



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

March 29, 2024



## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

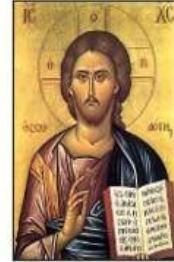
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

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

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

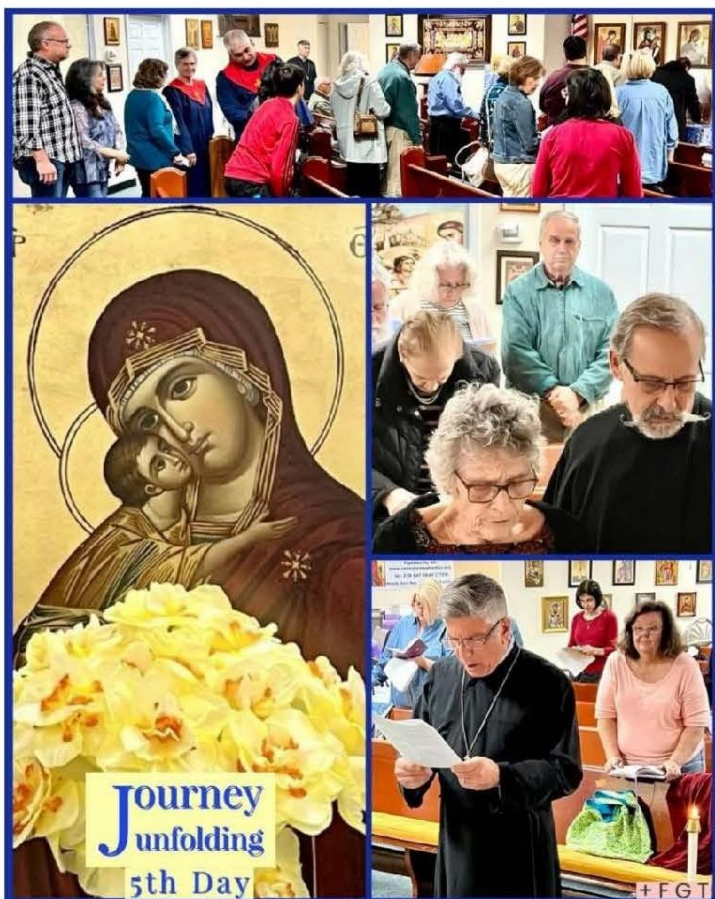
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



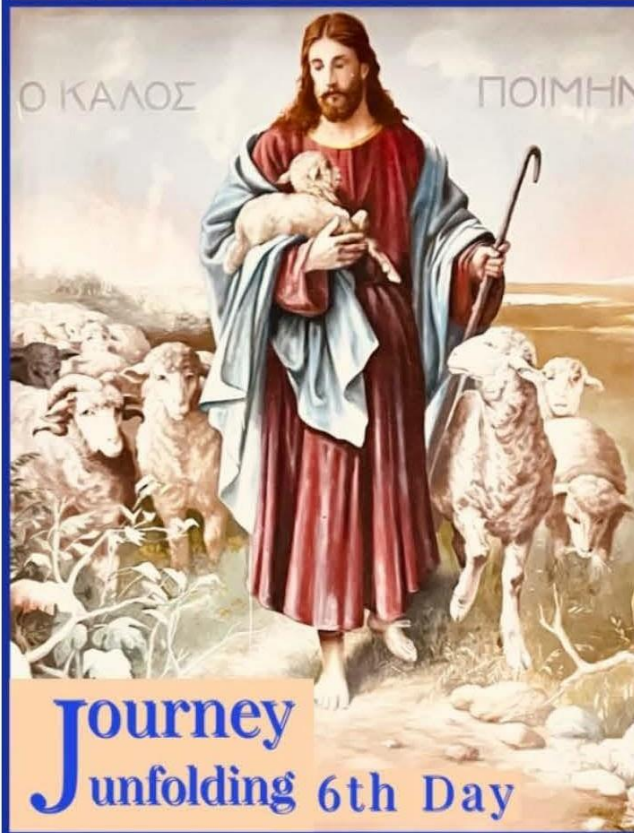
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## Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 3.29.24













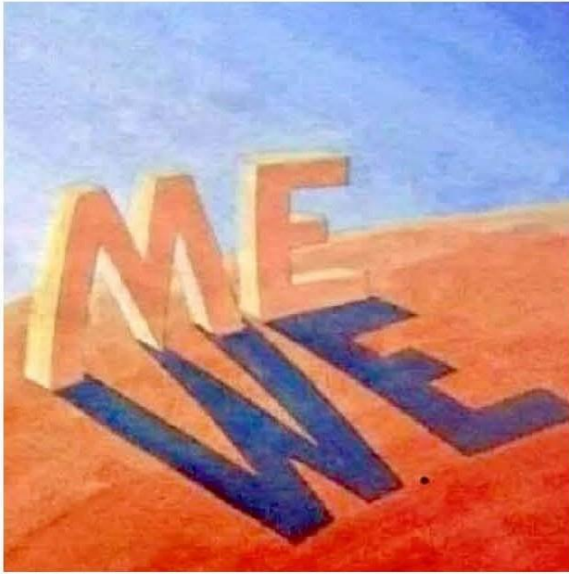
*Fr. George commends our Grandparents who are teaching their grandchildren to make Prosfora. In addition to Lydia McGee, Fr. George is aware that Susan Kleto, Julie Torres, and Presbyteria Marinda have been teaching their grandchildren also. Let us all follow their lead!*

*In the following video, Fr. George Tsahakis highlights parishioners who participated in our Procession of Holy Icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy at St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church in Peachtree City, GA.*



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





*Fr. George and our Religious Education 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their teachers, Presbytera Marinda and Lydia, are grateful to Kirk Panayis for organizing the first floor religious education/storage room and the upstairs religious education/ storage room in advance of our April 6<sup>th</sup> Clean-up Day.*





### **Prayer of St. Ephrem**

**O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and idle talk to come into me.**

**Instead, grant me, Your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love.**

**Yes, Lord and King, give me the power to see my own faults and not to judge my brother. For You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.**

*\*Thanks to Kirk Panayis for sharing the sunset photo taken in Peachtree City.*





Great Vespers for the Annunciation, officiated by His Grace Bishop Neophytos of Eldoret & Northern Kenya. Chronia Polla to all who celebrate their Name Day on 3/25.





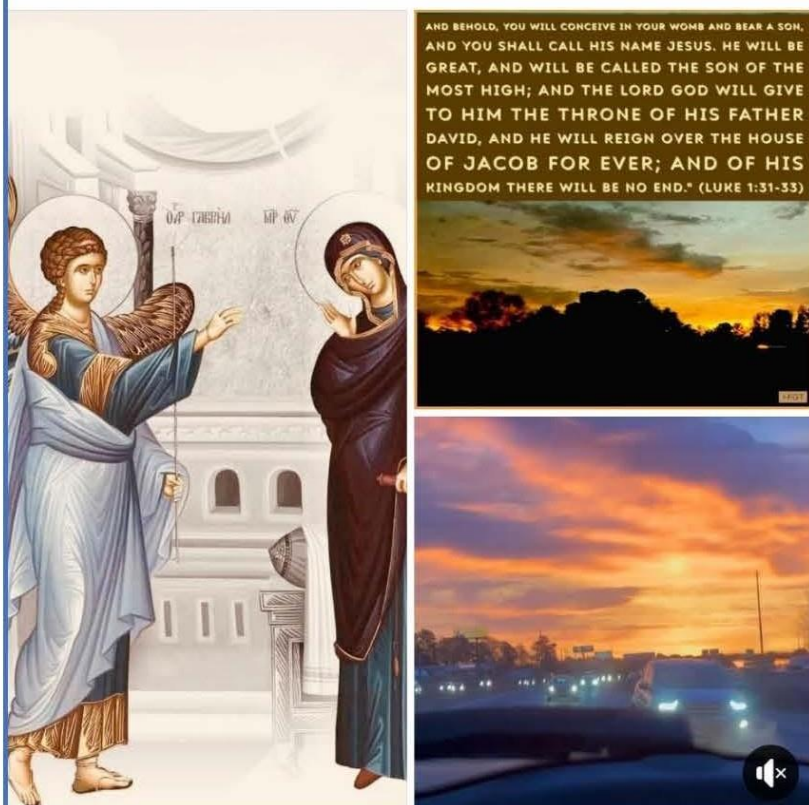


Fr. George is thankful for our St. Christopher parishioners who attended the Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral on Sunday evening, March 24<sup>th</sup> with His Grace Bishop Neophytos of Kenya and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta. Chronia Polla to our Cathedral family for its Name Day. The kind and sweet woman in the photo with Fr. George & Presbyteria Marinda is Poppy Skoufis, beloved aunt of our Costas Soulakos. Her husband, George, could not be present. They are generous supporters of our parish and have served as pillars of our Annunciation Cathedral and Holy Metropolis of Atlanta. Chronia Polla to all!

A deep heart-felt thanks to our parishioners who answered Fr. George's appeal to assist Bishop Neophytos with humanitarian relief to the suffering in his Diocese in Kenya: *Kirk & Dedee Panayis, Victor & Julie Torres, Perry & Aimee Panos, Steve & Jackie Sarantis, Steve & Pam Theodorakis, George & Helen Psihountas, Jeanie & Tony McGee, Pete & Susan Kleto, Anonymous, and Fr George & Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis*. His Grace Bishop Neophytos was very appreciative for their gift of \$2,740 collected on Sunday. He conveyed His blessings upon our parishioners for their help.



God blessed early morning Atlanta commuters on this day that the Orthodox Church celebrates the Annunciation to the Theotokos of the Good News of Jesus's Incarnation.

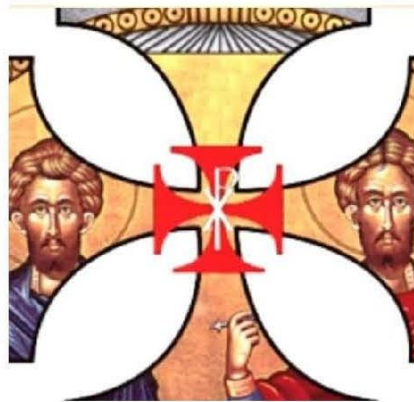


On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Feast of the Annunciation to the Theotokos, we celebrated the Good News of Jesus' Incarnation and

redemptive salvation to liberate humanity from sin and death. Likewise, we remembered the fight for freedom that began March 25, 1821 – Greek Independence Day.

*To witness these blessings, Fr. George sent to each household whose family was present what he called "freedom bread" from the bountiful supply of Prosfora made by Julie Skouteris and Helen Psihountas for the Divine Liturgy that day. Chronia Polla to all celebrating this Feast Day!*





Our 2023-2025 Philoptochos  
Chapter Board:

Dedee Panayis  
*President*

Cynthia Cromartie  
*1st Vice President*

Julie Torres  
*Recording Secretary*

Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Aimee Panos  
*Treasurer*

Misty Duke  
*Assistant Treasurer*

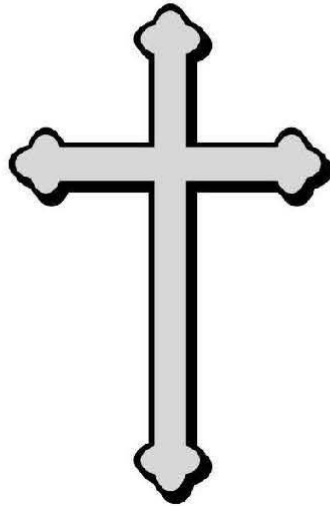
Helen Psihountas  
*Chapter Advisor*



*Congratulations to Aimee Panos being elected as new Treasurer of our Philoptochos Chapter (receiving Oath of Office as Board Officer assisted by Cynthia Cromartie). Congratulations to Julie Torres being elected Recording Secretary. We commend their service.*

## **Good Friday Service**

**March 29, 2024, 7:00 pm**

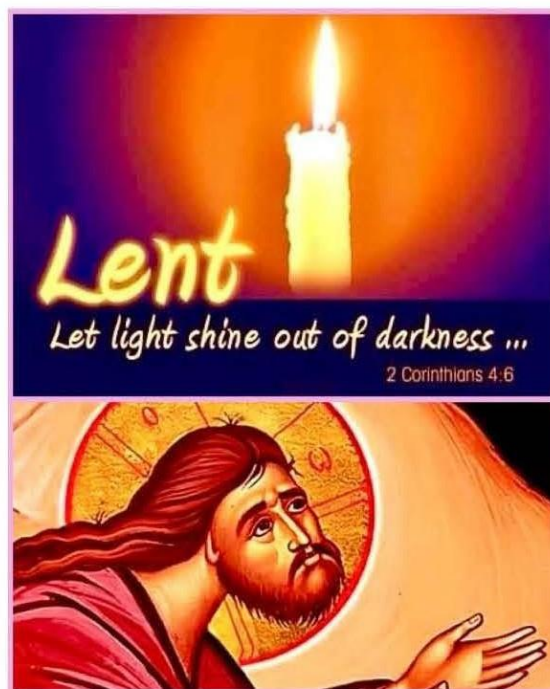


**You and your family  
are invited to the  
[Western] Good Friday Service  
at All Saints Anglican Church  
in Fayetteville, GA.**

**Fr. George Tsahakis and  
other Clergy will offer  
a reflection of the  
Last Words of our Lord  
from the Cross**

**All Saints Anglican Church  
149 Ebenezer Road, Fayetteville, GA 30215**






**We ought not, as soon as we leave church, to plunge into business unsuited to church, but as soon as we get home, we should take the Scriptures into our hands, and call our wife and children to join us in putting together what we have heard in church.**

**St. John Chrysostom**

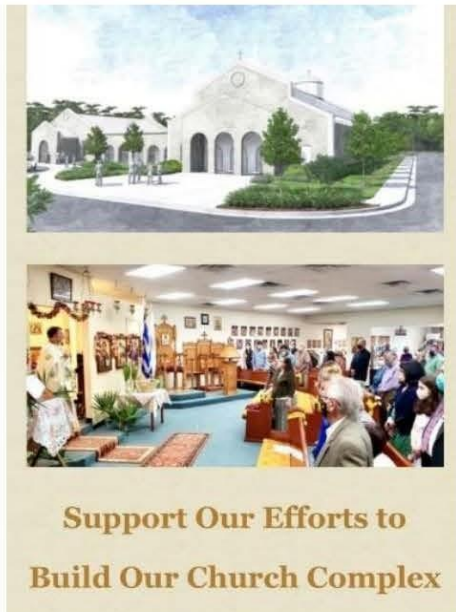
BASILICA.RO

## 9 RULES FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE FROM ST BENEDICT OF NURSIA



Prefer nothing to the love of Christ	Know for certain that God sees you everywhere	Venerate the seniors and love the juniors
Do not make a false peace	When you see any good in yourself attribute it to God, not to self	When you begin anything, pray that it may be carried through by Him to its conclusion
In case of discord with anyone make peace before sunset	In the love of Christ pray for your enemies	Do not wish to be called holy before you are





[Click QR  
code  
to view](#)



**March 27, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Great Lent**

**8:00 Service of the 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, followed by “Lenten Renewal Series”**

**March 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Great Lent**

**4:45 Salutations to the Theotokos Service & 15-minute Catechism Session**

**7:00 Good Friday (Western) Ecumenical Service at All Saints Anglican Church** *(Fr. George will join Fr. Michael Fry and other local clergy and reflect on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross. All of our parishioners are invited to join us.)*

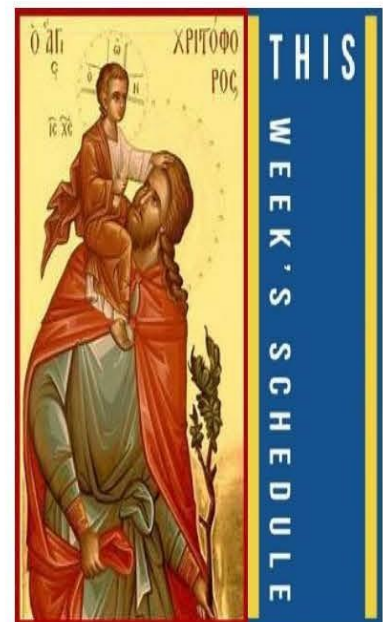
**March 31, Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas (Western Easter)**

**7:45 Orthros**

**9:00 Divine Liturgy**

**10:45 Religious Education Classes**

**12:00 Let’s EAT! at Broadway Diner**





**What is Needed??**

**~ ~ Sell Tickets and Sponsorships ~ ~**

**Share the link below with family, friends, coworkers!!**

**Click for Sponsorships & Tickets: <https://www.greekfestfayette.com/>**

**This is a Fundraiser to support OUR Building Fund and  
Charities within OUR community.**

**With a \$100.00 ticket OUR Guests will Enjoy ALL of this!**

- **Appetizers - Spanakopita, Tiropita's, and Dolmades**
- **Dinner - Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Green Beans, Pastitsio, Souvlaki, Gyros, Giouvetsi, Fresh Baked Bread, Tzourlou Tzourlou**
- **Dessert - Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia**
- **Water, soft drinks, beer and wine**

**\*Guests will enjoy a Live Greek Band and Greek Dancing – OPA!**

**Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-greekfest/>**

**Any Questions?**

**Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs**

**Tammy Soulakos – [tammy@soulakos.org](mailto:tammy@soulakos.org)**

**Julie Skouteris – [gsjs401mg@gmail.com](mailto:gsjs401mg@gmail.com)**

**Steve Theodorakis – [spamandchees@bellsouth.net](mailto:spamandchees@bellsouth.net)**



**Thank you for YOUR Support!**





# **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

**Mark your calendars!**

**Saturday, April 6th, 9am**

**Come join the fun and fellowship!  
Annual Church Spring Cleaning Day  
Watch for a Sign up in the Narthex**





*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**

*This month we are partnering with Bloom Our Youth, founded by local airline pilot Jim Friday and serving as a resource for foster children and their families for more than 35 years. To learn more: <https://bloomouryouth.org>*



*The Bloom Ball Gala this year will be at the Georgia Aquarium on Saturday, April 27 inspiring success in serving foster families. Bloom Family Resource Center - a pilot program, aiming to remove at-risk issues and keep children with their birth families.*

*To help stock the Bloom Closet with school supplies, toiletries, toys and new or very lightly used clothing for children from infants through teens, please place your in-kind donations in the bin in the church entry and your monetary donations and gift cards in the red "Hands of Love" box or donate online: <https://stchristopherphilopectochos.square.site/product/hands-of-love/57?cs=true&cst=custom>*

*Faithfully yours, Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Ministry Chair*



***"Fostering has been one of the most rewarding experiences we could ever ask for. The children that have come into our care have not only become a part of our family, but also our hearts. As foster parents, we've been blessed with the opportunity to provide a loving, nurturing, and safe environment for children in need. There is nothing more precious than seeing the smile on the face of a child for the first time, it brings us so much joy and happiness."***

**SHARDE AND AARON, BLOOM FOSTER PARENTS**

***"Attending the Bloom Ball is one of the best ways to support foster children in need," said Mayor Vince Williams, board chair for Bloom. "This is the largest fundraising event of the year for Bloom, and we are thrilled by the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding this year's event being held at the Georgia Aquarium. Sponsors and attendees of the Bloom Ball will not only enjoy a fun night out but more importantly, funds raised will help make a powerful impact in the lives of foster children." Funds raised through the Bloom Ball will propel Bloom's mission to provide safe, nurturing foster homes, clothing, toys, school supplies, and other necessities for thousands of foster children across Georgia***





## Youth, Education & Hellenic Culture

*'Let Us Lift Up Our Hearts'*

~Lamentations of Jeremiah 4:37



Recognized as the highlight of the year, St. Stephen's Camp offers youth of the Metropolis of Atlanta **entering 6th-12th** grades an opportunity to spend a week at our beloved Diakonia Retreat Center. Campers are only allowed to attend camp for only one week.

Campers are may attend ANY week of camp that fits their family's schedule. We encourage campers to not come with their parish.

## Camper Registration

Week 1: June 23 - June 29

Week 2: June 30 - July 6

Week 3: July 7 - July 13

Week 4: July 14 - July 20

Week 5: July 21 - July 27

**Camper Registration Opens  
Thursday, March 28 at 12:00 p.m. ET**

**Registration Cost is \$525.00 per camper**

\$250.00 deposit upon registration and the remainder will be due by June 15, 2024.

**[2024 Camper Registration Information](#)**



## Staff Applications



St. Stephen's is looking for 20 staffers for each week of camp. We are accepting applications for Logistic Coordinator, Medical Professionals, Cabin, Arts & Crafts, Lifeguard, Ropes Course Leaders and Utility Staff.

All applicants must be 18 years old with one year post high school experience.

[Click here to APPLY for the best week\(s\) of the year!](#)

## Amazon Wishlist

Even if you cannot join us during **St. Stephen's Camp**, you can still be part of our St. Stephen's Family! Our **Amazon Wishlist** has items needed during the five weeks of St. Stephen's. All items are shipped to the Metropolis of Atlanta office in Atlanta, GA. Please add your name and local parish to gift receipt, so we can thank you.



[To donate to Diakonia Retreat Center - Click Here.](#)

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



## 2024 Lenten Retreat

When: **April 12<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup> 2024**

(Arrival on Friday between 3:30 - 5:30 pm & Departure on Saturday 2:30 pm)

Where: **Diakonia Retreat Center, 455 Quail Ridge, Salem, SC 29676**

(time to enjoy nature with canoeing, hikes, bonfire, etc.)

check out the website: <https://www.thediakoniaretreatcenter.com>

Cost: **\$75 Per Person**

Theme: **Enter Lent with Spiritual Spring Cleaning**

Presenters: **Fr. Stephen Muse (Holy Image, Holy Blood)**

**What Forensic Studies Of The Shroud Can Tell Us  
About The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus**

**Fr. Barnabas Powell "Be Watchful - Be Sober: St.  
Paul's Wisdom for Spiritual Maturity."**

Details on accommodations:

- To keep our cost down each person is asked to bring their own towels, sheets, blanket & pillow (sleeping bag is a good alternative)
- Families will be grouped in the lodge rooms (4 bunk beds) we will try and keep 2 people to each room unless you request otherwise
- Bathrooms will be shared - no more than 2 rooms will share a bathroom
- Lenten meals will be provided - please let Evelyn know if you have diet restrictions or allergies
- Some activities will be outdoors so double check the weather before you pack as it might be cold outside
- RSVP to [communications@stsrni.org](mailto:communications@stsrni.org)





# 2024 Lenten Retreat

**Theme: Enter Lent with Spiritual Spring Cleaning**

## **Agenda:**

### **Friday, April 12th**

- 3:30 - 5:30 pm Arrival - Registration & Check in to rooms
- 6:00 - 6:50 pm Dinner
- 7:00 - 7:30 pm Vespers
- 7:30 - 8:30pm 1st Session Fr. Stephen Muse (Holy Image, Holy Blood)
- 9:00 - 10:00 pm Bonfire

### **Saturday, April 13th**

- 7:00 - 7:15 am Matins Prayers in meeting hall
- 7:30 - 8:30 am Breakfast
- 8:45 - 9:45 am 2nd Session Fr. Stephen Muse (Holy Image, Holy Blood)
- 10:00 - 11:00 am Movement Activity
- 11:30 - 12:30 pm Lunch
- 12:45 - 2:15 pm Fr. Barnabas "Be Watchful - Be Sober: St. Paul's Wisdom for Spiritual Maturity."
- 2:15 pm Dismissal Prayers

**SAINT PHOTIOS GREEK ORTHODOX NATIONAL SHRINE  
2024 DRAWING COMPETITION IN  
COMMEMORATION OF THE FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

The Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine announces the Fourth Annual Drawing Competition, underwritten by the Toundas family of Jacksonville, Florida. All children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America are invited to submit a drawing of this famous 13<sup>th</sup> century mosaic, the Deesis.



*Figure 1 Deesis Icon of Hagia Sophia photo by Bob Atchison*

Located in the upper south gallery of Hagia Sophia, this icon was concealed for centuries after the Fall of Constantinople in 1453.

The Virgin Mary and John the Baptist turn to Christ, the Son of God. The figures are two and a half times larger than life.

After a very tumultuous time in the Queen City, the icon was likely commissioned in 1261 by Emperor Michael VIII Paleologos. He reclaimed the Byzantine capital after the Latin period. The south gallery was traditionally reserved for imperial use.

**ELIGIBILITY:** This competition is open to all children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. *There are no fees for participation.*

**PRIZE:** One grand prize of \$250.00.

**DUE DATE:** All submissions must be sent in jpeg format with a photo of the artist. The drawing and photo must be received at [info@stphotios.com](mailto:info@stphotios.com) by **Friday, May 17, 2024** with Drawing Contest 2024 in the subject of the email. The Winner will be announced on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at the Fall of Constantinople Commemoration Memorial which will be streamed on the St. Photios National Shrine Facebook page.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

1. One 2-dimensional drawing of *Hagia Sophia*, on 8 ½" by 11" paper (landscape/horizontal view). All submissions will become property of the Saint Photios National Shrine.
2. The following media (or combination of media) may be used: crayon, marker, colored pencil, watercolor paint.
3. Two high-definition photographs of drawings; one of the drawing itself (alone), and one including the artist holding the original drawing.
4. Contact information including artist's name, age, home address, parish affiliation, and parent or guardian's email address. Once this information is received, a parental consent form will be emailed, authorizing use of the photos solely for the purpose of the Drawing Contest ministry.
5. Tip: visit YouTube Channel, Smarthistory, Jun 8, 2014, Deesis mosaic, Hagia Sophia, Istanbul for a close up look and more information about this icon.





## BYZANTINE CHANT & ICONOGRAPHY

August 18-24, 2024  
at The Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem SC

**Apply Online - beginning March 20**

The 2024 Liturgical Arts Academy application process begins March 20 [online](#) for Chant and Iconography.

### What's New at TLAA 2024?

- The Chant Academy is offering Intermediate, Advanced and Master Class levels.
- Instructors are Protopsaltes John Michael Boyer, Samuel Herron, and Photini Downie Robinson.
- There will not be a beginner level at the summer Academy, but look for a 2025 winter Academy for beginners.

We the Staff and Instructors, wish you all a spiritually renewing lenten journey to Great and Holy Pascha.



### Byzantine Chant Workshop

with John Michael Boyer, Samuel Herron, Photini Downie Robinson



### Iconography Workshop

with  
Fr. Anthony Salzman

*Register early -- we expect to fill up quickly.*

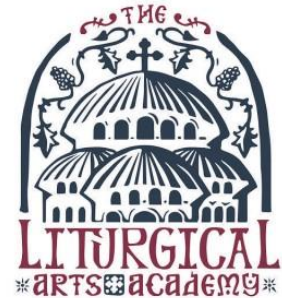
# Who's Chanting?

The Liturgical Arts Academy offers training in  
Byzantine Chant & Iconography

at The Diakonia Retreat Center

TLAA is a 1-week intensive program, training up a new generation  
of chanters for every chant stand, in every church, at every service!

Please visit our website for more information.



[TheLiturgicalArts.org](http://TheLiturgicalArts.org)  
[info@TheLiturgicalArts.org](mailto:info@TheLiturgicalArts.org)

## Support The Liturgical Arts Academy



Tax-deductible donations to TLAA will be matched  
dollar for dollar by a generous grant from  
**The Renaissance Fund**



Make checks payable to: The Liturgical Arts Academy,  
mail to: TLAA Treasurer, c/o D. Triantafyllides, 418 Colville Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207  
Online Donations can be made at [www.TheLiturgicalArts.org](http://www.TheLiturgicalArts.org)



TIAA is a division  
of the  
Orthodox Christian  
Academy of Atlanta  
[OCAAtl.com](http://OCAAtl.com)





March 26, 2024



CENTER  
FAMILY CARE

## What's New This Week

WEEK TWO

### snapshots from pre- sanctified liturgy

exploring the hymns  
as a family



Why does the priest veil himself when bringing around the Holy Gifts in the Great Entrance during Pre-Sanctified Liturgy?

Watch this week's "Snapshots from Pre-Sanctified Liturgy" [HERE](#) to find out!



The increased prayer services, fasting, and almsgiving guidelines during Lent can seem illusive to families with disabilities. Discerning ways in which the whole family can journey often causes frustration. This webinar provides tools, ideas, and lessons learned for helping your family enjoy a fruitful Lent. [WATCH HERE.](#)

"Marriage....Its aim is for two people to live in the right psychological and spiritual communion, to help each other acquire the fulness and the perfection that God foreordained for man. Thus, the first purpose of marriage is to train Christians in humble love which is a shadow of the selfless love that God destined us to have for Him."

*Archimandrite Zacharias Zachary*



*Becoming One*



What implication/s do these words of Father Zacharias have for your marriage? How does your love for your spouse help you to grow in love for Christ?





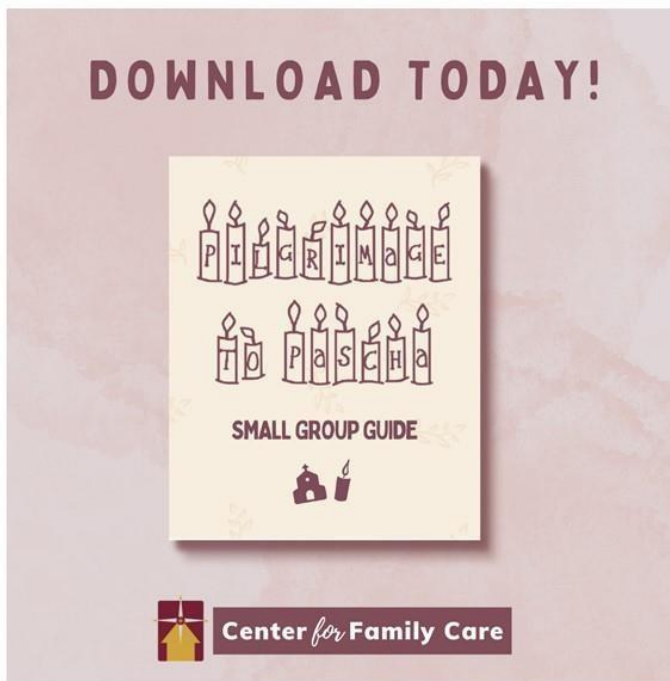
**LENTEN** 

 **RESOURCES**

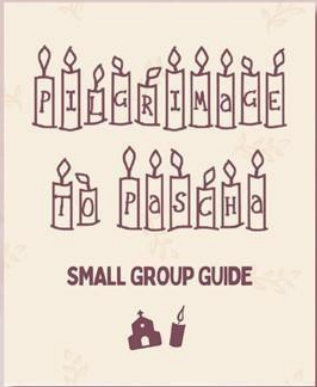
 **FOR COUPLES & FAMILIES** 


- articles
- video series
- activities
- podcasts
- webinars

 **Center for Family Care**



**DOWNLOAD TODAY!**



 **Center for Family Care**

Just in time for Lent! Our Lenten package, *Pilgrimage to Pascha*, includes weekly guides for parish small groups centered around 8 brief videos highlighting the key signposts, or tools for growing our faith, used along the Church's Lenten journey.

[Download the FREE small group guide here.](#)

[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](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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