

Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 3.8.24

Fr. George Tsahakis offers parishioners of St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church in Peachtree City, GA, a message of pastoral encouragement as they approach Week 3 of Holy Triodion.



**Message from Fr. George Tsahakis,
March 8, 2024**

vimeo.com

[\[Click image above to view video message\]](#)



Congratulations to our family whose son and grandson came to church for his 40 Day Blessing with his mother on Sunday, March 3rd . May God grant them many years of good health and joy.



Thanks to Maria Cahill for sharing this photo (which I cropped) depicting Frank Tagalos coaching one of our youth! What a blessing to share fellowship after worship services and religious education. Time is a gift!



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

[Click QR code
to view](#)

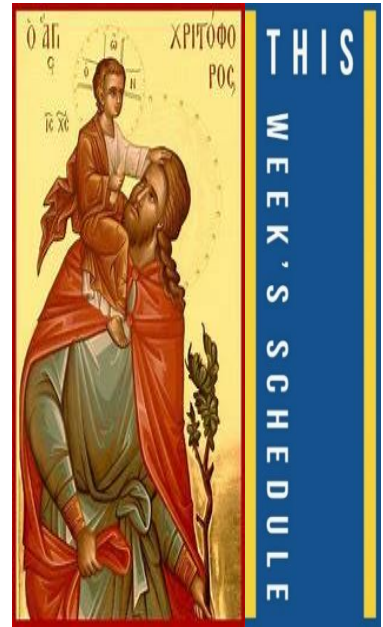


Church meetings go better on Saturday mornings with great food and fellowship for our co-workers as we work.



March 10, Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

7:45 Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy
 10:15 GreekFest Informational Meeting & Simple
 GreekFest-Style Foods
 10:30 Philoptochos Membership Drive
 11:00 Religious Education Classes (for youth only)
 11:45 Parish Council Meeting



March 16, Saturday of the Souls

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Memorial
 Service (*bring Koliva if you're able*)

March 17, Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday)

7:45 Orthros
 9:00 Divine Liturgy & Service of Forgiveness, followed by Philoptochos
 Membership Drive
 11:00 Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)
 12:00 Philoptochos General Meeting

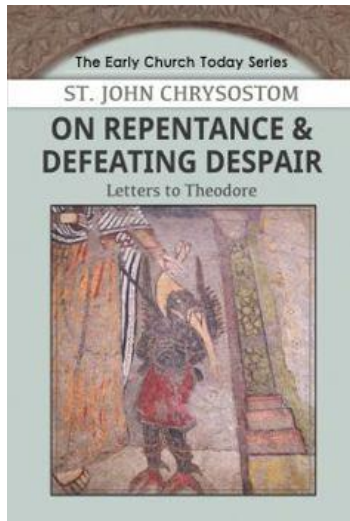
March 18, Clean Monday – 1st Day of Great Lent – Strict Fast Day

7:30 Sacrament of Holy Unction (ends at 9:00 a.m.)

March 20, 1st Wednesday of Great Lent

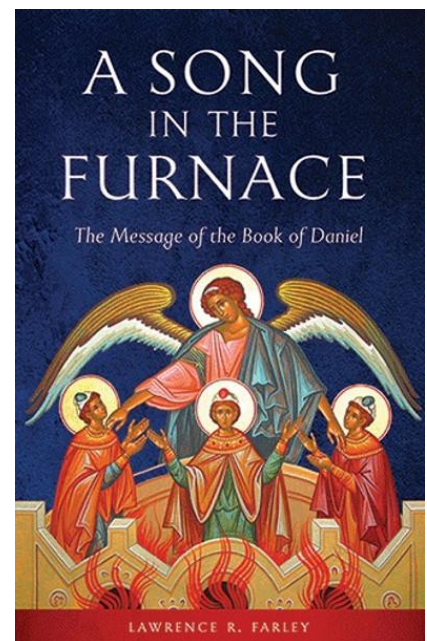
8:00 Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, followed by "Lenten
 Renewal Series". Church services will end by 9:30 a.m. for those who need to
 depart for work. For everyone else, Fr. George is offering a "Lenten Renewal Series"
 that includes a special textbook aimed at reminding us that God never abandons His
 people. *For those who are retired, work at home and can take a break, or
 homeschool, this is a great opportunity to worship and learn about our faith.
 Catechumens and others interested in Orthodoxy are encouraged to attend.*

“Lenten Renewal Series” – Books That We Will Use...

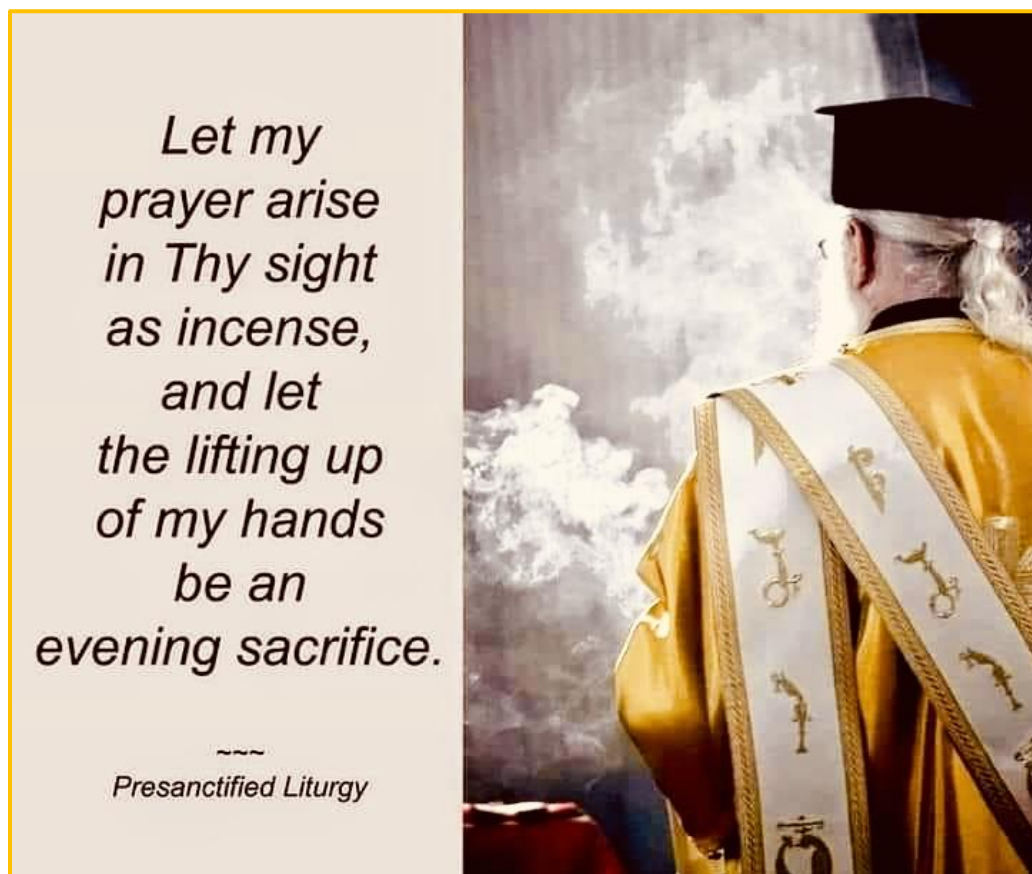
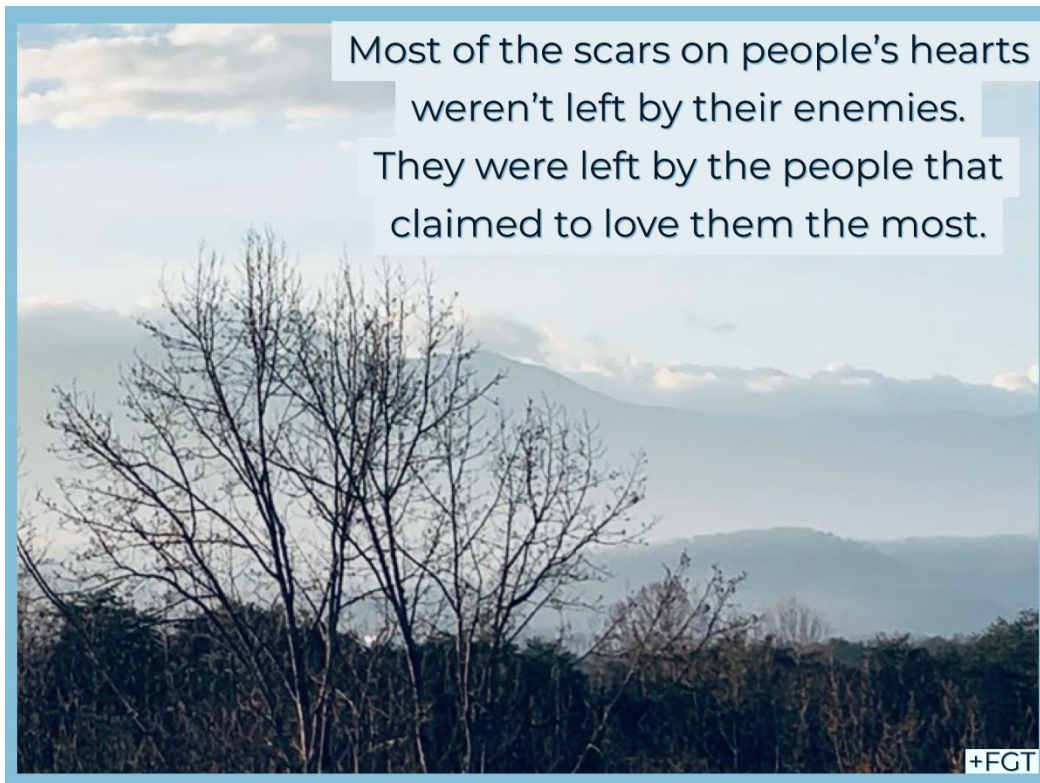


St. John Chrysostom wrote two letters to his friend Theodore, who along with St. John and his friend Basil, committed to a life of celibacy and spiritual living; however, Theodore was unable to keep his commitments and later fell into lustful passions and strayed quite a far off from godliness. These letters are St. John's heartfelt words written in anguish to his lost friend pleading for his return. The purpose of this book is to make St. John's letters to Theodore accessible to modern audiences.

The Book of Daniel should be read with the eyes of a child. It's a book of wonders and extremes—mad kings, baffling dreams with gifted interpreters, breathtaking deliverances, astounding prophecies—with even what may be the world's first detective stories added in for good measure. To argue over the book's historicity, as scholars have done for centuries, is to miss the point. In *A Song in the Furnace*, Fr. Lawrence Farley reveals all the wonders of this unique book to the receptive eye.



"Like Daniel, we also live in Babylon, awaiting its apocalyptic fall, and like Daniel's three holy and youthful friends, we also increasingly stand face to face with Nebuchadnezzar as he demands our cultural submission to an alien ideology. . . . This then is the urgent message of the Book of Daniel. As we stand before the powers of the age and hear the demand for cultural assimilation and surrender to secularism, we must make our own the words of the three young men to the king as the furnace of fury burned before them." - *from the Introduction*



Let Great Lent blossom at
your home, beginning
March 18.



THE GREAT LENT

A LIFE OF PARADISE ON EARTH

RESTORING A LIFE OF BIBLE READING, PRAYERS, AND MEDITATION

Sanctify your Body, Mind,
and Soul through Ascetic
Practices

Remember that through
Holy Baptism you are
born of Water and Spirit

Continue on the Path to
Eternal Life

Be born again through the
Renewal of the Mind

Commit ourselves to a
righteous life

Through the Sacraments of
Holy Confession and Holy
Communion, partake in the
Body and Blood of Jesus Christ



Stand firmly against Satan

Repent and Seek Forgiveness

◆ DURING GREAT LENT ◆

- ◆ Follow the Rules of Abstinence and Lenten Practices prescribed by the Church
- ◆ Read the Scriptures Daily and Pray Unceasingly
- ◆ Fast
- ◆ Participate in Church Services Regularly
- ◆ Give food to those who hunger, and drink to those who thirst
- ◆ Set aside a portion of your wealth for the Needy
- ◆ Be Enthusiastic in Good Works
- ◆ Do not be Wasteful and Avoid Arrogance
- ◆ Forgive Everyone and let go of all Grudges
- ◆ Love your Neighbor as yourself

In Support of Our Youth & Their Families

*“Neither should we expect young children to sit there quietly and act like adults; because they aren’t adults. For a child, waiting for one minute is like ten minutes.” [*Click to read “Children and the Divine Liturgy”](#)*

Most children six years old and under have short attention spans and they do require more attention and support from their parents during the service to help them connect with what is going on. So what can a parent do as they come to church on a regular basis?

Here are some suggestions.

1. Sit up front when you come to Church

When you sit up front, it enables a child to see more clearly what is going on in the service. For young kids between two and five we have books in the pew to describe what is going on during worship.

Read that with your child as the service is going on and point out how what they see in the book is actually going on in church. For older children (eight to twelve) we have Divine Liturgy books for youth in the pews that they can follow which do an excellent job of explaining the liturgy with words and images.

2. Feel free to move around in the Church

Instead of removing a child from church because they are noisy, walk around with them in the nave and show them the church. This is a very good thing you can do with children between six to eighteen months old. I have no problem with parents roaming in the space of worship and showing their children the icons on the iconostasis and on the walls of the church. Young children will drink this up and love it. This is not avoidance; this is encounter.

Let them see, let them touch the icon, kiss the icon yourself, and eventually your child will kiss it. Tell them these are holy people in our church who followed Jesus. Remind your young child who has been baptized that Jesus lives inside him or her.

Highlighting Our Religious Education Ministry All-Stars (1 of 2)



Highlighting Our Religious Education Ministry All-Stars (2 of 2)



Dear Abby:

This is a message about our senior population. Our children grow up, marry and have children.

**DEAR
ABBY**
*Syndicated
columnist*



Each grandchild is special. We love them and adore being with them. Then the grandkids grow up and have little ones of their own. By this time we're old and sometimes need help with housework, yard

work, or just would like to get out of the house to go eat or shop. We still have feelings, and we're not dead. But while it may not be intentional, it seems there is no time for the elderly.

We may say we're fine and don't mind being alone, but it IS lonely at times. No one calls to say hello or ask if we need anything. How long does it take to make a call? It would be nice if each family member called once a week or came by once a month. The love we've always had for family is still there and strong.

Children and grandchildren, please think about this and remember: The most important thing you can give your elderly relatives is your TIME. Time is the most precious gift of all and doesn't cost a thing. Someday you will be old, too!

— Wise Woman in North Carolina

BE THE PERSON WHO
BREAKS THE CYCLE.

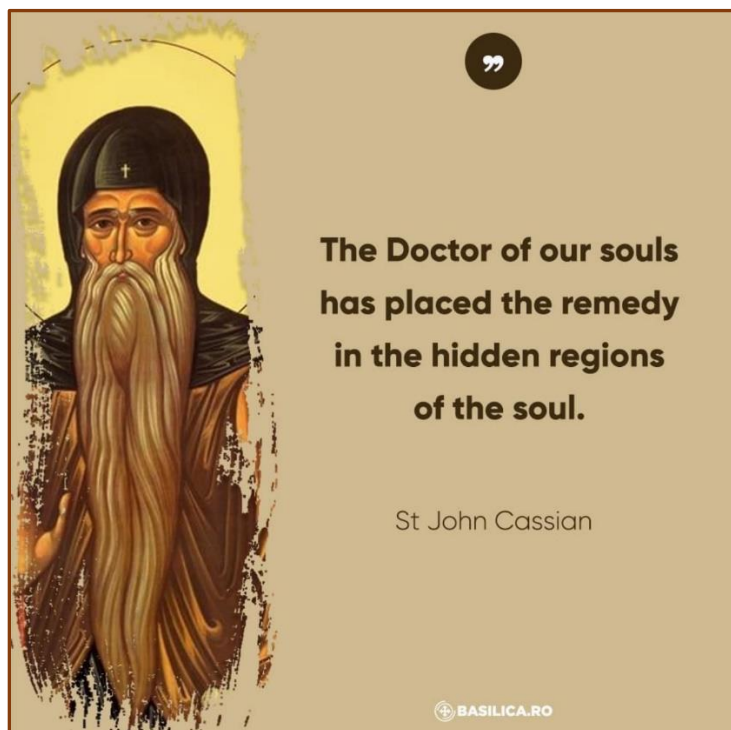
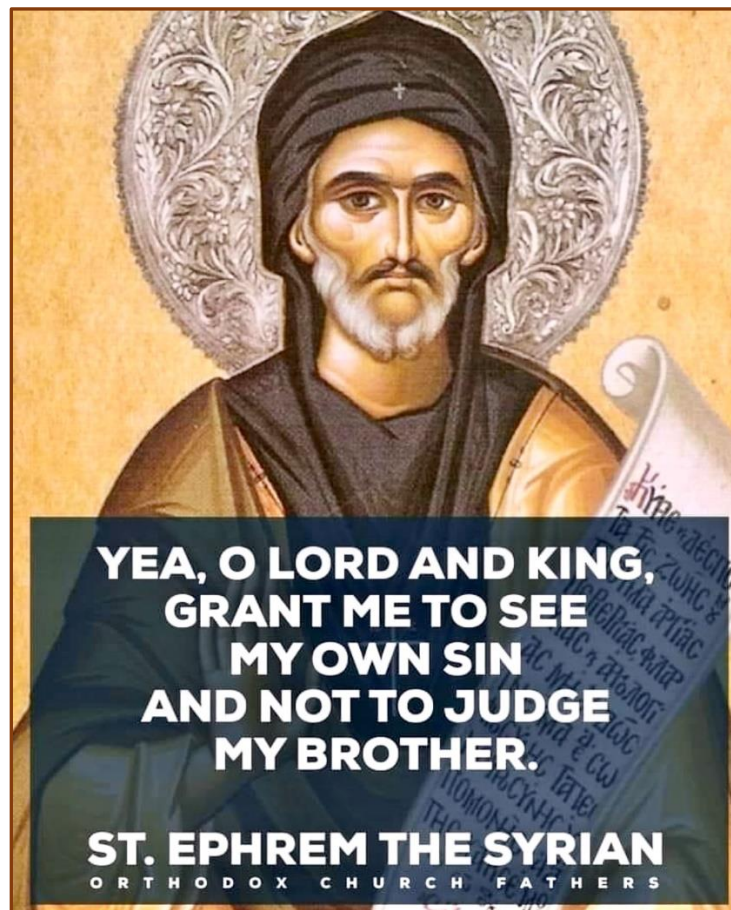
If you were judged, choose
understanding.

If you were rejected, choose
acceptance.

If you were shamed, choose
compassion.

Be the person you needed
when you were hurting,
not the person who hurt
you.

Vow to be better than what
broke you—to heal instead
of becoming bitter so you
can act from your heart,
not your pain.



Join Us for Two Saturdays of the Souls Memorial Services on Saturday, March 16, & Saturday, March 23

Saturday of the Souls is a day set aside for the commemoration of the dead within the liturgical year of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Saturday is a traditional day of prayer for the dead because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday.

These days are devoted to prayer for departed relatives and others among the faithful who would not be commemorated specifically as saints. Church services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is a Memorial Service after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, for which Kolyva is prepared. After the Service, the Priest blesses the Kolyva. It is then eaten as a memorial by all present.



Saturday of Souls Listing of Names

Fr. George will offer two Saturday of the Souls Memorial Services on Saturday, March 16 and Saturday, March 23. He will read the FIRST NAMES of our departed family and friends that are submitted by noon the Friday before each service. For those who wish to offer Kolyva, we welcome your kindness and will distribute it to those present. May the memory of our faithful be eternal.

[Click here to Submit Your Saturday of the Souls Names](#)