



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator

Pastoral Message from Fr. George, October 22, 2025

A Message of Joy & Invitation: 2025 South Atlanta Annual Golf Classic



Dear Beloved in Christ,

With hearts full of gratitude and joy, I invite you to join our parish family and community for the **2025 South Atlanta Golf Classic**



on Monday, October 27th at Eagles Landing Country Club. This annual event is more than a day of sport—it is a ministry of fellowship, compassion, and service.

Through your participation, we support five extraordinary ministries that embody Christ's call to love and serve:

Saint Christopher Community Outreach, which uplifts those in need through direct parish ministry to our surrounding neighbors and community. Its assistance supports

our new church complex by bringing it closer to fruition.

Our Lord shared: "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" — Matthew 5:16

Folds of Honor, a national nonprofit that provides aid, comfort, and resources to military personnel, veterans, and their families.

Our Lord taught: "*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*" — John 15:13

The Joseph Sams School, a private, nonprofit institution in Fayetteville, GA, dedicated to educating and empowering children and





young adults with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities. Our Savior assured His followers: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me."* — Matthew 25:40

Metropolitan Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center, a sacred space for spiritual renewal, youth and adult formation, and Orthodox education. Jesus instructed: *"Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while."* — Mark 6:31

Philoptochos Society, whose ministry of love and philanthropy continues to bless countless lives. King Solomon taught: *"She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy."* — Proverbs 31:20



Pastoral Encouragement



To our golfers—thank you for bringing energy and joy to this event.

To our sponsors—your generosity is a blessing that multiplies hope.

To our volunteers—your dedication makes this ministry possible.

To our parish and community supporters—your prayers and presence unite us as one team family in Christ.

As your Pastor, I rejoice in knowing that our efforts not only meet the needs of our broader community, but also help build the future of our parish. With God's grace, excess proceeds from this event will support the construction of our future church—a sacred home for generations to come.

If you haven't signed up yet, I challenge you to do so today. Come and be part of a revered fellowship that blends sport, service, and spiritual joy. Whether you play, sponsor, volunteer, or simply cheer us on, your presence makes a difference.

Let us glorify God together—on the course and in our hearts—as we serve those in need and strengthen the bonds of our parish family.



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." — 1 Peter 4:10

I offer heartfelt thanks to our planning co-chairs and to each of you. This graceful staircase rising with strength and beauty—serves as a powerful metaphor for our shared journey. Step by step, through prayer, planning, and teamwork, we ascend together toward a goal that reflects our love for one another and our commitment to serve the outreach ministries we are assisting.

Let us rise to this occasion with joy and purpose, knowing that our unity and dedication will make this year's effort the best yet. May God bless our planning committee and all who support this ministry with the grace to climb higher, together.

With love and gratitude in Christ,

+Fr. George Tsahakis



Stand Tall with Your Pets for a Special Blessing! St. Christopher Parish Fall Blessing of the Animals



This Sunday, October 26th, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., I invite you to join me at Line Creek Nature Area's Pond Trail in Peachtree City for our Fall Blessing of the Animals.

The image of the tall figure casting a long shadow reminds us to stand tall in faith and love—just as we do when we care for God's creatures. Bring your pets to receive a special blessing from me as we walk together in the beauty of creation.

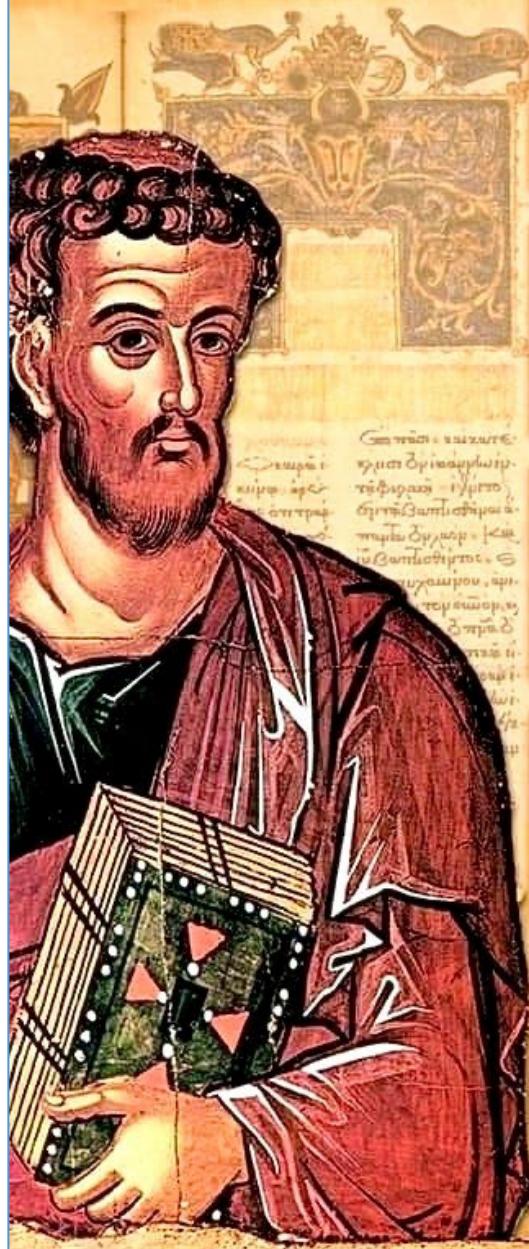
This event is for St. Christopher parishioners and if you wish, can include a peaceful walk through nature, with scenic views and gentle trails. Please remember:

- *Bring pets on leashes or in carriers for everyone's safety.*
- *Clean up after your pets so we leave the trail as beautiful as we found it.*
- *No treats or handouts—just the joy of fellowship and Fr. George's heartfelt blessings.*

Let's come together in faith and love to honor the animals who share our lives and reflect God's goodness.

*During this season, Sunday Gospel readings
are from the Gospel of St. Luke:*

10 UNIQUE FACTS IN LUKE'S GOSPEL



Announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary
1:26-38

Mary's visit to Elizabeth
1:39-56

Presentation in temple
2:22-39

Parable of good Samaritan
10:29-37

Mary and Martha
10:38-42

Parable of prodigal son
15:11-32

Parable of rich man and Lazarus
16:19-31

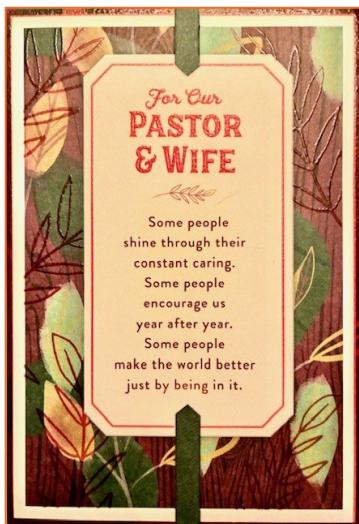
Cleansing of ten lepers
17:11-19

Jesus appears on road to Emmaus
24:13-35

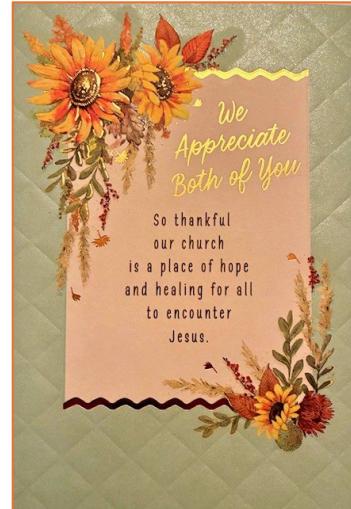
Jesus' ascension
24:50-53

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Presbytera Marinda and I want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your kind and thoughtful expressions of support this past Sunday for *Clergy Appreciation Month*. Your beautiful cards, heartfelt



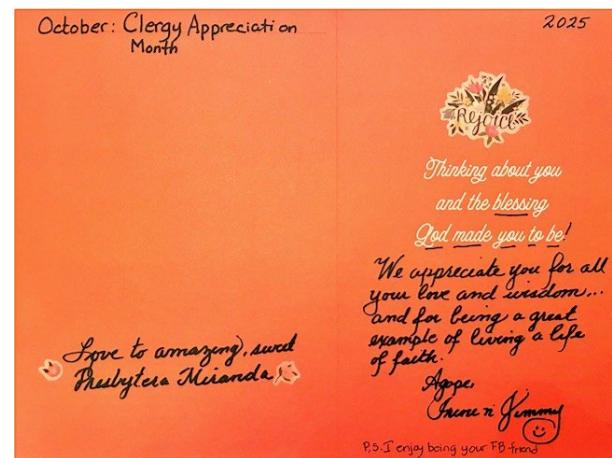
messages, and prayers have truly touched our spirits and reminded us of the incredible blessing it is to serve such a loving and faith-filled community. Our kudos for the cake which "sold out" in no time. Thanks, Broadway Diner!



The message pictured below from Metropolis friends was especially moving. It spoke of rejoicing, wisdom, and the joy of walking in faith together.

Notes like these are more than words; they are affirmations of the sacred bond we share in Christ.

Thank you for honoring us in such a meaningful way. Your encouragement strengthens our calling and fills us with renewed purpose. We are grateful beyond measure to journey alongside you in faith, hope, and love.



Faithfully yours, Fr. George & Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis

Prayer by the Creek

O Lord of mercy and
Creator of all,

You who shaped the
mountains with Your hand
And carved the streams to
sing Your praise—

We stand before Your
beauty in awe and
trembling.



As the gentle creek flows
through the fields,

So let Your grace flow
through our hearts.

Though the world groans
and falters,

Though peace is often hidden beneath sorrow,
You remain—unchanging, eternal, near.

Let the waters remind us of our baptism,
Of the cleansing love that made us Yours.

Let the wildflowers teach us humility,
And the steadfast hills proclaim Your promises.



**O Christ our God, guide us as pilgrims,
Not as wanderers lost in distraction,
But as seekers of Your Kingdom,
Even when the skies grow dark
And the path is veiled in mist.**

**As St. John Chrysostom taught,
"If you are so curious and inquisitive, wait for the final outcome...
Do not be troubled at the start."
So we wait, Lord, with hearts anchored in Your Providence.**

**For You are the Light in fading dusk,
The Peace beyond understanding,
The Love that never fails.**



Be present, O Lord, in the silence of the reeds,

In the hush between each breath,

In the stillness where Your Spirit speaks.

And as long as the waters run,

Let our hearts run toward You.

As St. Seraphim of Sarov reminds us,

"God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart..."

Let us call on the Lord, and He will come."

Come, Lord Jesus, and kindle us anew.

Grant us courage to walk in hope,

To trust in Your divine Providence

That moves even through suffering toward redemption.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

[Prayer inspired by a visit to the Georgia high country with Marinda Tsahakis and Faye Georgeo]

St. Christopher Church

Parish Opening & Closing Guide

For All Parishioners

Part A: Opening the Church

1. For Brief Visits (e.g., Delivery Drop-off or Pick-Up a Philoptochos Order):

- Unlock only necessary entry points.
- Do **not** turn on HVAC, candles, or appliances.
- Complete tasks promptly and proceed to closing checklist.

2. For Scheduled Services or Events Open to the Public or Scheduled Events like Philoptochos Baking:

- Unlock all necessary doors.
- Adjust the HVAC system for comfort.
- Light candles as appropriate.
- Power on appliances as needed (coffee makers, sound system, etc.).
- Confirm entryway and nave are accessible for worship, turn on lighting for Nave, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bookstore, and Hallway to bathrooms.

Part B: Closing the Church

Use this checklist every time the building is vacated, regardless of duration.

Secure Financial Offerings

- Normally, Parish Council will ensure donated money is placed in a secure location. If no Parish Council member is present, two parishioners will put money in the secure offering slot on candle stand.

Fire Prevention

- Blow out all candles (altar server room, altar area, service tables in the Nave, and if Pascha, throughout the entire church (conference room, bathroom, kitchen, and candle stand and front table)
- Turn off all appliances (coffee makers, stove, oven, etc.)
- Check for flammable items near heat sources.

Turn Off Overhead Lights

- Turn off all sanctuary, bathrooms, Bookstore, classroom, kitchen and dining area room lights. Hallway light in front of office stays on.

Turn Off Sound and Computer Equipment

- Including in the Altar Server Room and upstairs with the Live-Streaming Computer.

Water Check

- Ensure no faucets are running.
- Check bathrooms, kitchen, and sinks for leaks or standing water and report to Church Office 770/347-PRAY or 770/347-7729 before leaving – use your cell phone to call if necessary.
- Portable HVAC in kitchen is turned off and check for leaks.
- Adjust thermostat to energy-saving mode or turn off if appropriate, including in the Conference Room area, the main church area, the dining room and Kitchen.
- Confirm fans and portable AC and heaters are off.

Secure All Doors

- Lock all exterior doors, including the two rear side doors by church office and altar server room that lead to playground and front door. Never leave a door propped open and leave.
- Put deadbolt on door leading from Bookstore hallway to Conference Room.

Trash Removal

- Empty trash bins if full, especially in kitchen and bathrooms.
- Dispose of perishables to avoid odors or pests.

Final Sweep

- Walk through entire building: Nave, Narthex, dining area, kitchen, classrooms, (office should be locked).
- Look for forgotten items (store them on front table for retrieval), safety hazards, or anything out of place.
- Report any alarms or suspicious odors indicating electrical or fire hazard to Church Office 770/347-PRAY or 770/347-7729.

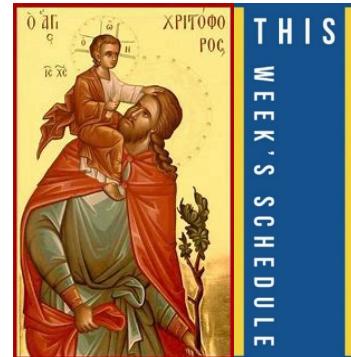
Remember: We have many assets (liturgical items, vestments, books, furniture, files, icons, pews and religious furniture, food inventory, etc.) that are at risk if we leave the doors unlocked, or the HVAC and electrical appliances running while we are away, or we fail to report something suspicious. Our church is our home away from home... treat it like you would your own.

Thank you. +Fr. George Tsahakis, 10.19.25

Join Us Often with Your Family

Wednesday, October 22nd

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale -
Spanakopita Batter



Friday, October 24th

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale -
Spanakopita Rolling

Saturday, October 25th

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Spanakopita Rolling

Sunday, October 26th – 6th Sunday of St. Luke – 22nd Anniversary of the Founding of our Parish

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Trisagion, & Celebratory Doxology for 10/28

11:00 Religious Education Classes

[Our Adult Religious Education will begin discussing Chapter 3, pages 113-130 of our textbook.]

12:00 Let's EAT! at Broadway Diner (all welcome)

2:30 – 3:30 Parish Blessing of the Animals (*Line Creek Nature Area*)

Reminder: Have you registered for the Banquet Honoring former Metropolitan Alexios (now retired) on Friday, November 7th and for the 2025 Archangel Michael Feast & Honors Banquet on Saturday, November 8th? If not, hurry... [click here](#) or type www.atlmetropolisevents.org in your browser to purchase tickets.