate the burial of our Lord, we will be decorating the Kouvouklion with flowers on Holy Friday Morning. Immediately following the Service of Royal Hours, which begins at 9:00 AM and lasts approximately one hour, volunteers will begin this sacred task. All are invited to come to the church and help with the preparations.

The Epitaphios (Christ's Burial Icon) will be laid inside the Kouvouklion as we all gather to sing the Lamentation and to join in solemn procession at Holy Friday Night's service. Please enrich your experience of Holy Week by joining in the sacred and pious act of preparing the Kouvouklion and Epitaphios.



Paschal Greetings Card

Philoptochos is sponsoring the Paschal Greetings Card again this year! If you would like to include your name and the names of your family please click [HERE](#) and look for the “**Pascha Card**” icon.

***You must include, in the notes section, your name or names exactly the way you wish to have it printed on the card.

You can also sign up during coffee hour the next three Sundays. (March 12, 19 and 26)

March 26 is a hard deadline.



Join Us for Our Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon



Sunday, April 9, 2023

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

**Baked Fish
Roasted Potatoes
&
Salad
Will Be Provided**

**** We kindly ask that you bring a Lenten Dish to share.
Please bring enough to feed your family plus 6 others ****

~ Good Food and Fellowship for All ~
Everyone is welcome to join us for this free luncheon!



*All Sundays in March:
Bloom Our Youth in
Fayetteville, Georgia*



Hands of Love will be accepting **monetary and in-kind donations** to benefit ***Bloom Our Youth*** through March 2023



Bloom Our Youth is a shelter, a resource and a foster agency finding homes for neglected and abused children. Founded in 1986 as the Fayette Youth Protection Homes by **airline pilot Jim Friday** when he discovered there was no shelter for abused children. At ***Bloom our youth***, support is provided to children and their families through counseling and advisors.

- **Bloom Foster Parent Program** is licensed to recruit, train, and support a network of family foster care homes
- **Bloom Closet** is stocked with lightly worn clothing in child and youth sizes
- **Bloom University** trains and supports foster families

There is a year-round need for new backpacks, school supplies and toiletry items. Each child is given a backpack as a welcome gift upon joining the Bloom program. You may bring your donations to the red "Hands of Love" box in the church narthex, or donate online at:

<https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site>

<https://saintchristopherhoc.org/hands-of-love-ministry>

Faithfully yours,

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



International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC): EARTHQUAKE LATEST: IOCC continues working with partners to get resources to those in need across the region affected by the recent earthquakes.

Amid terrible loss, injuries, and displacement, IOCC is addressing the most basic human needs of survivors. In Syria, IOCC's partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development, has reported that the destruction in Syria has left tens of thousands in need of shelter. The winter weather, with temperatures below freezing at night, makes the situation all the more urgent.

To meet their immediate needs, IOCC has released initial funds to help people in Syria. This will include providing:

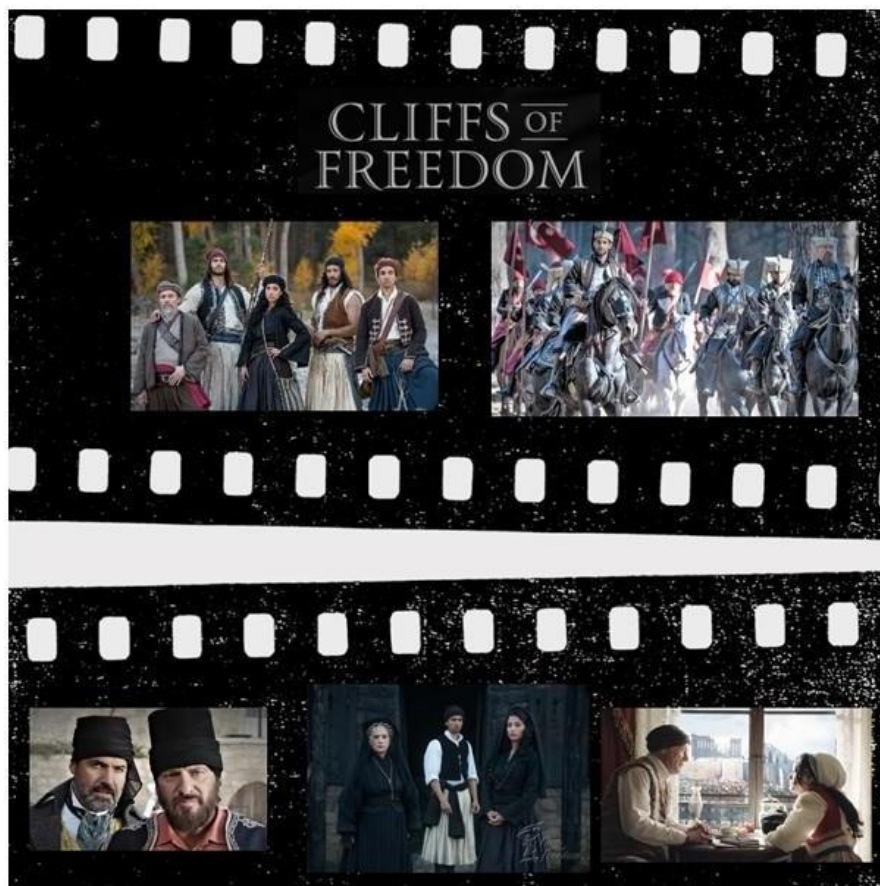
- Blankets, pillows, and other bedding
- Warm clothing
- Water and food

For many of us, it's difficult to comprehend not only the scale of the devastation but also what people are experiencing right now in Syria and Turkey.

Give now to help us respond in the most effective way possible. Please be as generous as you can, and please continue praying for everyone affected by this tragedy. (Credit to @ioccrelief via Instagram, 2/10 post)

Click on to donate:





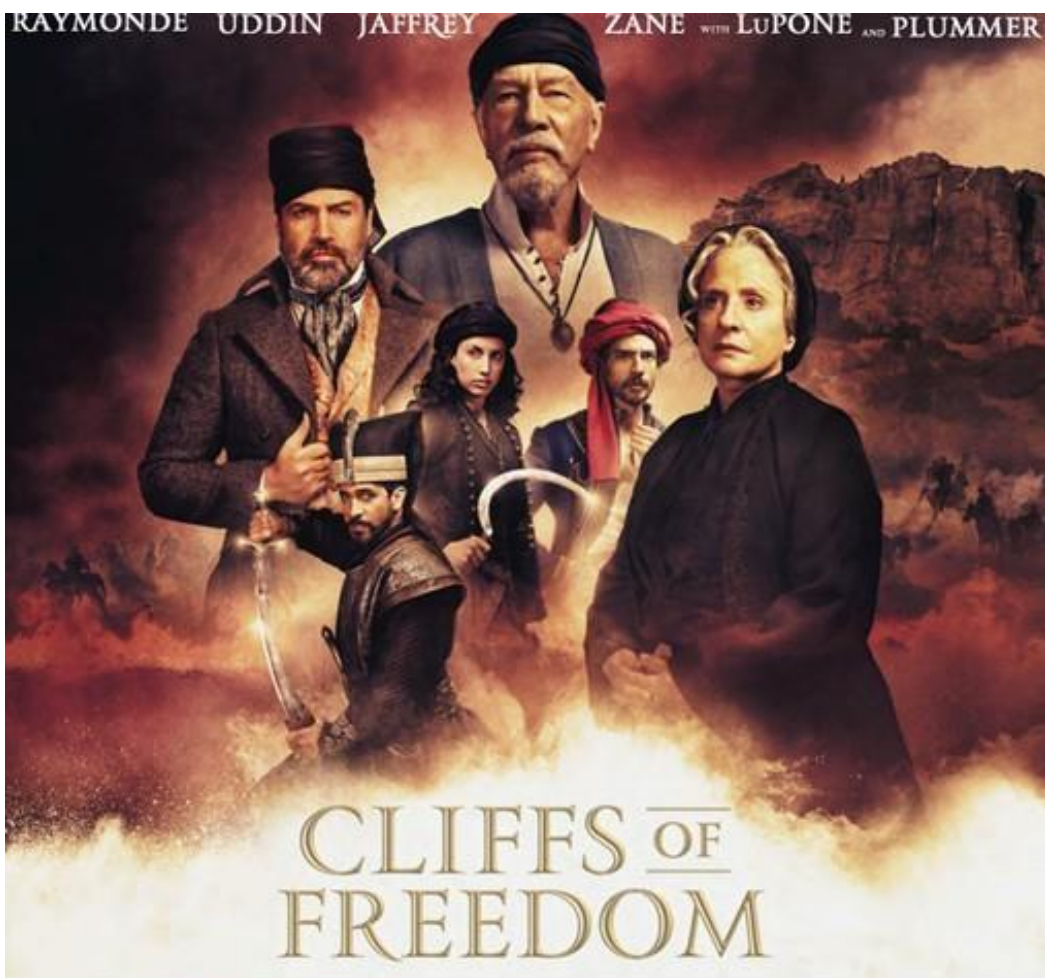
It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5: 1

The National Hellenic Society (NHS), a non-profit foundation dedicated to preserving, celebrating and passing on Hellenic heritage is thrilled to announce that the epic film, [*Cliffs of Freedom*](#) is available on multiple streaming platforms just in time for the celebration of Greek Independence Day.

Cliffs of Freedom is an epic film inspired by historical events set at the dawn of Greece's War for Independence in 1821. The film features an all-star cast including an unforgettable performance by Academy Award-winning actor, the late Christopher Plummer and other outstanding actors.

RAYMONDE UDDIN JAFFREY ZANE WITH LUPONE AND PLUMMER



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NATIONAL HELLENIC SOCIETY



**Rights
Booster**

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH FILM TRAILER](#)



Faith plays an important role in ***Cliffs of Freedom*** as it was the Greeks' steadfast faith that instilled the courage, resilience and resolve to fulfill their dream four centuries of subjugation.

Let your parish know that they are able to remember Greek Independence Day in a unique

way by the remembrance of the stories inspired by their forebears' lives. Freedom's fight still wages on today. ***Cliffs of Freedom*** is a poignant story that brings to life the poems, sketches, hymns and tales many of knew growing up at the convenience of your home.

NHS is pleased to report that the film is available on multiple screening platforms including: Apple TV, Amazon Prime, Crackle, GooglePlay, Peacock, Roku, Tubi, Xumo and YouTube.

The sacrifices of those who fought so we may be free to live, worship and be happy shall never be forgotten as preserved in this resplendent motion picture s produced by NHS member, Marianne Metropoulos, and based on Marianne's novel, *Daughter of Destiny*.

Proceeds of the film benefit the NHS' signature, [Heritage Greece Program](#) benefitting Greek American and Canadian college age students on a life-changing cultural and educational immersion experience shared with students at the American College of Greece in Athens, and American College of Thessaloniki/Anatolia.



The National Hellenic Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation dedicated to the preservation of Greek heritage in America. We are a proud association of leaders, visionaries and philanthropists who perpetuate and celebrate our rich heritage. We develop engaging programs that promote Hellenism.

For Information Visit:

www.nationalhellenicsociety.org



BYZANTINE CHANT & ICONOGRAPHY

August 20 - 26, 2023

AT THE DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER

in Salem, South Carolina

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 20

Visit our Website

The Liturgical Arts Academy teaches Byzantine Chant and Iconography in the tradition of the Orthodox Christian Church. TLAA is a 1-week intensive program led by experts in these disciplines. The Academy is ideal for church communities to send their chanters and painters for training and offers instruction for beginners, intermediate and advanced students.



Byzantine Chant Workshop

with John Michael Boyer, Gabriel
Cremeens & Samuel Herron



Iconography Workshop

with
Fr. Anthony Salzman

Contact Us

info@theliturgicalarts.org

Register early -- we expect to fill up quickly.



Hear what they are saying..

"An incredible and unforgettable experience. Not only being able to learn from some of the highest caliber of chanters in the English speaking world, but to join in daily worship with all the attendees and offer our prayers to the Holy Trinity with one voice was such a tremendous thing. The staff was attentive and passionate about their particular craft and eager to share their knowledge so that we may continue to guard and pass along the whole of the beautiful deposit of faith we have so generously been given. I cannot say enough good things about this Academy and I pray it continues to grow! May God grant TLAA many many years of fruit-bearing work in Our Lord's vineyard."

——— A.S. from North Carolina

"I spent this past week at the Liturgical Arts Academy. It was wonderful. I spent five hours in an advanced chant class and two to three hours a day chanting in services. I was asked to lead a women's choir at three of the vespers services and it was one of the highlights of my week. It was so nice getting to chant with other women! I'm looking forward to more of this!"

——— A.H. from Pennsylvania

"If you would like to learn the rudiments of one of these liturgical arts, and if you ever have a chance to do this, don't pass it up. I feel so blessed by the experience. After all the services and all the classes and all the conversation I left with a feeling of superabundant Grace, such as I felt after Holy Week this year."

——— M.Y. from New Mexico





Youth, Education & Hellenic Culture

*'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.' ~Matthew 5:6*



Week 1: June 25 - July 1

Week 2: July 2 - July 8

Week 3: July 9 - July 15

Week 4: July 16 - July 22

Week 5: July 23 - July 29

Camper Registration

Camper Registration will open Wednesday, March 29 at 12:00 p.m. ET

Camper Registration Cost is \$500.00 per camper.

\$250.00 deposit upon registration and the remainder will be due by June 15, 2023.

Staff Applications

All Staff must be 18 years old with one year post high school experience. We are looking for a Logistic Coordinator, Medical Staff, 12 Cabin Staff, Lifeguard, Utility Staff, Arts & Crafts and Rope Course Leaders each week. **Be a part of the Best Week(s) of the year!**



Apply Today!

Amazon Wishlist



We have put together an Amazon Wish List of items to assist in making St. Stephen's Summer Camp the best week of the year. Please take a moment and see if you can help in any way. All items will be shipped directly to the Metropolis in Atlanta.

If you do give us a gift, please let us know who you are so we can Thank You! [Click Here!](#)

**THANK YOU to Leadership 100 &
The Metropolis of Atlanta's Philoptochos for your support.**

March 18, 2023



CENTER
FAMILY CARE

What's New This Week



comfort food for families

PILGRIMAGE TO PASCHA



episode three:

family prayer

The next trail marker on our Pilgrimage to Pascha is family prayer in the home. In this episode of Comfort Food for Families, Marianna McMullen gives some tips for establishing and building on the "church of the home" during Lent. [Watch here!](#)

To download the accompanying small group guide for priests and lay ministers [click here](#).

 <p>TIME OUT for marriage  <i>video reflections for couples</i></p>	<p>EPISODE 60: Compassion</p>
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An important thing to remember in marriage is that men and women typically show compassion in different ways! Watch this week's "Time Out for Marriage" [here](#).

FAMILY MATTERS

podcast

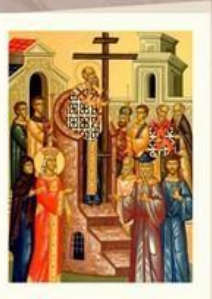


HOSPICE PRIMER

with
Nikki Stournaras



Fr. Alex Goussetis speaks with Hospice Chaplain Nikki Stournaras on the services and benefits offered by hospice care for our loved ones, including questions/issues that families need to consider. [Listen here.](#)



Family Connections

Veneration of the Holy Cross

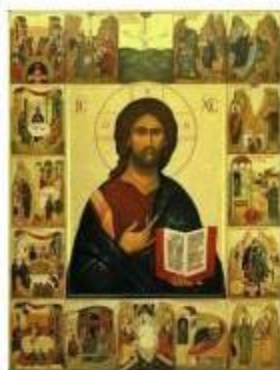
Decorated Cross

This Sunday, the priest places a cross standing upright on a tray surrounded by flowers. Do the same in your home so that it can be a source of strength as you complete the fast. If you don't have a large cross, make one out of whatever you like and decorate it. Place it in a prominent place in your home.



LOOKING FOR RESOURCES?

We've got you covered! Access our Lent and Holy Week family and marriage resources [here](#).



*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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