



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

September 29, 2023



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopheroc.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 9.29.23

OVERCOME WITH
COMPLAINING



When I was in junior high school, my Drama Teacher asked us to view and listen to the legendary comedian, George Carlin. She wanted us to review his style of communicating messages. From time to time, I encounter some of his wit and share one of his thoughts now: *"Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?"*

Obviously, George Carlin was making light of someone engaged in complaining. Indeed, we criticize others and may not realize it. When I was younger, I used to spend a lot of time worrying about complaints I heard from others. Lately, I've come to feel that many are deep-seeded expressions of fear voiced in destructive and aggressive tones. While seeds of truth may be embedded in the message of complainers, they risk becoming self-defeated by turning off and offending the very person the complainer is depending on to alleviate their worry or stress.

Not one of us can say we've never complained. However, when we do complain in a manner that disrespects or belittles others, we forget that everyone's feelings matter. With God's help we can seek to reconcile and where needed, ask forgiveness for when we insult others. That is important for a healthy friendship and relationship. Otherwise, we risk losing a friend and valuable co-worker... all for a short-lived moment of venting our out-of-control emotions.

Pastors have been given the responsibility to help their parishioners live in peace and unity by applying God's truth and mercy. I am especially blessed because our parishioners know God and trust Him. They respect our elected and appointed ministry leaders and members. At times, we will disagree, but never with the attitude of hurting anyone. Yet sometimes, we do cause harm, and, in that spirit, I want to share a few negative things that happen when we continually criticize others because we cannot have it "our way."

Complainers may not realize that the by-product of their repeated objections is stopping positive momentum to the task at hand. Even more, complaints breed

discontent in others and drown out thankfulness. In no time, the negative attitude from chronic complainers becomes a way of thinking for others previously supportive and cooperative. Optimism changes to pessimism and a spirit of defeatism becomes their new vision and leadership style. Peace and unity of the body is threatened and damaged and the task's failure is inevitable.

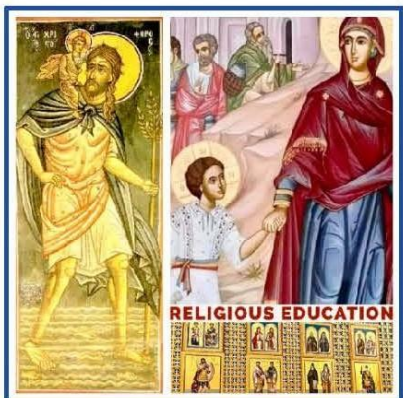
As Christians, let us focus on being "problem solvers" and not "problem proclaimers". When we spend time complaining, we lose sight that God is our source of strength and hope. With faith in Him, we can move mountains. Our Lord depends on us to encourage, motivate, and accomplish in His Name and for His glory. We are co-workers in Christ and not freelance players. Collectively, we serve God as troubleshooters entrusted with His flock to protect from evil and its temptations. No situation that we confront is bigger than God Who promised His followers, *"For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."* (Matthew 19:26)

So, whether at home, in our workplace, or at church, let us guard our feelings and tempers against the dangers of complaining that I cited above. Yes, there are some that feel it is easier to gripe rather than problem solve. How sad to see those who are trying to solve challenges have to overhear others complain to and about them... especially when what they are complaining about has been improved and fixed, or just a misunderstanding or lack of knowledge.

Rather than resort to bitter complaining, let us give our peers a chance by stepping forward and volunteering to pitch in and be a supportive team member. Everyone's help is welcomed and needed, and the fruit that will be harvested is both plenteous and compassionate.

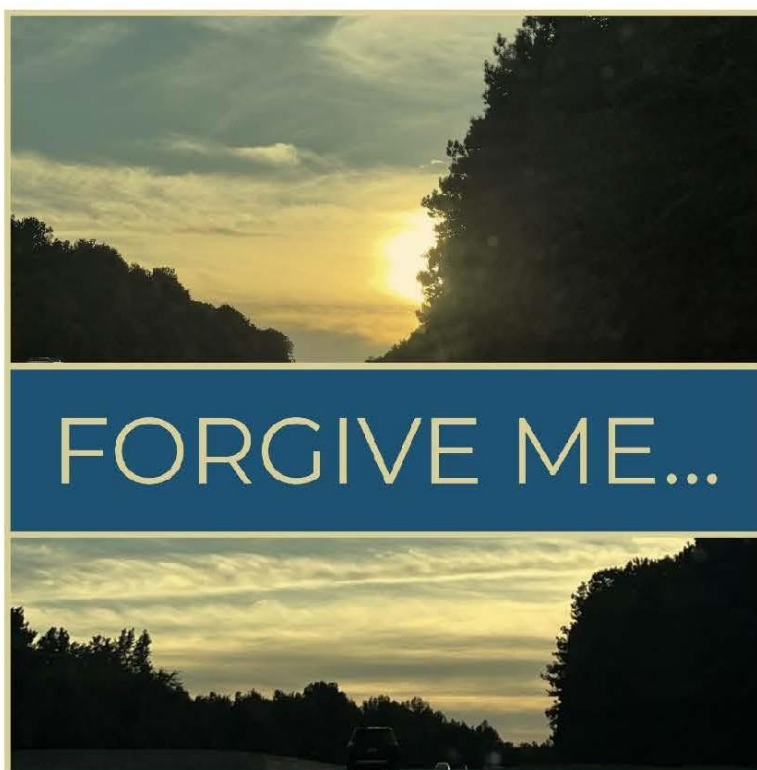
We Orthodox are called to be conciliar and seek harmony. If we cannot, I ask a simple question... *"What do you want?"* And if the tables are turned, and I'm the incessant complainer, please help shake me out of that mood with kindness and respect like the counsel I offer you. Thank you for this courtesy. Amen!

Religious Education Update



Our parish is committed to helping our families raise awareness of their Orthodox faith by offering religious education classes that are open to all parishioners of any age. Likewise, visitors and friends who are interested in becoming Orthodox through baptism or chrismation are encouraged to attend and learn with fellow parishioners.

When we separate ourselves from God, it's like the lower image at right... we experience detachment and emptiness. Further, God appears distant and hidden in the darkness we have created in our souls as reflected in the upper image. The remedy is as obvious as the photo caption... not pursuing it keeps us separated from authentic life with our Lord and His Body. Notice the photo framing and text outline all feature the same color...



*reminding us that we always are united with God and have the ability to seek His mercy. Our lesson for this Sunday instructs us that **"The Church is in the world so that each person, all those who've gone astray, can find their way. So that they can return to the house of their Father, can find themselves, and others, and can therefore progress towards an encounter with the Lord."** – +Fr. George Tsahakis*

Next Sunday, October 8, we will discuss Chapter 9 of our Textbook: "America's Folk Religion: Evangelicalism and the Rise of Non-Denominationalism."



A SEED WORTH PLANTING



They who sow courtesy reap
friendship, and they who plant
kindness gather love. (St. Basil)

7 TEACHINGS OF ST NEAGOE BASARAB TO HIS SON THEODOSIUS

1. Be careful that no hour passes without prayer, for it brings light into the soul.
2. Love the truth, for the liar is not pleasing to God.
3. Be at peace with all, so that you may have boldness in your prayers.
4. If you have done good things, do not boast, if you have done many bad things, do not despair.
5. Give alms to all, that you may receive the mercy of God.
6. Ask God to be with you and don't be lazy when you work for Him.
7. Do not stumble upon the things of this world, that you may be saved.



Psalms recommended by
St. Arsenios of Cappadocia
to treat depression



Psalm 4

Psalm 27 (28)

Psalm 55 (56)

Psalm 56 (57)

Psalm 97 (98)

Psalm 7

Psalm 24 (25)

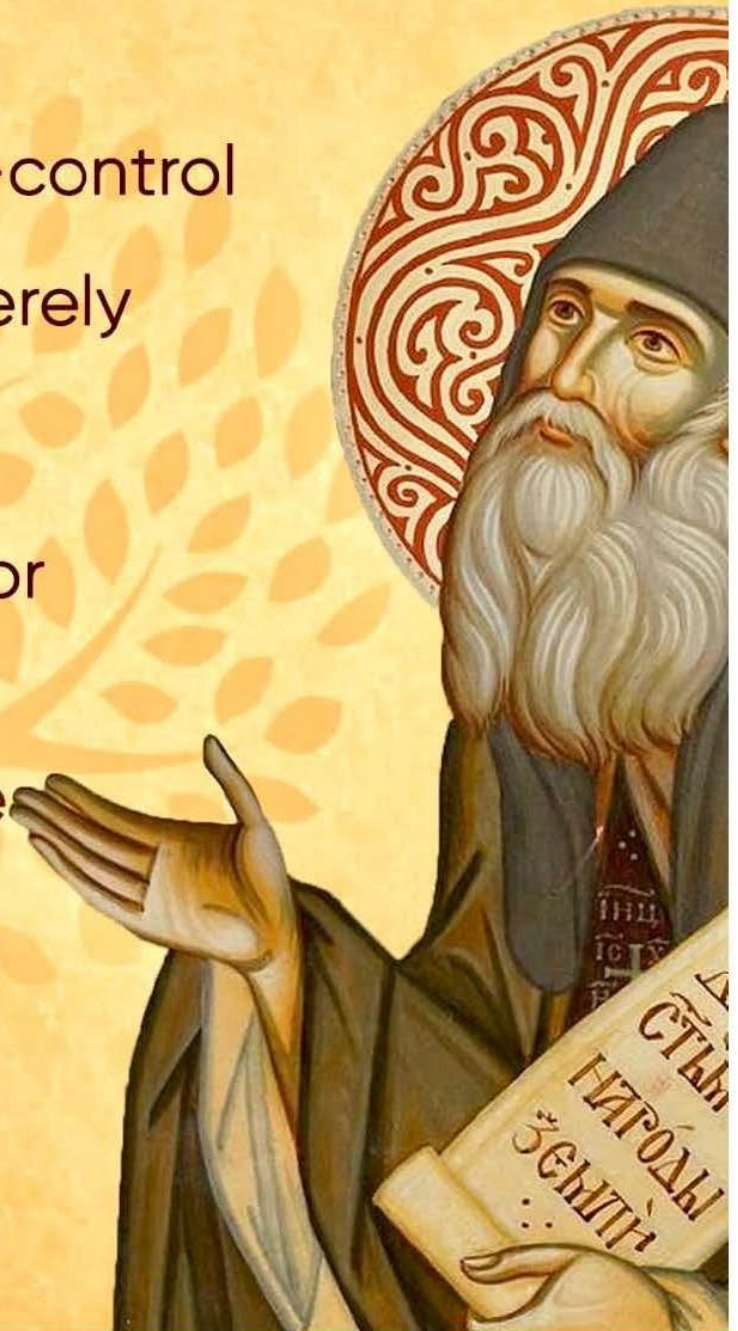
Psalm 41 (42)

Psalm 45 (46)



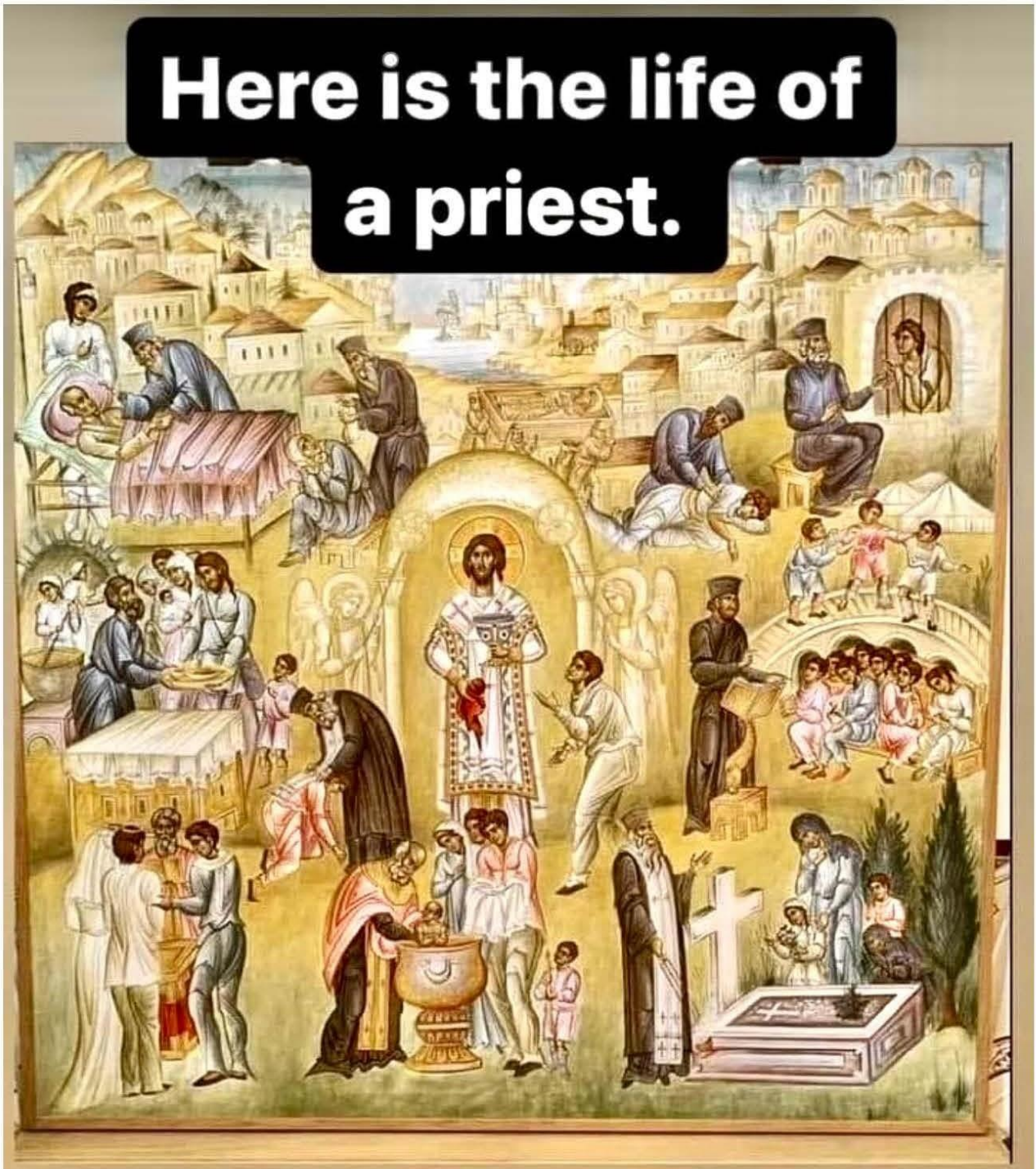
7 St Siluan the Athonite lessons for pure prayer

- 1 Be humble
- 2 Practice self-control
- 3 Confess sincerely
- 4 Be obedient
- 5 Be thankful for everything
- 6 Don't despise your neighbour
- 7 Love your enemies



Pray earnestly and every day for your priests, for they are Christ in your midst. Pray that they remain holy, pure, faithful, chaste, and zealous in their ministry and service. Pray that they never forget who and what they are: living icons of Christ and servants of Him and His holy Church.

Here is the life of a priest.



DRIVEWAY REPAIRS UNDERWAY

The driveway entrance
leading to the church
(along Dividend Drive)
will be under repair from Thursday,
9/28/23, until Wednesday, 10/04/23.

Please use caution as only ONE lane
will be open for entering & exiting
the property.

**Thank you for you cooperation
and patience!**

GreekFest 2023 Quick Facts

We are excited to once again come together in Christian fellowship, unity, fun and cooperation to share our Orthodox Faith, Greek Culture, Food and Dance with our guests at GreekFest!!

What: GreekFest and Celebration of St. Christopher's 20th Year

Where: The Shipyard at Trilith

When: October 14, 2023

Event Time: Appetizers – 6:00 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm

Dress Code (for those volunteering): White Shirt & Black Bottom (pants or skirts)

What is Needed?? Sell Tickets and Sponsorships!!



Remember to let your friends and families know this is a Fundraiser to support our Building Fund and Charities within our community.

*The price is all inclusive of all Appetizers (Spanakopita, Tiropita's, and Dolmades), Dinner (Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Green Beans, Pastitsio, Souvlaki, Gyros, Giouvetsi, Fresh Baked Bread, Turlou Turlou), Dessert (Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia) That's a lot of Food!!

*Plus, water, soft drinks, beer and wine!

*Live Greek Band and Greek Dancing!

Sign up to Assist!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-43982644-greekfest>

*****Note:** if you are volunteering on Saturday Evening during GreekFest you **Do Not** need to purchase a ticket – if you are unable to volunteer your time but want to attend GreekFest then, yes you will need to purchase a ticket – *BUT we really need everyone 16 years old and up to help! Thank you!!****

******Note about Childcare:** Our venue, The Shipyard does not have a space for our kids to be, nor would they be able to run around as they did in the past at the Commemorative Hanger in Peachtree City, where we also provided childcare.

For our event this year there is no child's ticket price and is a bit more formal than in the past.

We invite students 16 and above to volunteer their time & talents via sign up genius at the event at no cost, otherwise if a child were to attend the cost would be \$150.00.

Now with all that being said and because we need you our parents to volunteer, we would like to offer these two options:

- 1) We can provide a vetted/background checked babysitter along with a background checked member of our parish to watch the kids at church for no cost to you. Food & soft drinks provided.
- 2) If you would like for your kids to be at home with a babysitter, we would cover the cost of your babysitter.

We realize that this is a big change for this year and we want you to know that we care about you and your kids. We ask you to prayerfully consider one of the above options and also support our parish by volunteering your time and talents for GreekFest.****

Please reach out to Julie Skouteris with any questions and to let us know which option would work best for your family at gsjs401mg@gmail.com.

Any Questions?

Contact your GreekFest Quad Chairs

Tammy Soulakos – tammy@soulakos.org

Julie Skouteris – gsjs401mg@gmail.com

Steve Theodorakis – spamandchees@bellsouth.com

Stephen Butler – steve@butlerusa.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church
GreekFest 2023

Patron Sponsorship

Be proud to show your support for our parish and have your name printed in the GreekFest Program!

Our Family is blessed to offer a Patron Sponsorship of: ☐ \$25.00 ☐ Other _____

Sponsor Name(s): _____

In honor/memory of: _____

****Deadline for inclusion and recognition in our program is: October 8th****

Please make checks payable to St. Christopher's earmarked for GreekFest Patron Sponsorship
Return completed form and payment to Julie Skouteris – Thank you!

Once again, we've opened Patron Sponsorship to
Everyone in Our Parish!

For as little as \$25.00(or more) you can have
your families name in our
GreekFest Program!

(This does not include any tickets to GreekFest)

Forms can be picked up at church!

Yes, we are there serving, but we also get to feast,
dance, and have fellowship along with our guests!

We are St. Christopher's!
Together We Can!



Saturday, October 14th, 2023
6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner
The Shipyard at Trilith

COME ENJOY A TASTE OF GREECE!
DELICIOUS FOOD • LIVE MUSIC • GREEK DANCING



Tickets: \$150 for Individual
\$250 for Couples
Sponsorships Available!

Tickets include an all you can eat Greek buffet, open bar, champagne wall, red carpet for our 20th Anniversary, & more!

To purchase, please scan the QR code or visit
<https://onecau.se/greekfest>

Questions? Contact Tammy at tammy@soulakos.org or 404-625-4663

Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



IT IS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!! PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR FALL PASTRY SALE!!



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210, Peachtree City, GA 30269 • Tel: (770) 347-PRAY • (770) 347-7729
Web: www.SaintChristopherHOC.org • E-mail: info@SaintChristopherHOC.org

Philoptochos Society Fall Pastry Sale

"To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach to preserve the sanctity of life and family and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions."

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Pickup Dates: Friday, November 17th 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm @ Church Address
Saturday, November 18th 9:00 am -12:00 pm @ Church Address

Order Deadline: November 3, 2023		Quantity	Cost/Dozen	Total
Spanakopita: Spinach & Cheese stuffed phyllo triangle			\$ 15.00	\$
Tiropita: Cheese stuffed phyllo triangle			\$ 15.00	\$
Baklava: layers of phyllo filled with chopped nuts and sweetened and held together with syrup or honey			\$ 20.00	\$
Kourambiedes: sugar dusted butter cookie			\$ 15.00	\$
Koulourakia: twisted butter cookie			\$ 10.00	\$
Paximadia : Greek Biscotti with Pecans and Cinnamon			\$ 10.00	\$
Sampler Dozen: Package containing 3 each of Baklava, Kourambiedes, Paximadia and Koulourakia			\$ 25.00	\$
Pastitsio: luscious layers of seasoned ground beef, pasta, and a creamy bechamel sauce baked to perfection			\$60.00 12"x9" pan	\$
TOTAL DUE:				\$

REMINDER : YOU CAN ONLY PLACE ORDERS ONLINE

BY VISITING ONE OF THE OPTIONS BELOW

<https://saintchristopherhoc.org/>

<https://my-business-104643.square.site/>

For Questions Pls Contact Dedee Panayis Tel: 817-690 6610

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” ~Galatians 6:9



Baking Dates

Greek Fest and Bake Sale

We are warming up the mixers and ovens for our Greek Fest and Bake Sale! We need everyone to volunteer this year!

Please sign up [here](#)

**Great Opportunities Coming Up~Mark your
Calendars!**

October 4-

Baklava Prep for GreekFest

October 7-

Baklava Construction for GreekFest & Paximadia

October 11-

Making Dolmades for GreekFest

November 4-

Koulourakia 2.0 for Pastry Sale

November 8-

Baklava Construction & Baking for Pastry Sale

November 13-

Boxing Day

Philoptochos Meeting in the evening with a lite dinner.



**Philoptochos supporting
“FOCUS Holiday Party with Santa & Mrs. Claus”**

During our meeting Sunday afternoon, the members of Philoptochos were introduced to a new outreach opportunity in the Atlanta Metro area. Peter and Julie Poulos work with a program called [FOCUS](#). At FOCUS, their mission is to embrace and equip families of children with disabilities to make everyday life BETTER. Peter and Julie participate as Santa and Mrs. Claus during the year and especially during their holiday party- the last being before Covid! So this year will be the first party in a long time. Our donation will support their efforts to provide breakfast and Pillow Pets for 200+ children.

If you would like to support this program, please click the link above to read more, then go to our [square site](#) and add your personal donation under general giving and add FOR FOCUS in the notes.

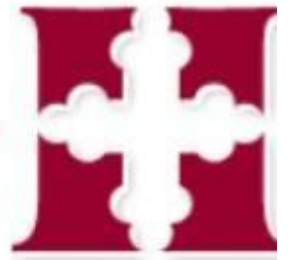
We will keep this open until October 31.







All Sundays in September 2023:
Holy Cross School of Theology



Hands of Love ministry will be accepting **monetary donations** to benefit the school.



As the **sole Greek Orthodox** School of Theology in the United States, education here is an integration of learning and faith. Located in Brookline, Massachusetts, **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology** offers graduate programs leading to advanced degrees in Divinity and Theology. The school is the *alma mater* of many orthodox priests - <https://www.hchc.edu/holy-cross>. You may place your donations in the red box in the church narthex or online at <https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site>

Thank you for your generosity,

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

SERB FEST ATLANTA

Sat, Sep. 30th
(11am - 10pm)



Sun, Oct. 1st
(12pm - 6pm)



Learn About and Experience Serbian Culture

Delicious Serbian Food
Live Music
Traditional Folklor Performances
Church Tours
Prize Raffles
Fun for all ages!



Sts. Peter and Paul Serbian Orthodox Church
1558 Hewatt Road Southwest Lilburn, GA 30047



September 22, 2023



CENTER
FAMILY CARE

What's New This Week

FAMILY MATTERS

podcast



INTER-RACIAL &
INTER-ETHNIC
RELATIONSHIPS

with
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis



Fr. Alex Goussetis speaks with Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis on the personal and communal aspects of inter-racial & inter-ethnic relationships and their impact on parish life. [Listen here.](#)

"Only with time do we really learn who the other person is and come to love the person for him- or herself and not just for the feelings and experiences they give us."

Timothy Keller



Becoming One



Discuss how these words resonate with you; then, share with one another something you have come to more deeply learn about your spouse in recent months.



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*



Proverbs 3:5-6

Trying to discern the best school placement, medical treatments, therapy options, and/or social activities for your child with disabilities can be a complicated and often stressful process. So many factors must be considered, including resources available to your family in your locale, family income, insurance, juggling work and family schedules, your loved one's strengths, challenges, temperament, and health prognosis - to name a few...[continue reading](#).



Welcome



We welcome
you to join us
in person to
encounter our
Lord and
Savior!

[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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