



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

September 8, 2023



## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

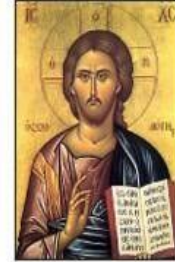
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: [www.saintchristopheroc.org](http://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 9.8.23

### September 3: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:15 Blessing of Five Loaves &  
September Commemorations

### September 4: Labor Day

### September 8: Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

9:00 Divine Liturgy

### September 9:

9:00 Philoptochos Ministry - Making Koulourakia

1:00p 2nd Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive

### September 10: Sunday Before Holy Cross

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:15 Update from GreekFest Committee

11:00 Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

12:00 Parish Council Meeting



## How to Benefit from the Liturgy (Part I)

**1) Attend early: be on time.** Do not come after the gospel or even after the first reading. Would you arrive late to work? Could you arrive late to work? The later you arrive, the less the grace of God and heavenly blessings will permeate your soul and the less time you'll have to spend in that short and precious two hour window into heaven.

**2) Sing passionately: do not stand there like a statue.** Do not fail to offer God due reverence and honor through singing the grace-filled hymns of the

church composed by our saintly ancestors. Sing when the congregation sings. Sing when it is your side's [turn] to sing. Do not deceive yourself as benefiting from the service without singing. St Theophan the Recluse says, "All of our liturgical hymns are instructive, profound and sublime. They contain the whole of our theology and moral teaching, give us Christian consolation and instill in us a fear of the Judgment. He who listens to them attentively has no need of other books on the Faith."

**3) Be reverent: one of the best ways to do this is to do the sign of the cross reverently, consciously, attentively, neither too fast nor too slow, during the countless times we say "Lord have mercy" in the liturgy.** This may initially be awkward, make us become fearful of what others think and lead us to develop prideful thoughts because we think we are holy. Hence isolate yourself somewhere quiet in the altar or somewhere isolated in the pews or first practice reverence in quiet weekday liturgies. Other examples of reverence are prostrating when everyone prostrates, responding with the congregation, raising our hands in prayer formation, closing our eyes and lifting our head up slightly to the heavens. Just like body language is such a profound aspect of effective communication between humans, so is bodily reverence a profound aspect of communicating with God and acquiring His grace.

**4) Pray the prayer before and after Holy Communion:** do this in every liturgy without fail. We learn this from the life of St John of Kronstadt. There is no saint in the history of the church who united himself the most to God in the liturgy than St John (his life story is incredibly amazing). He said that if there was little time and he would have to shorten other prayers, he would still never fail to pray the prayer before and after Holy Communion. Preparation for anything always increases our benefit. [Source: *The Art of Orthodoxy*]



## How to benefit from liturgy

- 1) Attend early
- 2) Sing passionately
- 3) Be reverent
- 4) Pray the prayer before and after Holy Communion
- 5) Listen carefully to the readings
- 6) Enjoy the sermon
- 7) Pray the Jesus prayer
- 8) Have faith in the liturgy
- 9) Choose quality over quantity





## 9/1: NEW CHURCH YEAR

On Friday, September 1, we gathered for Divine Liturgy and the Doxology of the New Ecclesiastical Year. Likewise, we prayed for the protection of God's natural environment. What a blessed way to begin our new church year. We prayed for our world, for our parish family, and we thanked God for those celebrating their Name Day (including those named Athena, Penelope, Thaleia, Ourania, & Margarita... part of the 40 Virgin-Martyrs and their teacher the Priest-Monk Ammon the Deacon in Thrace). Afterwards, we enjoyed brunch fellowship at Broadway Diner where Steve Theodorakis surprised us with a complimentary lunch "on him" in honor of Steve and Pamela's daughter Thaleia's Name Day.



## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew, September 3



In our lives on earth, even today, God continues to send us holy people to enlighten and guide us. They might be clergy, they might be monastics (monks and nuns), and they might be lay people such as our next-door neighbor. God also gives us signs that we are walking on the wrong side of the road instead of toward salvation. Why? Because He wants all of us to be saved and united with Him.

When we do not receive God's love and messages from the ones sent to us by Him, we reject His love and grace. We become like the servants who tried to take away the vineyard for their own profit. On the other hand, when we realize that everything we are, everything we have, and the whole creation, are all gifts of God to us, we can do no other than to offer all things to Him. We receive His Word, His Son, and the ones who call us back to God when we go astray. The Lord is the vine; we are the branches. When we turn to Him, we become a beautiful and cultivated vineyard that bears fruit for His glory and our salvation. *[From Department of Religious Education]*







THANKS BE TO GOD  
FOR MY MINISTRY



+FGT





**George Tsahakis is with Marinda Tsahakis at Saint Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church.** ...

2d · Peachtree City · 🌐

On this anniversary (9/3) of my ordination to the Holy Diaconate, I glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who vanquished evil, sin, and death. He desires us to be part of His Holy Kingdom now and forever, through our faith, worship, communion, witness, and service to Him and His Body.

In today's Gospel we hear: "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'" (Mt. 21:42)

Christ is called a stone for two reasons. First, because His foundation is solid and no one who stands upon Him will fall victim to deceitful charms or be moved by the storms of persecution. Second, Christ is called a stone because in Him is the ultimate destruction of the wicked, for just as everything which collides with a stone is shattered while the stone itself remains intact, so also everyone who opposes the Christian faith will himself be ruined, but Christianity will remain untouched. This is the sense in which Christ is the great stone. (Chrysostom)

In Eastern Christianity, the Christogram is sometimes rendered as 'IC XC NIKA' (Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς νικᾷ), meaning "Jesus Christ Conquers". This assurance is a clear reinforcement of today's Scriptural lesson of Christ's ultimate victory from the Cross and against all of His enemies.

[The Rose of Sharon blossom and the buds and leaves pictured are from a shrub I purchased and planted last year from Historic Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. We see God's power in this life and are assured of it in the life to come in His eternal Kingdom. Amen!]





**George Tsahakis is at Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta.**

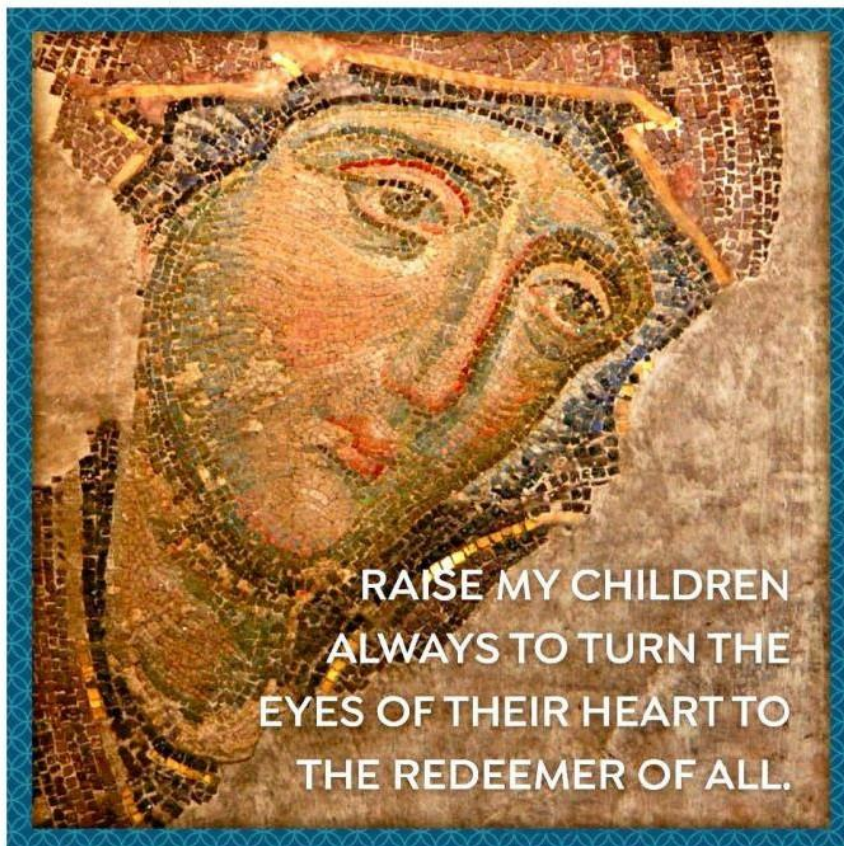
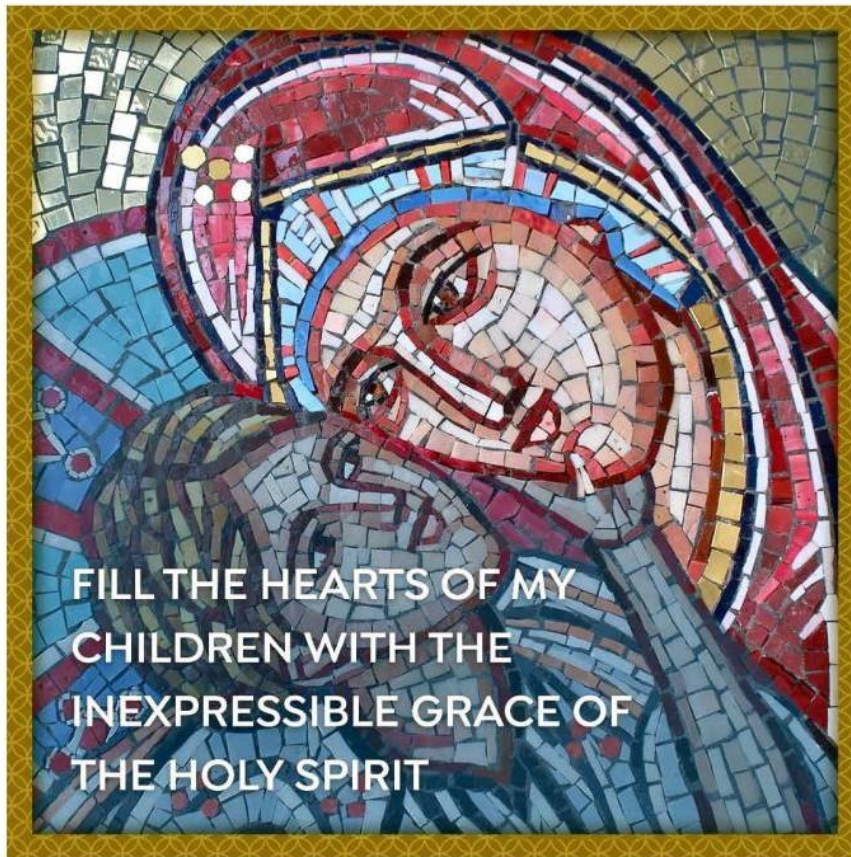


4h · Atlanta · 🌐

Sharing a glimpse of the artistry and beauty of God's blessings as I leave my office today. Glory to God always.









PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX CROSS DIVE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

HOSTED BY

## HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF MACON

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ATLANTA INTER-ORTHODOX PARISH ASSOCIATION (AIOPA)

- FELLOWSHIP ON THE BEACH AT LAKE TOBESOFKEE
- CROSS DIVE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
- BBQ DINNER AT THE UPPER PAVILLION
- HOTEL BLOCK FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY WITH US SUNDAY MORNING




PURCHASE YOUR TICKET TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG)

## 2nd Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive Event

- Saturday, September 9, 2023
- 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- Fellowship at Lake Tobesofkee Sandy Beach Park ([6800 Moseley Dixon Road, Macon, GA 31220](#))
- Cross Dive for High School students
- BBQ Dinner (\$15 per person; children 5 and under 5 are free)

## Looking ahead in Adult Religious Education

Apologetics is literally defense of the faith; the Greek word, “apologia” means “defense” as a lawyer gives at a trial. In every generation, people face the challenges, questions, and concerns of the Gospel message of the Christian faith.

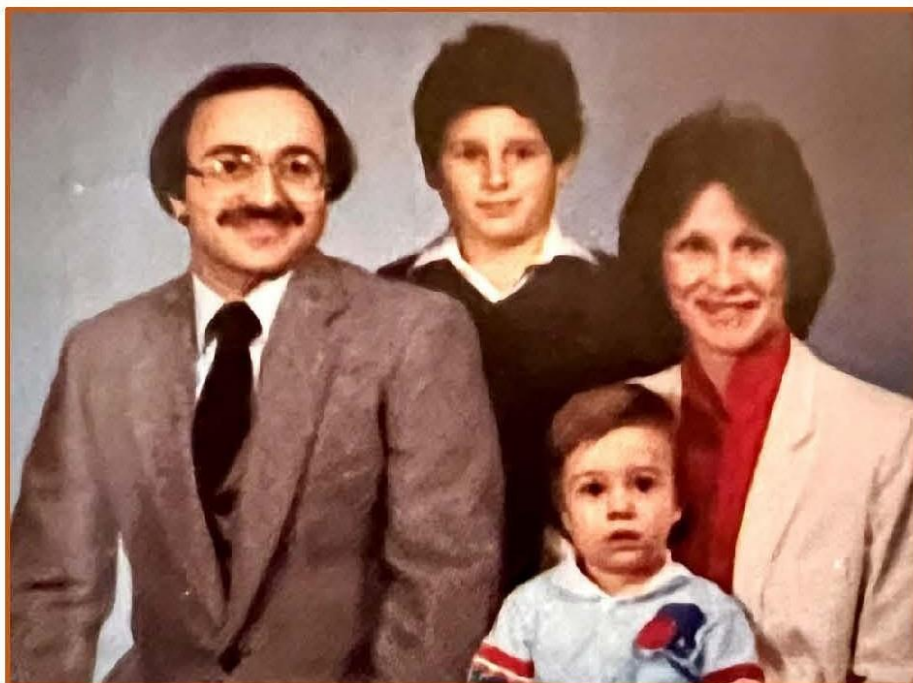


**This Sunday, 9/10,** Fr. George will use the Nicene Creed to challenge our parishioners to explore how Orthodoxy compares with the tenets of other major non-Christian religions. *Join us as we consider the uniqueness of our faith in a diverse world.*

**Next Sunday, 9/17,** Fr. George will seek to debunk common myths and stereotypes of Christian beliefs. *Join us to uncover the truth and apply it to our lives.*

**Note:** *No advanced reading is required but come prepared to engage with your classmates with in-class readings and discussion to help us “defend” our Christian faith in today’s world.*





Send Fr. George your suggestion for a caption for the above photo by [clicking here](#). Include the names of those you see if you recognize them.





## Our Sweets Have Crossed the Atlantic

Today, Fr. George received the nicest message from Kirk and Dedee Panayis who are visiting Kirk's mother, brother, sister-in-law and nephew & Godson in Rethymnon, Crete, Greece. They arrived safely yesterday afternoon and delivered the special cupcakes Presbytera Marinda made in honor of my ordination anniversary this past Sunday. They are called "Preacher's Cake" and are used by some Protestant Christians to serve when their "preacher" is invited over. They were made with coconut, walnuts, and almonds topped with a cream cheese frosting. Maria, Vasili, Effie, and Jason included their thanks and Jason added his artwork in the photos below. What a nice surprise to receive. Kirk wrote, "Even though your cupcakes were a little 'bruised' from the transportation, we enjoyed them. Thank you again." Often, the littlest gestures speak the loudest.



**Thank you and prayers for safe travels, Kirk, Dedee, and family.**



**Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association Meeting**  
**08/29/2023**

**Attendees:**

Toni Taggart, Fr. Christos Mars, Fr. George Ascente, Charles Glotzbach, Nada Saad, Fr. Anthony Salzman, Mirjana Brockett, Stephen Sarantis, Jackie Sarantis, Garret Klawuhn, Julia Hill, Fr. Tom Alessandrini, Evelyn, Fr. Gabriel Tannous

Opening Prayer offered by Fr. George Ascente.

Fr. Christos Mars welcomed everyone after the long break and gave updates from the last meeting in May. He also reviewed the following details of upcoming Assembly of Bishops Sept 2024.— We have a year to prepare.

- St. Elias will be hosting Great Vespers on September 28, 2024, with a meal to follow.
- The Annunciation Cathedral will host the Divine Liturgy on September 29, 2024, and the coffee and or meal to follow as well as all meetings taking place from October 1-2, 2024.
- Holy Transfiguration has been asked to host a public event either at their community or at some other place in Atlanta on September 29, 2024, in the evening.
- Other activities TBD

We will need as many of our Orthodox brethren to attend as possible for these events.

**Opportunities to help:**

Participate in making giveaways/gift bags for the attending Bishops.

Transportation from airport to hotel (Kleo Goumas at our parish has a limo service to the airport)

Food and snack at meeting (except for meals at church services) Fr. Christos will be receiving closer to the dates the dietary restrictions of the Hierarchs.

Help with after worship services activities. Open to ideas

Fr. George asked if any of the bishops from local parishes would be attending.—all 53 hierarchs that make up the AoB have been invited to attend and we will now closer to the date which ones are actually coming.

Budget: Each Hierarchy is responsible for own transportation and hotel fees, but everything else will be obtained from donations.

Fr. Anthony stated it would be wonderful to have dialog between bishops and parishioners. This would be a great opportunity to bring others to AIOPA.

Macon will host the 2d Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive again this year. Lunch will be provided for a modest donation of \$15. If you have any high schoolers, they can register for free to dive for the cross. All information can be found at [www.holycrossga.org/cross-dive](http://www.holycrossga.org/cross-dive). All are invited to stay

overnight and come for services the next day at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church with Orthros/Matins beginning at 9:15am and Divine Liturgy at 10:30am. Coffee fellowship and a light meal will be offered in the Parish house and hosted by the Parish Council. Address of the church is: 859 First Street, Macon, GA 31201

Akron update – they are still in process of getting set up with AIOPA program.

Closing prayer offered by Fr. Gabriel Tanous

## Thank You South Atlanta Golf Classic Volunteers!



*"The gift of time is priceless - thank you for sharing yours."* This is exactly what our Saint Christopher Outreach Ministry volunteers did. They served with their hearts to assist not only our ministry but also Folds of Honor and The Joseph Sams School. We appreciate our volunteers' willingness to give so freely of their time and service. All your volunteer efforts contributed greatly to the success of this event, whether it was before, during or after the South Atlanta Golf Classic. The Golf Committee looks forward to your continued volunteer involvement with The South Atlanta Golf Classic! To continually improve our event, all volunteers should have received a link to a 2-minute survey this week. We would appreciate your feedback. Volunteers who participated to help make the event a success were as follows:

Fr. George	Tsahakis	Paulette	Malloy
Marinda	Tsahakis	Jeanie	McGee
Chris	Adams	Michelle	Murphy
Taylor	Burrell	Amy	Murray
Becky	Butler	DeDee	Panayis
Stephen	Butler	Aimee	Panos
Danielle	Clements	Perry	Panos
Cynthia	Cromartie	Peter	Poulos
Mahany	Cromartie	George	Psihountas
Rob	Deloach	Gus	Psihountas
Gail	Ericsson	Helen	Psihountas
Darryl	Edwards	Jackie	Sarantis
Ellen	Farmakis	Steve	Sarantis
Faye	Georgio	Julie	Skouteris
Manny	Haldopoulos	Tammy	Soulakos
Kim	Haldopoulos	Marko	Taylor
Shannon	Johns	Nicola	Taylor
Pete	Kleto	Pam	Theodorakis
Susan	Kleto	Steve	Theodorakis
Holly	Longino	Julie	Torres
Ivey	Longino	Sean	Tyler
Demetra	Mavrophilipos	Bill	Wiley

Marine Core League Detachments 1196 & 1325 - Color Guard from Griffin, GA

## Thank you again to all our volunteers!





**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!**  
**To purchase, please use the QR code.**

**Questions? Contact Tammy at [tammy@soulakos.org](mailto:tammy@soulakos.org) or 404-625-4663**  
**Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**



# Fanouropites Silent Auction



Sunday, September 17  
Begins at Coffee Hour  
Ends at 11:30



Benefits Youth Activities in our Metropolis

We will have a **kids \$1 table**, too!!

**\*\*Philoptochos members are asked to bring a  
Fanouropite or homemade sweet treat!!**

**Contact Helen Psihountas at (770)-298-4493**



*"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!

Spanakopita and Tiropita are up first:

Please sign up [here](#)

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

**September 9-**

**Making Koulourakia**

Look for the Sign-Up Genius

**September 23-**

**Making Kourambiedes**

Look for the Sign-Up Genius

**October 7-**

**Making Baklava for Festival**

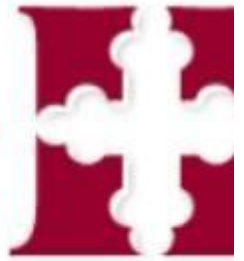
Look for the Sign-Up Genius

**More Baking Dates TBA**





*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 1, 2023



CENTER  
FAMILY CARE

## What's New This Week

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Want to find out what drives us here at the Center for Family Care? Check out our newest video to find out more about who we are and why we love what we do! [Watch here.](#)

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"Christian marriage is marked by  
discipline and self-denial..."

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



*Becoming One*



What do discipline and self-denial look like in your marriage? Take some time to consider and then discuss the strengths and growth points of the practices of discipline and self-denial in your marriage--and the fruits of those practices.

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*Happy Ecclesiastical New Year!*

You who created all things in Your infinite wisdom, and set the times by Your own authority, grant Your Christian people victories. Blessing our comings and goings throughout this year, guide our works according to Your divine will.

*Kontakion for September 01*



**HELP US IMPROVE!**

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK**

Your feedback is very important for our ministry! We need your help in responding to two very easy questions. [TAKE 2 QUESTION SURVEY HERE.](#)

# 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](#)



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For questions, please email [communications@saintchristopherhoc.org](mailto: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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