

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

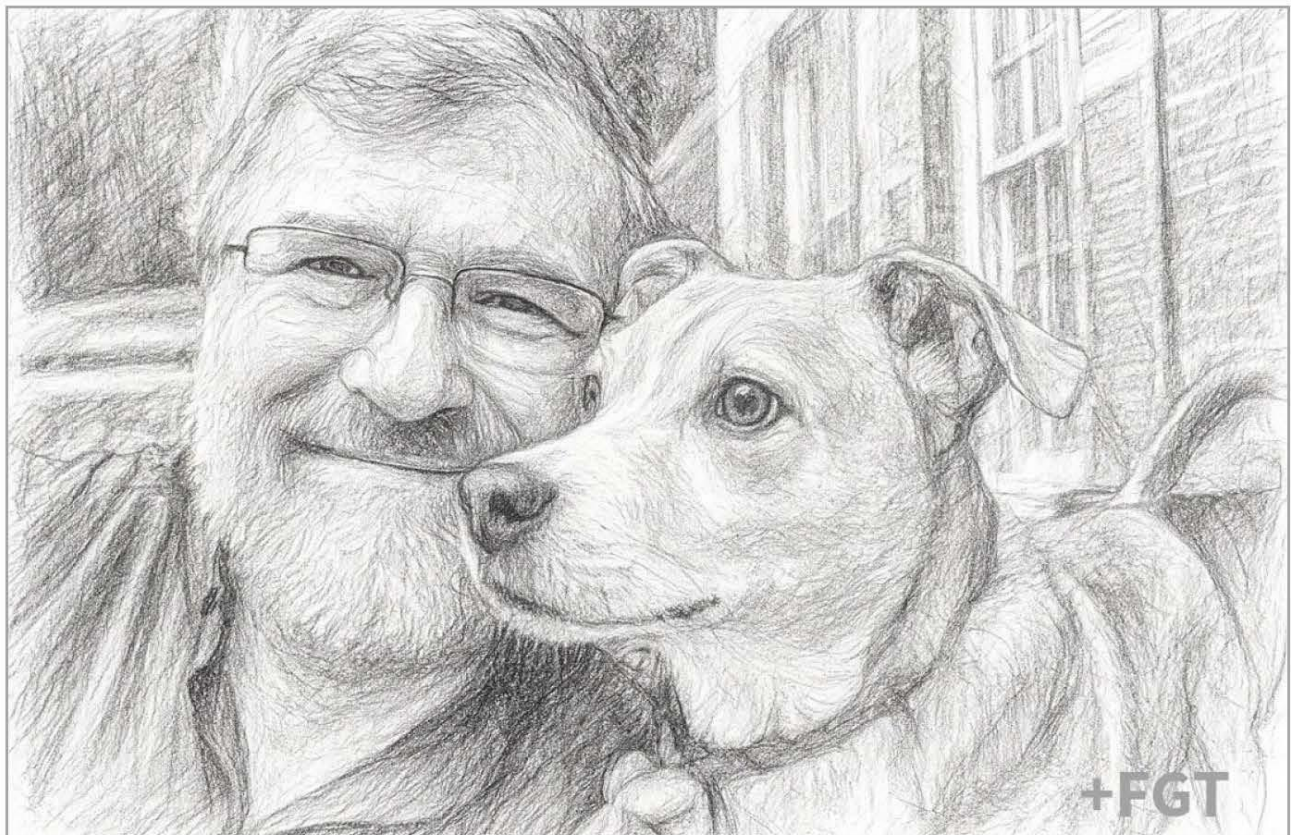
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

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

Pastoral Message from Fr. George, October 8, 2025

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,



A special gift from God is my family's beloved Caleb, a Mountain Cur whose drawing you see—a sketch that captures not only his form, but his spirit. Caleb is not just a dog. He is a companion in the truest sense. His loyalty is unwavering, his discernment keen, his presence a balm in times of trial.

Mountain Curs are known for their intelligence, their endurance, and their protective instincts. Caleb embodies all of these. He often senses danger before it arrives. He guides us with quiet confidence. He remains faithful in chaos and steady in uncertainty. In his eyes, I see the watchfulness of a shepherd and in his posture, the strength of a guardian. He chooses to stay near us, to protect, to love—not out of duty, but out of something deeper. Something revered.

I named our dog **Caleb** because of the strong devotion the Old Testament Caleb had for God. His unwavering faith and courage continue to inspire me—not only through Holy Scripture, but through the past 12 years of daily companionship from our adopted dog we found as a stray to the Diakonia Retreat Center. Had we not adopted him, he would have been taken to a shelter and euthanized. Our choosing him is God's reminder to us that we receive new blessings each day. Caleb's trust and devotion resemble his Old Testament namesake.

From the biblical accounts, we see Caleb as a faithful man who trusted God to fulfill His promises, even when others allowed fear to override their small faith. His devotion did not waver with age; into his later years, Caleb remained steadfast in belief and obedience. God blessed him for his faithfulness and patience, and his life stands as a powerful encouragement for us to believe God wholeheartedly.

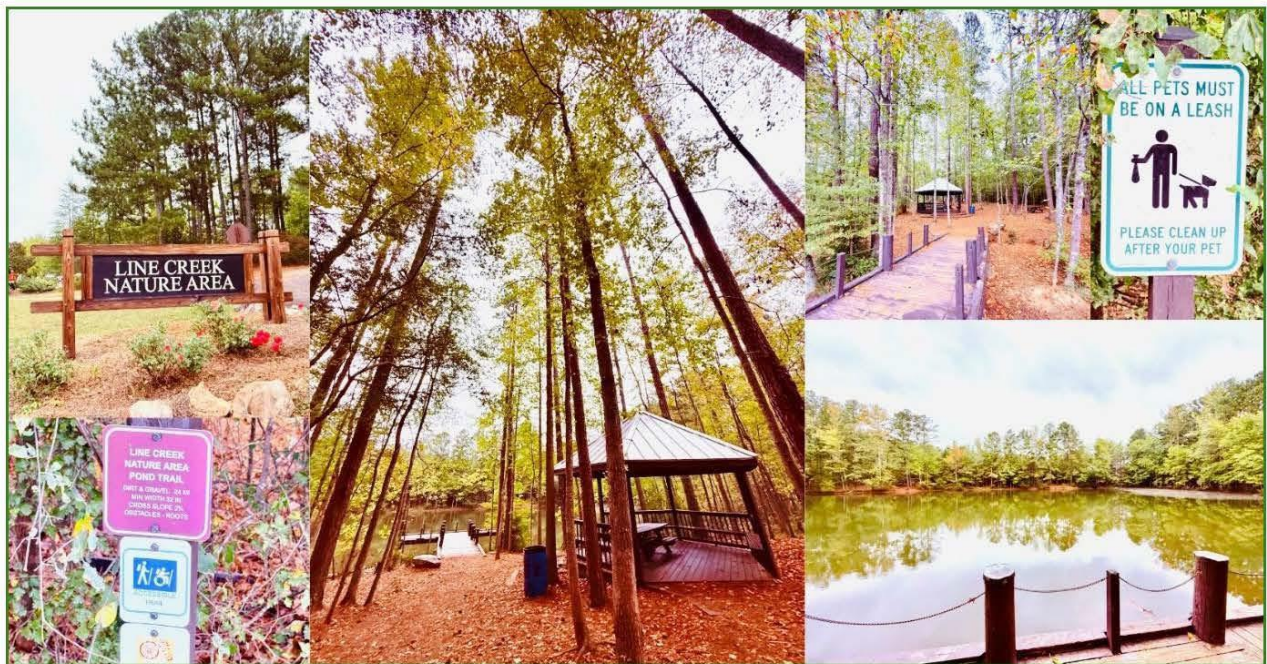
Like the biblical Caleb, we, God's people, are called to follow Him in every circumstance—patiently waiting for our Lord to fulfill His

promises and ready to act when the time is right. In our own lives, may we reflect the same trust and devotion. I am reminded of this daily through Caleb, whose loyalty is unwavering and whose trust in me and his family is complete. He follows us without hesitation, listens to our voices, and rests peacefully in our presence—never questioning our care and never doubting our intentions. His devotion is not earned through grand gestures, but through the quiet consistency of love and presence. In many ways, Caleb’s companionship mirrors the kind of faith we are called to have in our relationship with God: a faith that walks beside Him without fear, that waits patiently for His guidance, and that responds with readiness when He calls. Through Caleb—both the faithful servant of Scripture and my beloved companion—I am reminded of the profound blessings that come from walking loyally and trustingly with our Lord.

In response to the gifts we receive from our animal companions, I invite our St. Christopher families to join me for a few minutes as I honor our beloved animal companions through prayer and blessing. All our pets—large and small—are welcome!

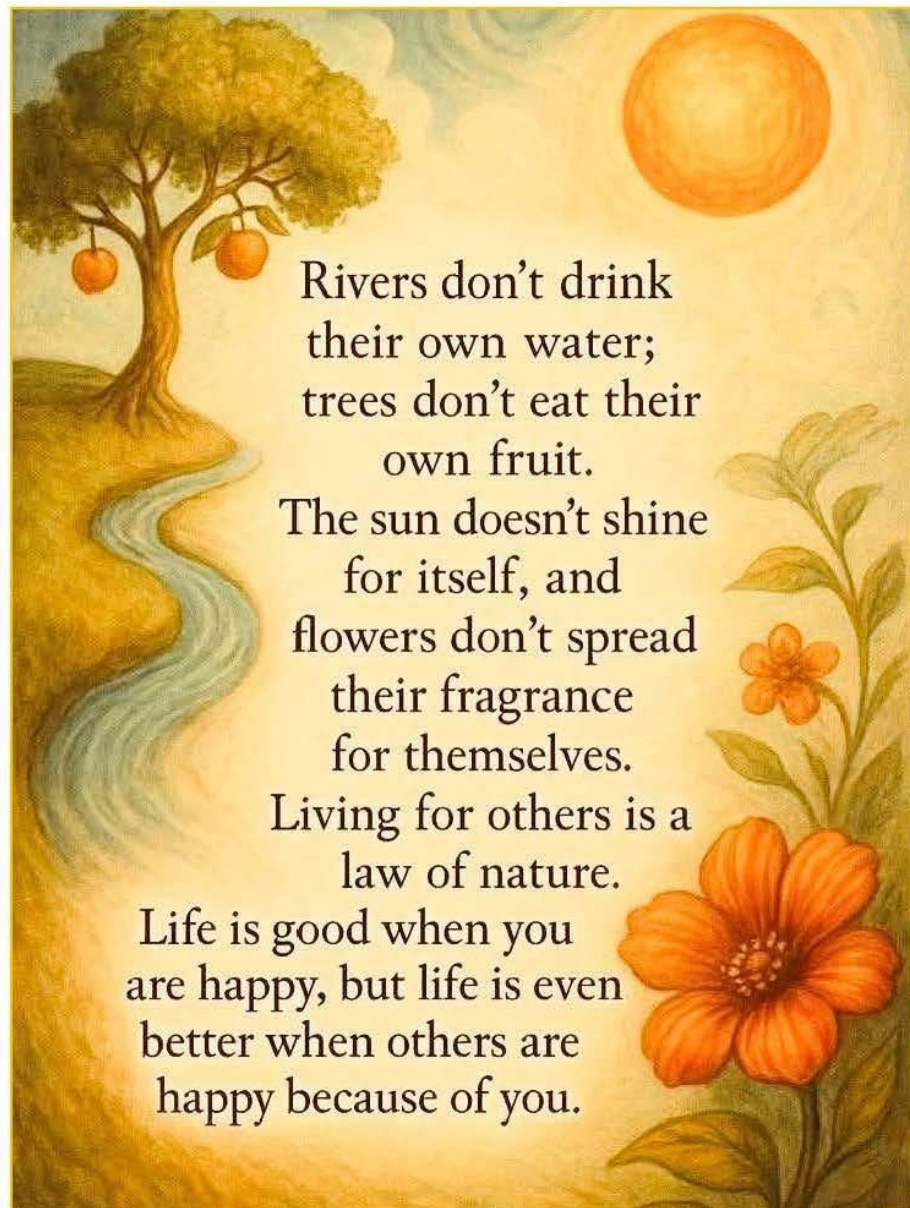
This **Blessing of the Animals** is reserved for our parishioners’ pets and will be on Sunday, October 26th from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. It will not be promoted publicly since we are planning a public community event next Spring. This will be a family opportunity for us to thank God and to bless our pets for their loyalty, their love, and their companionship that do not ask for anything in return. May we learn from them. May we be as faithful, as discerning, and as courageous. And may we never forget to give thanks—for the seen and unseen blessings that walk beside us every day.

Please be aware that this Fall's **Blessing of the Animals** is for St. Christopher parishioners who are visiting Line Creek Nature Park Pond Trail in Peachtree City, Georgia, on Sunday afternoon, October 26th, between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Remember to bring your pets on leashes or in carriers, so all may enjoy the day safely. If you join us, please clean up after your pet so we leave this nature trail near our parish's backyard as nice as when we arrived. For this event, we will not be distributing treats to pets or people or any handouts... just Fr. George's animal blessings! The Nature Area has easy and beautiful walking paths with scenic views of bodies of water for us to enjoy on a beautiful Fall afternoon. *These photos beckon you to join us.*

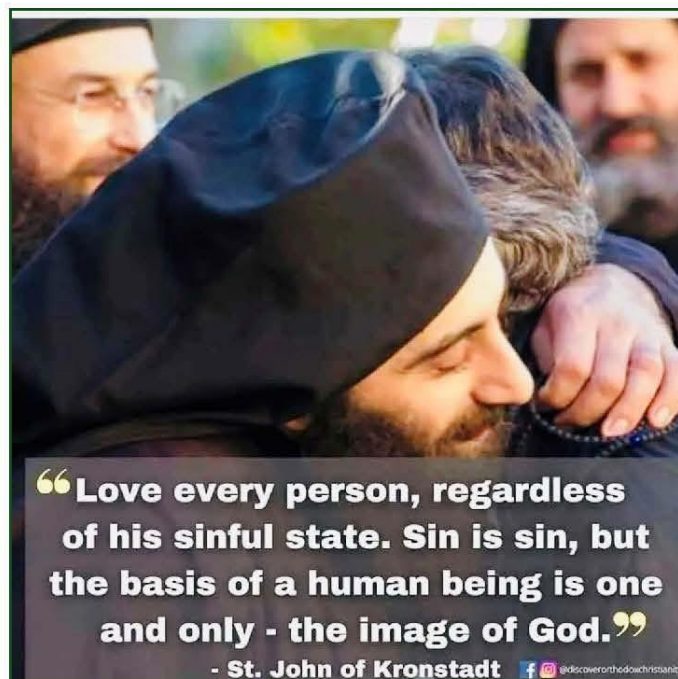
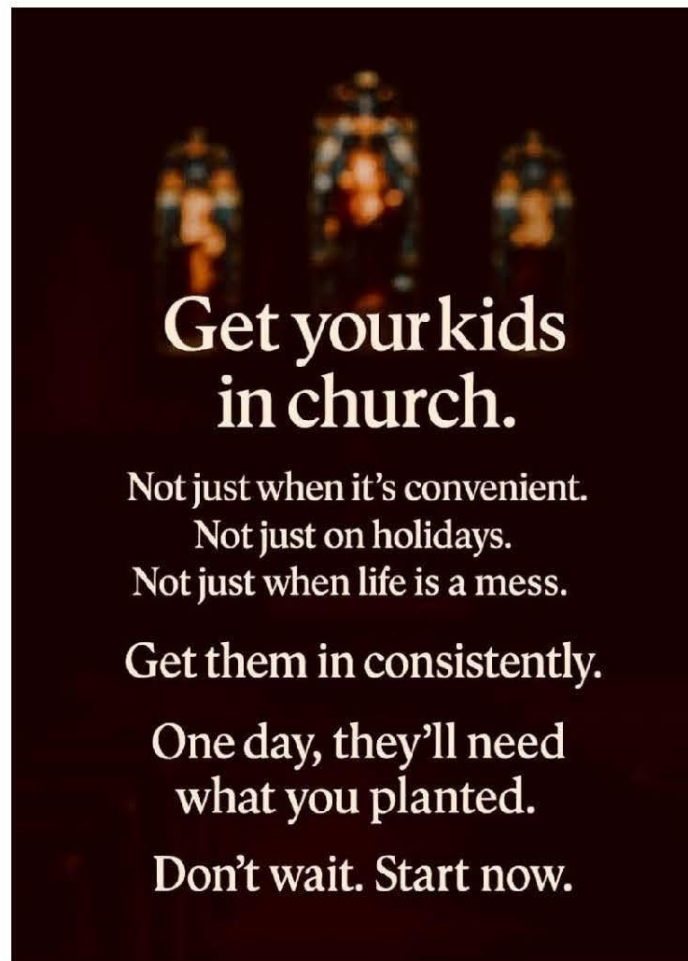


Looking ahead, Fr. Geoge is pleased to announce that with the help of volunteer parishioners, he is planning our first-ever community-wide public **Blessing of the Animals** event in the Spring at one of our Peachtree City Parks that will be open to both our parishioners and our friends and neighbors. The date and place will be announced next year when plans are finalized and approved. At this event, we will

offer what Fr. George shared with parishioners a couple weeks ago – an Orthodox blessing with Scripture readings, sermon, and sprinkling of holy water on each animal. In addition, we will share pet adoption information in partnership with local animal shelters, offer children’s crafts and stories about St. Modestos, patron saint of animals, refreshments for people and treats for pets, and prayer card blessings. We hope you will invite your friends and neighbors.

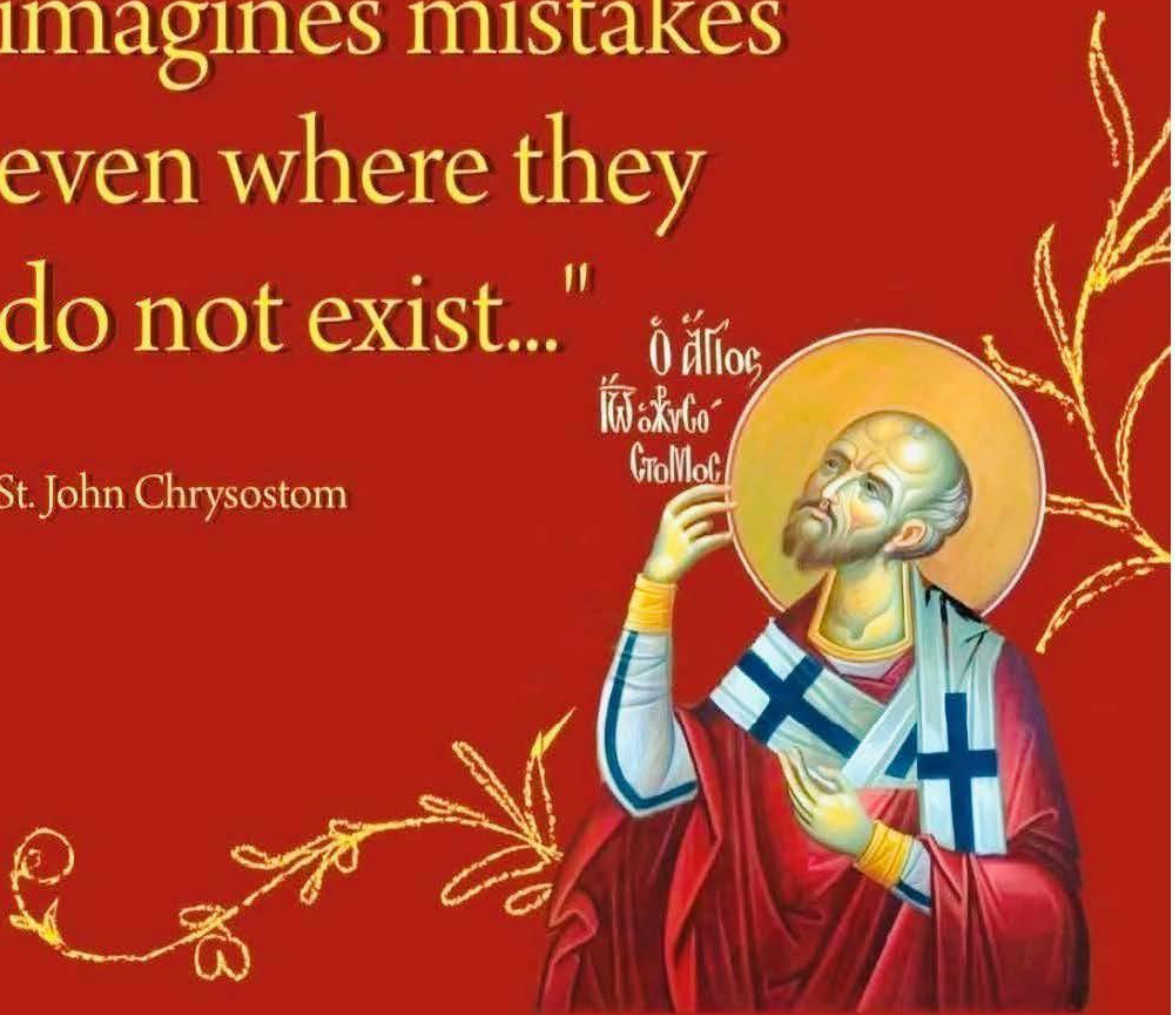


Viewed on social media:



"Love forgives
many mistakes,
while hatred
imagines mistakes
even where they
do not exist..."

St. John Chrysostom



Join Us Often with Your Family

Sunday, October 12th – Sunday of the 2nd Ecumenical Council

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes

[Our Adult Religious Education will discuss Chapter 3, pages 80-99 of our textbook.]

12:00 Joint Finance Committee & Parish Council Meeting



Wednesday, October 15th

8:00 Orthros & 9:00 Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel (Metropolis Office)

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Batter

Friday, October 17th

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Folding

Saturday, October 18th

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Folding

Sunday, October 19th – 3rd Sunday of St. Luke

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes

11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting

A Spiritual Reflection from Fr. George – “Let Us Welcome All”

Not too far from our parish, we encounter this intersection—marked by the sign “**Welcome All Road**”. As we gaze upon this image, we are reminded that the road to God’s heart is never closed, never gated, and never reserved for a select few. It is open, wide, and paved with grace. Just as this



road welcomes every traveler, regardless of where they’ve come from or where they’re headed, so too does our parish welcome every soul into our midst.

In the life of the Church, we are not merely spectators—we are participants. Each person who walks through our doors brings with them a sacred offering: their time, their talents, their stories. And when these gifts are shared, they become part of our collective worship, returning thanks to God and building up the Body of Christ.

Let the above image be a gentle nudge to us all: to greet the stranger with warmth, to honor the quiet contributions of others, and to recognize that in welcoming all, we welcome Christ Himself. For as Scripture reminds us, *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.”* (Hebrews 13:2)

May our community be a living road sign—one that reads not just **Welcome All**, but **You Belong Here**.

With a heart full of gratitude, I offer my sincere thanks to each of you who so generously give of your time, talents, and treasures to support the ministry of our parish. Your selfless service—whether in the altar, the choir, the chantors, the classrooms, the kitchen, and behind the

scenes—reflects the love of Christ and the spirit of true stewardship. Through your dedication, our parish becomes not only a house of worship but a living body of faith, compassion, and community. May our Lord bless you abundantly for your labors and may St. Christopher intercede for you always as you continue to serve with joy and humility.

This past Sunday, I appreciated receiving and using the fresh prosfora offered by Helen and Julie S. and the wine donated by Eva S. and her family. These earthly gifts became the Divine Gifts of the Holy Eucharist. We are blessed with our teams of bakers who prepare fresh prosfora for every Divine Liturgy.



Thanks to Dedee, Kirk, and Maria for preparing the five loaves of bread used for our Thanksgiving Sunday Artoklasia on October 5th. There is always plenty of bread, and while many will say, “Just one piece, Fr. George”, like our Antidoron, the Artos can be taken home and enjoyed

later in the week. This past Monday, Presbytera Marinda toasted ours and served it with breakfast, reminding us once more of the special blessings we witnessed during the October commemorations highlighting our birthdays, anniversaries, Name Days, and more from our parish family.

On the third year following the falling asleep of her beloved father, Maxim, I commend Larisa for asking me to offer the Memorial Service using the traditional koliva she made and shared with her parish family. Sometimes we forget that it is you and I who stand in for



her relatives living far away in Russia like we did this past Sunday. A heartfelt thank you to Larisa for sharing her special ethnic dishes. The flavors and stories carried with them a deep sense of heritage and love, and we were honored to partake in such a meaningful tribute.

On Sunday, we honored all those involved in church music and it was my pleasure to present our choir members, chantors, and readers with a Calla Lily in celebration of National Church Music Sunday. I commend



their efforts and further recognize those unable to join us Sunday, including Lydia, Anna, George, John, Eleni, Chris, Julie, & Marcus. Thank you all!

I offer appreciation to Susan, Pete, Androniki and all who assisted them this past Sunday with the delightful surprise luncheon following church services. Their creativity and generosity in repurposing the egg whites and supplies from the Pastry Sale preparations the day before brought everyone together in such a joyful and nourishing way. It was a beautiful example of community spirit and resourcefulness, and we are truly grateful.

To those who helped behind the scenes—whether in the kitchen, with setup, or simply lending a helping hand—your contributions did not go unnoticed. Thank you for making Sunday morning and afternoon so special.

I am always reassured when parents choose to bring their children to church and in turn permit them to attend Religious Education Classes. Our teachers are committed and enthusiastic as they help grow the Body of Christ stronger and closer to Him. I have been impressed with the attendance and class discussion of our adult students as we study early Church History and how our faith grew from the Old Testament into the New Testament and now is entrusted to us.



As we departed church services, my grandson surprised his family by offering to treat us to ice cream with caramel and chocolate syrup. Papou and Yiayia could not have been prouder, and in waiting for our dessert, we encountered our dear friends and clergy from All Saints Anglican Church who were eager to learn of our



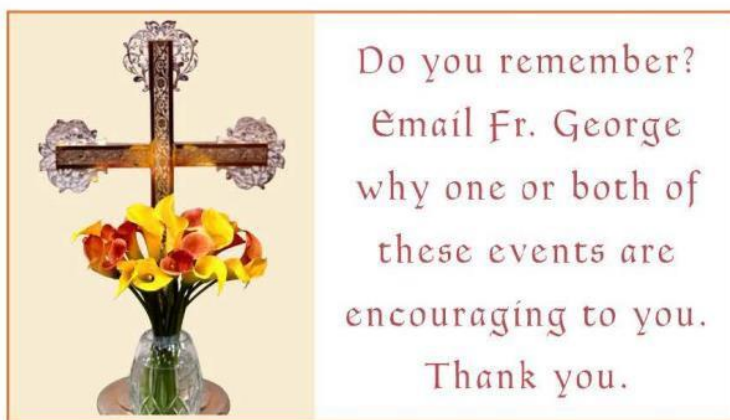
parish's progress as well as encourage our efforts to build our new church soon. Fr. Cass asked me to give a shout-out to his friend, Steve Theodorakis! Every pastor feels blessed when non-parishioners praise and lift up others.

As we walk together on this road that truly *welcomes all*, may we continue to be a community that reflects the boundless love of Christ. My deepest desire is to lift up our parish family—not only in prayer, but in purpose. By honoring each person's presence, embracing their gifts, and encouraging their service, we become a living testament to God's grace.

Let us continue to build a parish where every heart finds a home, every talent finds a place, and every offering—no matter what amount—is received with gratitude and joy. In doing so, we don't just worship *with* one another; we worship *as* one body, giving glory to God who unites us all.

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, 12:4–6a: *"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us."*

St. Paul's words beautifully affirm our shared calling: *to welcome all, to honor each person's unique gifts, and to offer them in service to God. May it be the heartbeat of our parish family. Amen!* +Fr. George Tsahakis





It's that time of year!!

The Philoptochos Fall Bake Sale baking kicked off this past Saturday!

However, we need continued assistance!!

Everyone is welcome to assist!! Please sign up through the SignUp Genius-even if its only for an hour or two!

Check it out!! And share the order form, too!

[Sign Up Genius for all dates](#) We need your help to be successful!



GET EXCITED

Introducing the Cannon Shot!



We're excited to debut a brand-new hole-specific event at this year's South Atlanta Golf Classic, the **Cannon Shot Challenge**! This fun addition lets each foursome take a shot down the fairway using a **potato gun "cannon."** It's a unique addition that brings plenty of laughs, friendly competition, and a little extra excitement to this year's tournament!



South Atlanta Golf Classic is Only 3 Weeks Away



7th Annual St. Christopher Community Outreach annual Golf Tournament, the South Atlanta Golf Classic, will be held on Monday, October 27 at Eagles Landing Country Club in Stockbridge (100 Eagles Landing Way, Stockbridge, GA 30281). The planning team has been working hard to organize the tournament and we are now ready to ask for help from our entire parish and community. Please click on the signup to review all the different roles that are needed to make this event a success.

There are 60 volunteer slots that need to be filled, and less than half are filled. So, get a friend and sign up! Please feel free to sign-up for more than one time or slot. Volunteering for the event is easy and fun (no hard work)! We are blessed to partner with Folds of Honor and The Joseph Sam's School again; and we are excited to connect with other people in our community who support us!

If you have any questions about volunteering at this year's Golf Tournament fundraiser, please contact Maria Cahill.

GOLF TOURNAMENT VOLUNTEER SIGNUP





SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210, Peachtree City, GA 30269 • Tel: (770) 347-PRAY • (770) 347-7729
Web: www.SaintChristopherHOC.org • E-mail: info@SaintChristopherHOC.org

Philoptochos Society Fall Pastry Sale

"To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach to preserve the sanctity of life and family and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions."

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pickup Dates: Friday, November 21st 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm @ Church Address

Saturday, November 22nd 9:00 am -12:00 pm @ Church Address

Order Deadline: November 7, 2025		Quantity	Cost/Dozen	Total
Spanakopita: Spinach & Cheese stuffed phyllo triangles			\$ 15.00	\$
Tiropita: Cheese stuffed phyllo triangles			\$ 15.00	\$
Baklava: layers of phyllo filled with chopped nuts and sweetened and held together with syrup or honey			\$ 20.00	\$
Kourambiedes: sugar dusted butter cookies			\$ 15.00	\$
Koulourakia: twisted butter cookies			\$ 10.00	\$
Paximadia: Greek Biscotti with Pecans and Cinnamon			\$ 10.00	\$
Sampler Dozen: Package containing 3 each of Baklava, Kourambiedes, Paximadia and Koulourakia			\$ 25.00	\$
Pastitsio: luscious layers of seasoned ground beef, pasta, and a creamy bechamel sauce baked to perfection			\$ 60.00 12"X9" pan	
Dolmades: stuffed grape leaves with ground beef, rice and herbs			\$ 15.00	\$
Amygdalota: Greek chewy almond cookie Gluten-free			\$ 10.00	
TOTAL DUE:				\$



REMINDER: YOU CAN ONLY PLACE ORDERS ONLINE

BY VISITING ONE OF THE 3 OPTIONS BELOW

<https://saintchristopherhoc.org/> <https://my-business-104643.square.site/>

For Questions Pls Contact Dedee Panayis Tel: 817-690 6610



Philoptochos Save the Dates!



- Oct 15 Tiropita Batter 8:30am
- 17 & 18 **2** folding days 8:30am
- 19 General Philoptochos Meeting (open to all)**
- 22 Spanakopita Batter 8:30am
- 24 & 25 **2** folding days 8:30am
-
- Nov 1 Kourambiethes Baking 8:30am
- 2 Paximadia- after Religious Education
- 14-15 Baklava make, bake and cup 8:30am
- 16 Board Meeting**
- 17 Almond Cookies 8:38am
- Box and Bow 4pm
- 18-19 Dolmathes make, bake and package 8:30am
- 21-22 Bake Sale Pick up



All Sundays in October "Hands of Love" ministry will be accepting monetary donations to benefit



"Rachel's Gift"

Rachel's Gift, Inc., headquartered in McDonough, GA collaborates with hospitals across the state such as Piedmont Newnan and Piedmont Fayette hospital to provide specialized bereavement care for parents who have lost their child due to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death. To learn more:

<https://www.RachelsGift.org>. There are numerous ways to volunteer - as our talented Philoptochos ladies have sewed tiny Burial gowns and knitted or crocheted baby blankets to comfort grieving mothers. You can

also join other volunteers on the first Tuesday of the month at their office in McDonough to help with various needs. Or join the "Angel Dash" 5k walk/run in La Grange, GA on Oct 11. **Monetary donations** can be placed at the "Hands of Love" **red box** on the narthex table or you can donate online -

<https://StChristopherPhiloptochos.Square.Site>



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

CUMMING GREEK FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

FREE ADMISSION

DJ HOUR 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

COME. DANCE. DRINK. SHOP. EAT & BE GREEK



GREEK FOOD
MUSIC
DANCERS
SHOPPING
TAVERN
KIDS AREA

CHURCH EDUCATIONAL TOURS

FREE ONSITE PARKING

ONSITE AND DRIVE-THRU FESTIVAL



VISIT CUMMINGGREEKFESTIVAL.COM FOR MORE INFO

SAINT ELIAS **MID-EAST**



Cashless
Event



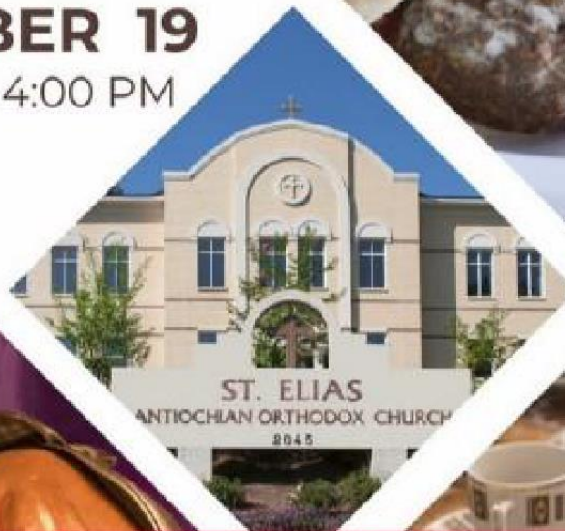
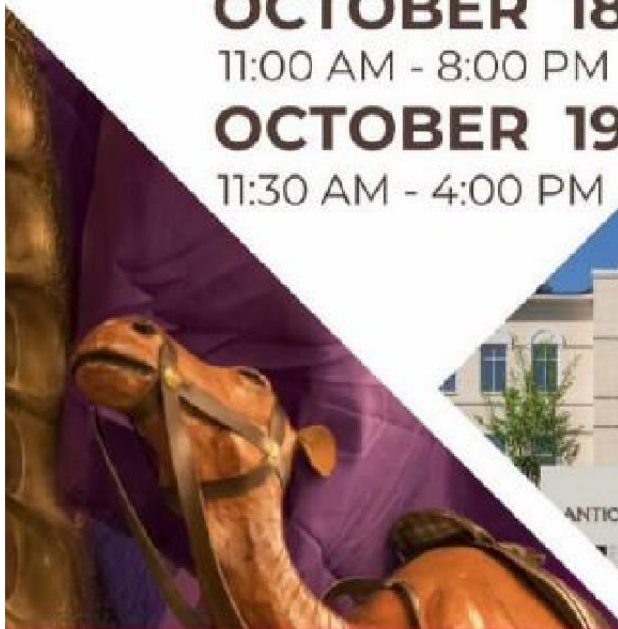
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18

11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

OCTOBER 19

11:30 AM - 4:00 PM



steliasmideastfestival.org

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE 18TH ANNUAL
FRIDAY, OCT. 24TH
SATURDAY, OCT. 25TH
(11AM-9PM)
SUNDAY, OCT. 26TH
(11AM-4PM)

AUTHENTIC GREEK FOOD, PASTRIES & DRINKS • CHURCH TOURS BY FATHER THEODORE
LIVE MUSIC BY NICK TRIVELAS & THE AEGEANS
DANCING BY ARETI OF THE ATLANTA CATHEDRAL
RELIGIOUS ITEMS • ART • JEWELRY • SHOPPING AND MORE!



EMAIL US: FESTIVAL@HOLYCROSSGA.ORG

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RESCUE MISSION OF MIDDLE GEORGIA



CENTRAL GEORGIA
GREEK FESTIVAL

Building Our Future: Join Our \$1.5M Capital Campaign

Dear Parish Family,

We are excited to announce the launch of our \$1.5 million Capital Campaign, a five-year endeavor to build our future home. This is an incredible opportunity for us to come together as a community and create a space that will serve and inspire for generations to come.



To make this vision a reality, we encourage everyone to fill out pledge cards now. Our lenders are looking for a strong show of commitment from the parish, and your early pledges are crucial to meeting their requirements. As we consider discussions with outside donors, our ability to demonstrate the Parish Family's commitment to the capital campaign is an integral part of the process and success to raise funds from outside our parish. During our last campaign, we raised an impressive average of \$264K per year, and with your continued support, we are confident we can do it again.

Your participation is vital. Please continue your existing commitment to the stewardship fund and start giving to the new capital campaign or consider increasing your existing building fund pledge amount. Together, we can turn our dreams into reality.

Let's build our future home with faith, dedication, and collective effort. Please consider completing the online pledge card today, [St Christopher Capital Campaign Pledge Card Link](#), so we can show the lenders our unwavering commitment and take the next steps toward our shared goal.

Here are some examples to consider:

GIVING SCENARIO 1: Currently giving \$100/month <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40 to Building Fund• \$60 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$80 to Building Fund• \$60 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 40%</div>	GIVING SCENARIO 2: Currently giving \$200/month <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 to Building Fund• \$100 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200 to Building Fund• \$100 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 30%</div>	GIVING SCENARIO 3: Currently giving \$300/month <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 to Building Fund• \$200 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200 to Building Fund• \$200 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 33%</div>
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Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis



**The 2025/2026 Scholarship Application is
OPEN!**



Calling exceptional undergraduate students of Hellenic descent - consider becoming a PanHellenic Scholar!

Do you or an exceptional undergraduate student you know qualify to be a PanHellenic Scholar? The 2025/2026 application is now open and accepting applications!

APPLY TODAY!

The Foundation will accept applications from eligible Greek American college students and will distribute \$250,000 in scholarship awards to exceptional undergraduates as follows:

- Twenty (20) Awards of **\$10,000** based on academic achievement, financial need, and Hellenic engagement. (*\$20,000 given specifically for students studying music or arts*).
- Twenty (20) Awards of **\$2,500** based on academic achievement and Hellenic engagement.

Eligible undergraduate students of Hellenic descent from all fifty states are encouraged to apply. If a student applied in a prior year, and are still in college, we encourage them to reapply.

Applications should be submitted electronically as instructed by **January 31, 2026**.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, applicants must:

- Be US Citizens or US permanent residents.
- Be of Hellenic descent.
- Be enrolled at an accredited U.S. college or university for Fall 2025 and actively in your **sophomore, junior, or senior year**
- Have a minimum 3.6 cumulative GPA.

Please visit the application page for the full list of eligibility and requirements.

For questions or more information, please email scholarships@panhellenicsf.org or call 312-357-6432.

[CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES](#)



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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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