



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

January 26, 2024



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

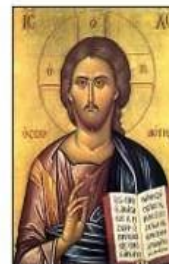
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator

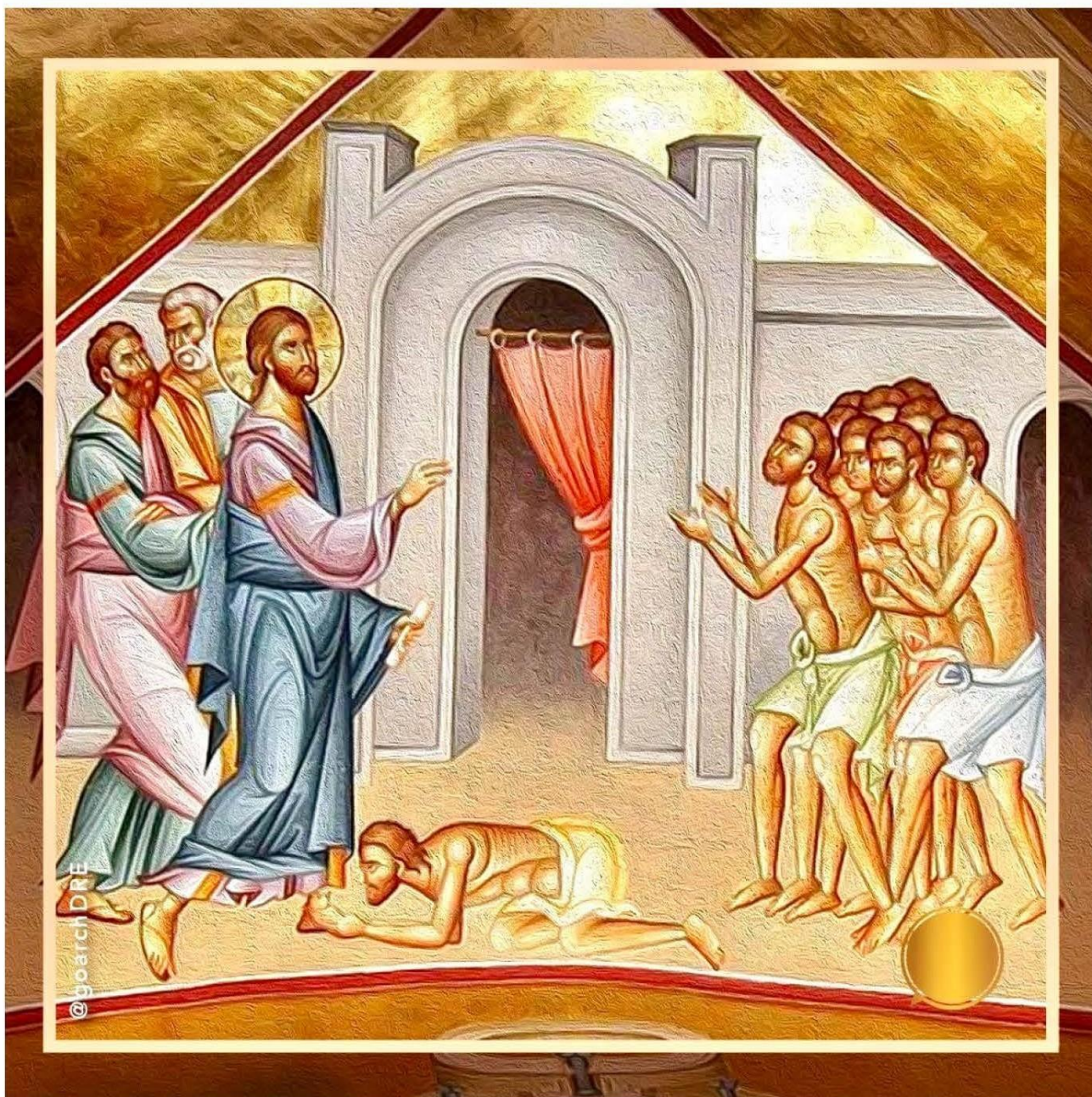


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Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 1.26.24

Mark your calendars... Pascha is in May this year. I am sharing this helpful graphic to remind you to mark your calendars with the key dates below to help you and your family prioritize your involvement.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024		
Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	TRIDION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd	The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th	GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st	ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bowl!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st	ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd	GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!	BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!



This past Sunday's Gospel lesson highlighted the Ten Cleansed Lepers found in Luke 17:12-19. The Samaritan's faith, obedience, and thankfulness are a model for all of us. And this is true especially because, without the grace of God, and if we are not near Him, our

spiritual condition is not healthy, and we need His healing. Saint Gregory Palamas says, “The ten lepers are like the entire human race. All of us were lepers because we all had fallen into sin . . . but when the Lord descended from heaven and assumed our nature, He freed it from the condemnation which came from sin.”

In other words, none of us are perfect. We still struggle with our sins and weaknesses. In that metaphorical sense, we are lepers in need of healing. However, the unconditional love God has for us is shown by the fact all we need to do is to ask, and Jesus will heal us. If we trust and obey, He will continue the process of our healing by His grace.

It is by our faith in Christ that we hear His word, and we believe in Him and His love for us. He is always compassionate, and because of His love for us, He gives us the grace and the means to healing by His power. By obeying Him, we keep His commandments and do what He teaches us to do — even when we do not understand our circumstances and even when prayers seem to go unanswered.

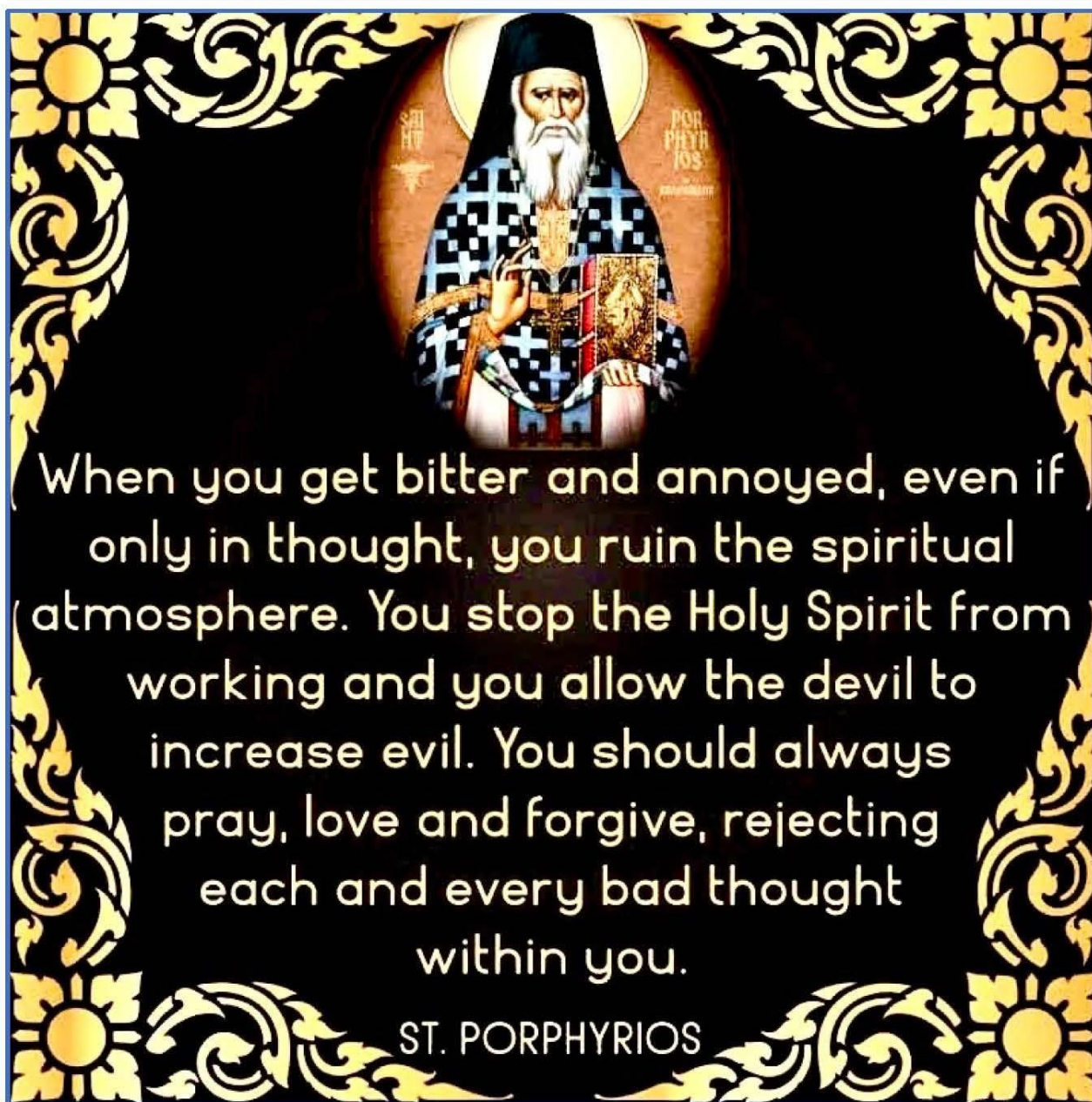
It is by our love for Christ that we express our gratitude when we come to the Lord to worship at His feet and praise Him for His great

love for us. With open and sincere hearts, we express our thankfulness to Him and His abundant provision for our lives. May we strive to be like the Samaritan, and former leper, who believed, obeyed, loved, and was grateful. Then we will hear the Lord say to us also, "Your faith has made you well!" *[adapted from Archdiocese Department of Religious Education]*

Once, a woman asked St. Porphyrios why he was happy, even though his health had been seriously endangered. To this, he responded:

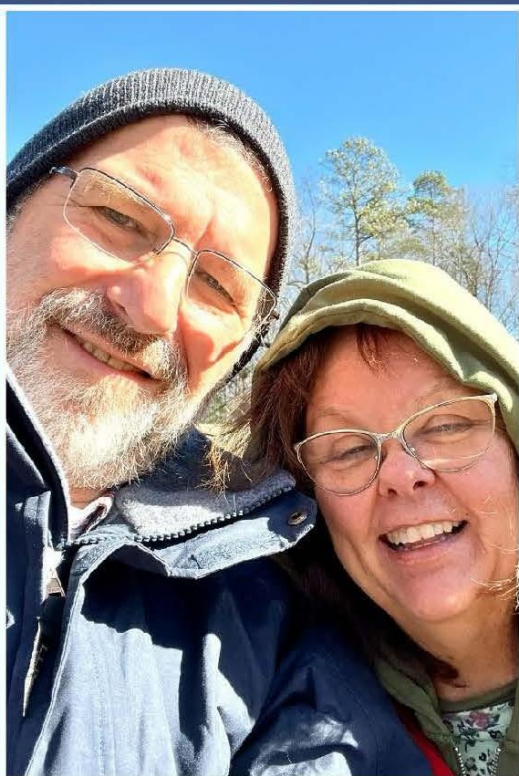


"Read the Holy Scriptures, go to Church, have a father confessor, partake of the Holy Mysteries--in one word, become a **good Christian**--and then, you will find the joy that you are seeking. You see that I am sick now, but I am joyful. Thus, when you come a bit closer to Christ, you will find joy in your life."



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

**If you
think
it's
cold
outside,
read
below...**



**The force of cold causes
us to seek warmth to
ensure our safety.
We are blessed to be
able to avoid the
outdoors, and often we
are unaware of how
difficult it is for others.**

**When we become
aware of the sacrifices
of others on our
behalf, like that
illustrated at right, we
have an opportunity
to thank those who
perform their work
regardless of
how cold it is.**



Dear Father,
Before every flight a Pilot per FAA must inspect the Aircraft. Nothing broken, Nothing detached. No leaks. That is happening Every flight. Rain or Shine or Snow. The pictures are from Grand Rapids. Temperature -17 C = -10 F and snowing. Safety does not look on temperature or weather conditions. It applies always and everywhere.

Kirk

Parish Council Oath of Office



Congratulations to our 2024 Parish Council Members who volunteered and were elected to serve our parish family. Following their oath of office, they selected this year's officers. Pictured above are George Psihountas, Assistant Treasurer and GreekFest Co-Chair, Bill Wiley, Treasurer, Stephen Sarantis, President, Steve Theodorakis, Building Committee Chair, Maria Cahill, Finance Committee Chair, Lydia McGee, Stewardship Chair, (Not Present: Julie Skouteris, Vice President and GreekFest Co-Chair, Tom Farmakis, Secretary and Building Fundraising Chair, and Tammy Soulakos, GreekFest Co-Chair).

Insights from the Metropolis of Atlanta 2007 Clergy-Laity Assembly

Each parish has four essential missions:

- † Worship
- † Evangelism
- † Teaching
- † Philanthropy

The Priest and the Parish Council make all decisions and take all actions collaboratively. The primary role of the Parish Council is to manage and coordinate the day-to-day operation of the parish, not do the detailed work!

Primary Parish Council Functions

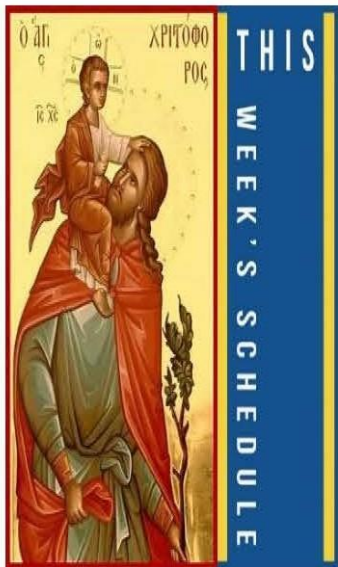
- † Planning and Development
- † Organizing and Implementing
- † Budgeting and Fiscal Administration
- † Recruiting and Training
- † Reporting and Communication
- † Accountability

Parishioner Participation

The Parish Council must seek parishioners' input regarding all changes that will impact them!



“In order for the truth to be heard, it must be spoken with love. No matter how wise and true a spoken word is it will not be conveyed to someone if it’s spoken in anger.” - Leo Tolstoy



January 28, 15th Sunday of St. Luke

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes
(for all ages)

Noon Let's EAT!



**Support Our Efforts to
Build Our Church Complex**

[Click to view](#)



Annual Vasilopita Dinner and Auction on
Saturday January 13th 2024 at 5p.m. at
All Saints Anglican Church, Fayetteville, GA
and
Donations through the Month of January
to Benefit the Children of Saint Basil Academy



Please place donations in the Hands of Love Red Box in the
entryway of the church.

or donate online by clicking on the Hands of Love tab at
<https://StChristopherPhiloptochos.square.site>

On the Eastern bank of the Hudson River, just north of Garrison, NY, stands the St. Basil Academy – a residential home for Orthodox children. The generosity of many individuals and groups have made its mission possible for more than 70 years. St Basil Academy provides shelter and nurturing in a loving Christian environment to Orthodox youth in distress from across the country.



To learn more about various programs and ways you can help, visit:
stbasil.goarch.org

Thank you for your generosity,

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

January 19, 2024



CENTER
FAMILY CARE

What's New This Week

INTRODUCING



INVESTING IN YOUR MARRIAGE

A Small Group Guide



Center *for* Family Care

New year, new content! We have a few exciting things to share with you this month...the first being our newest small group guide: Investing in Your Marriage!

This series is intended for small-group marriage ministry. It consists of six short clips taken from our webinar *"Investing in Your Marriage,"* featuring Dr. Ary Christofidis, a licensed clinical psychologist and director of the Orthodox Christian Counseling Institute in Chicago.

Each clip is accompanied by follow-up questions for couples to discuss.

The clips focus on common challenges in marriage and offer wisdom from the life of the Church to restore and strengthen the marital bond.

[DOWNLOAD TODAY!](#)

FULLY *human*



→ podcast



Arms Open Wide Blog and Virtual Storehouse

with William Gall

William Gall joins Pres. Melanie and shares about the inspiration for Arms Open Wide, a weekly blog and virtual storehouse of Orthodox Christian disability resources. Listen as he enumerates the resources and links accessible on Arms Open Wide and the various needs they address. [LISTEN HERE.](#)

"In the sacrament of marriage, a man and a woman are given the possibility to become one spirit and one flesh in a way which no human love can provide by itself. In Christian marriage the Holy Spirit is given so that what is begun on earth does not "part in death" but is fulfilled and continues most perfectly in the Kingdom of God."

Fr. Thomas Hopko



Becoming One



Consider the possibility of becoming one spirit and one flesh with your spouse and what that would look like. How do you invoke the grace of God in your marriage to realize the "*possibility*" of becoming "*one spirit and one flesh*"? What more will you begin to do?



“Antoninos’ eyes were burned from oil and tar, but filled with great compassion, you straightaway granted him healing, O Paraskevi. Rejoice, you who grant light to the blind.”



*Akathist to St. Paraskevi
the Great Martyr of Rome*

St. Paraskevi exemplified Christ’s limitless mercy when she healed her torturer. When hot tar splashed into the eyes of the person harming her, she was “*filled with great compassion*” for him. Forgiving when we or someone we love has been persecuted is not a task we can accomplish...[read more.](#)

Only 1 WEEK Left to Submit a Scholarship Application!

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



OVC SUNDAY – JANUARY 28



For more info email OVC staff Michael Sider-Rose and Kyra Limberakis at:

info@orthodoxvolunteercorps.org



www.orthodoxvolunteercorps.org

LIVE YOUR FAITH. SERVE FOR A YEAR.

Orthodox Volunteer Corps (OVC) is a yearlong domestic service program for Orthodox young adults and an official Agency of the Assembly of Bishops. We offer young adults from across the country an immersive year of service in Pittsburgh and Boston, working at homeless shelters, after-school programs, free medical clinics, and more. In addition, Corps Members receive weekly formation & training in Orthodoxy and community-based leadership development, live in community with other Orthodox young adults, and engage local parishes. Housing, transportation, and food are 100% covered.

OVC began in Pittsburgh in 2022 and is expanding to Boston this fall. To learn more, scan the QR code. Application deadline for Fall 2024 is February 22. *Applicants must be 21-29 years old.*

Nominate a young adult or apply yourself today!



CROSSROAD

Are you a high school
junior or senior?



Fill your
summer
with what **counts**

Join one of our
four sessions:

Explore what's next

CrossRoad is a ten-day immersive summer program designed for **YOU** as you prepare to make big life decisions and start new adventures.

By connecting with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition in a deep and meaningful way, you will find a place to form authentic and lifelong friendships, ask hard questions, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st century.

SESSION 1
Boston June 8-18

SESSION 2
Northern California June 18-28

SESSION 3
Boston June 22-July 2

SESSION 4
Chicago July 6-16

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Priority: January 16, 2024
Regular: February 20, 2024





The National Hellenic Society's Heritage Greece Program is a complementary, 2-week cultural immersion odyssey for accomplished Greek American college students who share their experiences with a peer group of exceptional students from the American College of Greece (ACG) in Athens, Greece or the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) in Thessaloniki, Greece. The Heritage Greece Program® goal is to connect the participants with their faith, heritage, roots, and Greek identity. For more information, visit www.hellenicsociety.org



Below you'll find all the Criteria for Eligibility:

- Enrolled college/university students aged 18-26 (undergraduate/graduate)
- Hellenic descent
- Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0
- Preference for 1st time visitors to Greece (non-mandatory criteria)

[Additional Information](#)

[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



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