



## 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, November 14, 2025

#### Summary of Weekend Key Events and Highlights

*I wanted to share with our parishioners the extraordinary celebration last weekend highlighting the legacy of Metropolitan Alexios, the first Metropolitan of Atlanta, as well as tributes, liturgies, and honors held November 7–9, 2025. We were joined by more than 800 of our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

#### Friday, November 7 – Metropolitan Alexios Tribute Banquet

Over 350 attendees from the U.S. and Greece gathered at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta.

Hosted by Metropolitan Sevastianos, the banquet honored Metropolitan Alexios for his nearly 30 years of service.

Family members from Greece expressed gratitude, and messages were shared from Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Elpidophoros.

*The evening featured:*

A pictorial tribute of Metropolitan Alexios' ministry

Speeches from youth and adult leaders

Performances by Cathedral youth dancers

Distinguished guests included:

Konstantinos Adamopoulos, Consul of Greece in Atlanta

Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer (Catholic)

Dr. Demetrios Katos, President of Hellenic College and Holy Cross

### **Saturday, November 8 – Archangel Michael Feast Day & Honors**

**Morning:** Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated the Metropolis' patronal feast of Archangel Michael.

**Evening:** Archangel Michael Feast and Honors Banquet with over 360 attendees from 75 parishes.

Veterans were honored ahead of Veterans Day.

Nearly 80 honorees received medals from Metropolitans Sevastianos and Alexios. Fr. George offered a pictorial tribute in their honor.

Absent honorees will receive their awards in upcoming parish services.

### **Sunday, November 9 – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy**

Metropolitan Sevastianos invited Metropolitan Alexios to preside over the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral.

Clergy from across the Metropolis participated. Fr. George offered the Homily in behalf of Metropolitan Alexios

The weekend concluded with prayers for continued blessings and safe travels.

The Friday celebration also supported the completion of the Panagia Chapel at the Alexios Retreat Center in Salem, SC, with donor listings and commemorative gifts. You can view event videos, photos, and donor listings on the [official release page](#).

## **Pictorial Highlights from November 7-9, 2025 Weekend**



**Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy**



**Metropolis of Atlanta Presbyteres**

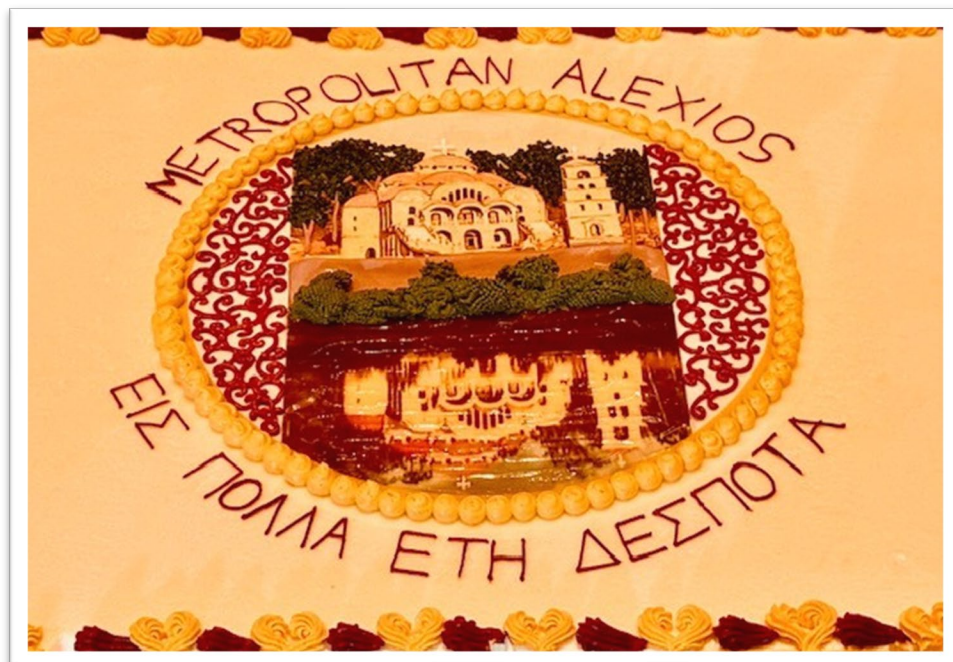


Metropolitans Alexis & Sevastianos





**Celebratory Cake Honoring Metropolitan Alexios & His Family**



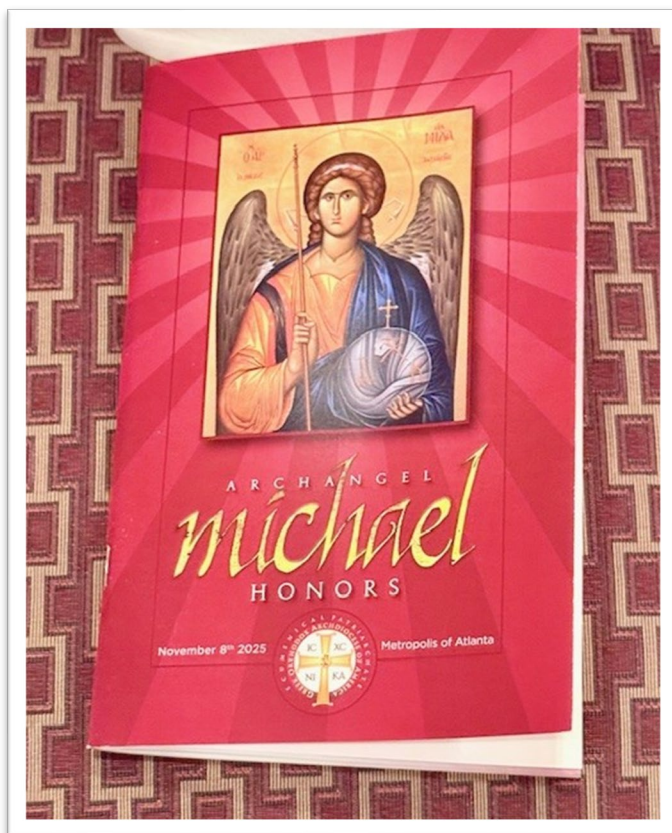
**Close-up of Cake Featuring Panagia Chapel artwork**



**Celebrating Archangel Michael Feast Day**



**Archangel Michael Chapel on Saturday**



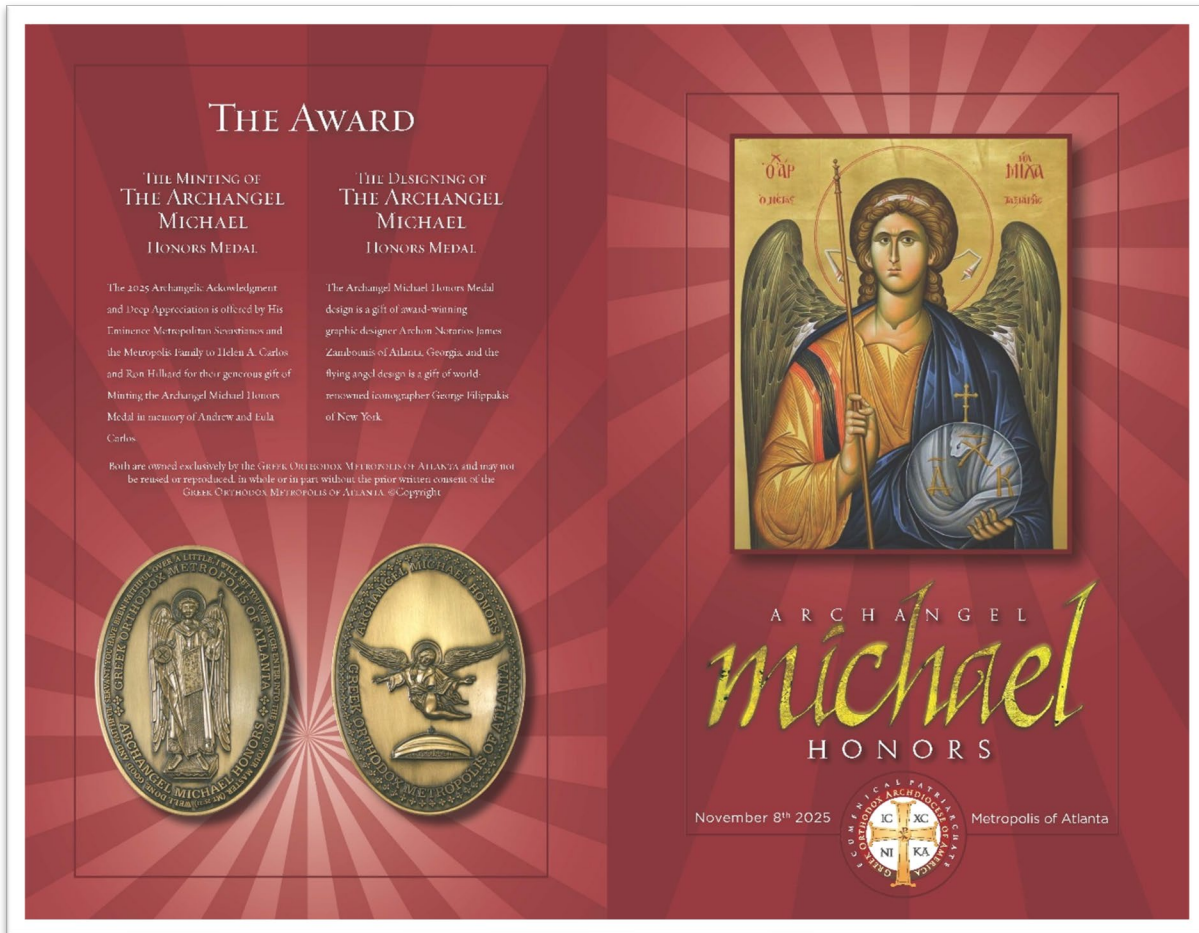
**Booklet Celebrating Honorees**



**Archangel Michael Medals**



**Lifting the "light of Christ" at Archangel Michael Honors Banquet**



**Archangel Michael Commemorative Program Booklet**



**Archangel Michael Honors Banquet Guests**



**Guests & Honorees from  
St. Christopher Church  
in Peachtree City, GA**





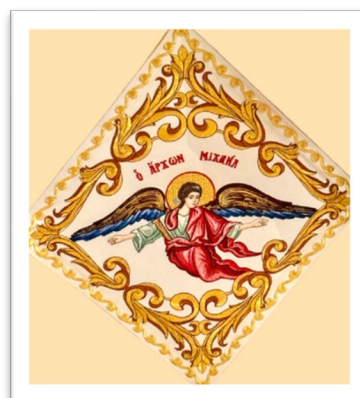
**Metropolitan Alexios Presided at Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday**




**2025 Archangel Michael Honorees at Annunciation Cathedral on Sunday**



**Sunday's Hierarchical Divine  
Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral**



Save the Date



# The Night *That* Changed *Everything*

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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Today, journey to Bethlehem through  
the eyes of Aaron, a young shepherd  
who witnesses the miraculous birth of Jesus.

St. Christopher Church  
Peachtree City, GA  
Sunday, December 21, 2025 10:30, a.m.

Following this Sunday's special one-item General Parish Assembly, we will have an abbreviated combined Religious Education Class to introduce this year's Christmas Pageant and seek volunteers.

## The Still Small Voice in the Autumn Wind

*"And after the fire came a still small voice." — 1 Kings 19:12*



A red-leaved tree in full autumn glory. A dog exploring the fallen leaves. A quiet fence and a house tucked behind the trees. This scene, so ordinary and yet so profound, captures the delicate balance between nature and our built world.

We often think of culture and nature as opposites—one wild and untamed, the other structured and civilized. But what if they're not adversaries, but partners? In this quiet tableau, the dog becomes a bridge between the wild and the domestic. The

sky, partly cloudy, mirrors the tension and harmony between what we shape and what shapes us.

In the biblical story of Elijah, God is not found in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire—but in the still small voice that follows. Likewise, in the hush of an autumn afternoon, in the rustle of leaves beneath a dog's paws, we might hear that same whisper of the divine.

This moment invites us to reconsider our relationship with the natural world. What if nature isn't just a backdrop to our lives, but a co-creator in the sacred story we're living? What if our homes, our fences, our routines could exist not in opposition to the earth, but in harmony with it?

As the seasons turn and the leaves fall, may we learn to listen. May we hear the still small voice in the wind—and respond not with dominion, but with reverence.

**Prayer: Lord of creation,  
Teach us to walk gently upon the earth,  
To listen for Your voice in wind and leaf,  
And to live in harmony with all You have made. Amen.**

**- Fr. George Tsahakis**



My Beloved Ones,

This weekend marks a joyous period in the life of our Church, for on November 15th we begin the Nativity Fast, the 40 Day preparation for the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The importance of the Spring Lent and its preparation for the Feast of Feasts, Pascha, means that many Orthodox do not place as much emphasis on this “Winter Lent”. Some might wonder why we Fast, because the period before the Nativity is not an especially somber time, unlike the events of our Lord’s Passion. Indeed, with the joyous spirit of a secular holiday like Thanksgiving, images of parties and gatherings, as well as observances such as Christmas vacation, there are those who question whether the Fast is necessary at all for our modern world.

This Fast is also known as Phillip’s Fast, because St. Philip the Apostle’s Feast Day falls on November 14th, one day before the beginning of the Fast. St. Philip, John the Evangelist tells us was from

Bethsaida, which was also the home of Philip’s fellow Apostles, Andrew the First-Called and Andrew’s brother, St. Peter. St. Philip’s zeal for the coming of the Messiah was so great, that he is known to have brought a group of Greek Jews to see the Lord, just as he most famously, demonstrated true faith by telling a skeptical Nathanael to, “Come and see!” (John 1:46)

Too often, we are also skeptical; if not of our Lord (like Nathanael), then of the many guides our Church gives to us. We question why—when so many of our Christian brothers and sisters eat and drink freely—we are asked to abstain. The reason, of course, is simple: just as we prepare ourselves for His Passion and Resurrection by sacrificing our own passions, we are meant to prepare for our Lord’s birth in a humble cave, by demonstrating a small kind of humility, at least in spirit. Our Lord, consenting to born near beasts, did not enter this world as a King. Is there a better way to honor His condescension by cleansing our bodies and hearts, so that we will approach Him quietly, reverently?

“Come and see!” said Philip to Nathanael. As we begin the feast named in this Saint’s honor, may we hold true to his words, and ask for his intercessions to our Creator, that we stay on the proper path to the humble manger.

**+SEVASTIANOS**  
**Metropolitan of Atlanta**

## Join Us Often with Your Family

### Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

**8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale** – Make, Bake, & Cup Baklava

**5:00 p.m. Order Deadline** for Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale. [Public distribution will be November 21 & 22.]



**Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – Nativity Fast begins 11/15 and continues through December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale** – Make, Bake, & Cup Baklava

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by General Parish Assembly (1 item)

11:00 Combined Religious Education Classes (for all ages to review Christmas Pageant)

11:45 Philoptochos Board Meeting

### Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale – Almond Cookies Baking

4:00 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale – Box & Bow the World's Prettiest and Tastiest Baked Goods!

### Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale – Make, Bake, & Package Dolmades

### Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale – Make, Bake, & Package Dolmades

### Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

9:00 Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel

### Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

9:00 Divine Liturgy

3:00 – 6:00 Philoptochos Pastry Sale Pickup of Orders

### Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 – 12:00 Philoptochos Pastry Sale Pickup of Orders