



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, December 19, 2025

Save the Date

**The Night That
Changed Everything**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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.

You're Invited to Our Annual Nativity Play & Community Potluck Luncheon.

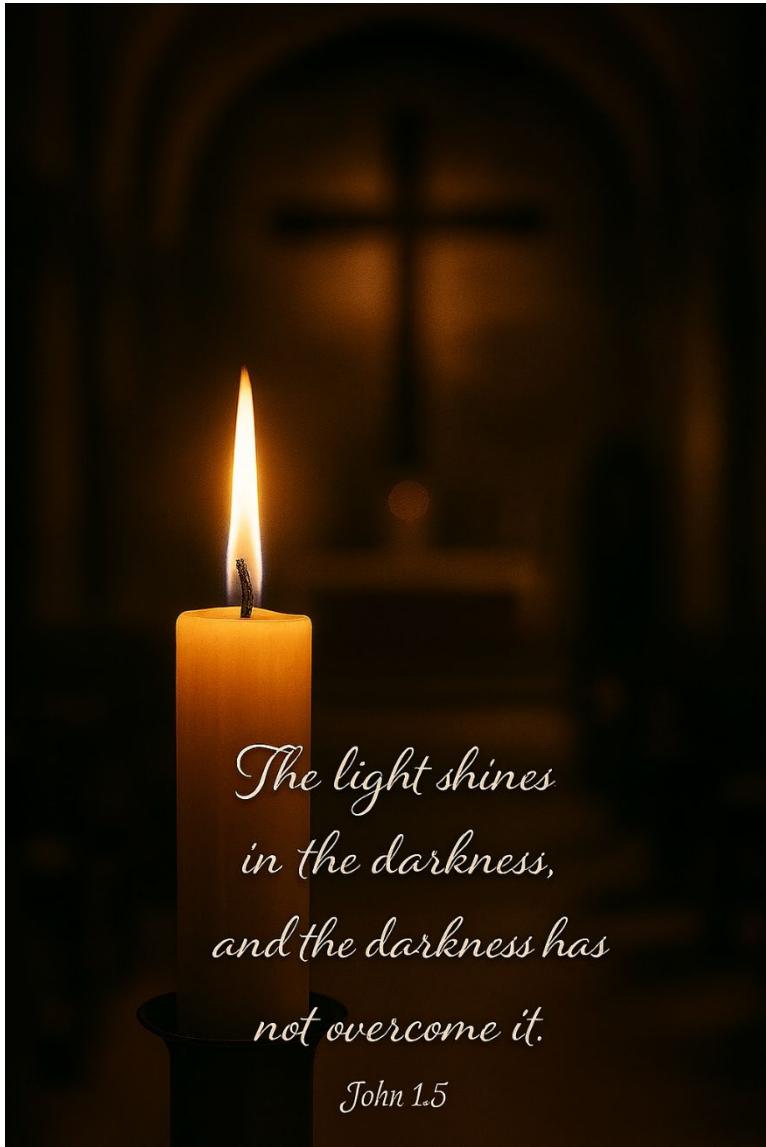
Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord through a beautiful Nativity pageant written by **Fr. George Tsahakis**, designed to help our youth and adults memorize and share the timeless story of Christ's birth.

After the pageant, stay for our **Community Potluck Luncheon!** Please bring a lenten dish that will serve **6-8 people in addition to your family** so we can share a festive meal together.

Let's come together in faith, fellowship, and joy as we honor the true meaning of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there!

Beloved in Christ,

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Mt. 11:28)



It is with a heavy heart that I share that one of our parish families is grieving the unexpected loss of a loved one. In moments like these, we are reminded of the fragility of life and the profound need for God's comfort and for one another's care.

As Orthodox Christians, we affirm that **God loves us unconditionally** and that His mercy is without limit. When we face pain, isolation, or despair, we are never alone—Christ is with us, and so is His Church. Our calling is to reflect that love by being present for

one another, offering a listening ear, a prayer, and a word of hope.

Toward that aim, I offer our deepest empathy and prayerful support to our family who is mourning the tragic loss of their beloved son and brother. In this time of unimaginable grief, we stand beside them as their spiritual family, lifting them up in prayer and surrounding them with love. May the Lord, who is “near to the brokenhearted and saves those

who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18), grant them strength, comfort, and peace that surpasses all understanding. Please join me in keeping them in your prayers and offering any support you can, so they may feel the embrace of Christ and His Church during this painful journey.

To the grieving family, please know that in the midst of this heartbreak loss, you are surrounded by our love and prayers. Feelings of shame or guilt are not from God—they are whispers of darkness that seek to wound further. In Christ, there is only mercy, healing, and hope. Your beloved son and brother is remembered not by the manner of his passing, but by the beauty of his life—the joy, love, and goodness he shared with family and friends. May these memories be a source of comfort, and may the Lord grant you peace and strength in the days ahead.

If you or someone you know is struggling with feelings of loneliness or hopelessness, please reach out—to me, to a friend, to a family member. There is no burden too heavy to share. Together, we can remind each other that life is a gift from God and that every soul is precious in His sight.

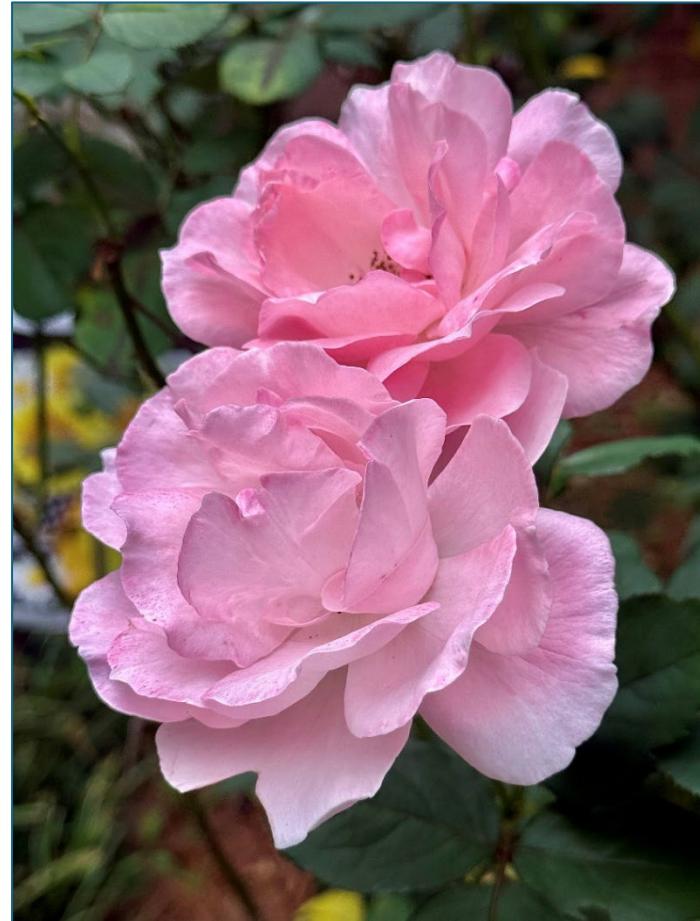
Let us keep this grieving family in our prayers, asking the Lord to grant them strength and peace. And let us recommit ourselves to being a



community of compassion, where no one suffers in silence and where Christ's light shines even in the darkest moments. As we strive to care for one another in Christ's love, it is important to recognize when someone may be in deep distress and needs our help.

Signs that warrant immediate attention and support include:

- Talking about feeling hopeless, trapped, or being a burden
- Expressing thoughts of death or wanting to end life
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or parish life
- Sudden changes in mood—especially extreme sadness or calm after turmoil
- Giving away possessions or saying goodbye unexpectedly
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs



If you notice these signs in someone, **do not ignore them**. Reach out with compassion, listen without judgment, and encourage them to seek help. You can also contact me directly for pastoral support.

If someone is in immediate danger, call 911 or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

Together, let us be vigilant and loving, ensuring that no one suffers alone.

A Prayer for the Departed and the Bereaved



O Lord of mercy and compassion, receive the soul of Your servant into Your heavenly kingdom and grant rest where the light of Your countenance shines. Comfort those who mourn with Your peace that surpasses all understanding and strengthen them with the hope of the Resurrection. O Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Grant peace to those who are troubled and courage to those who seek to help. Fill our hearts with compassion and wisdom, that we may be instruments of Your love and

hope. For You are our life and our salvation, and to You we give glory, now and forever. Amen.

Again, if you or someone you know is in crisis or having thoughts of self-harm, please seek help immediately:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Dial **988** (available 24/7)
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text **HELLO** to **741741**
- Speak with your priest or a trusted friend—never carry this burden alone.
- **Holy Scripture reminds us:**
 - “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)
 - “Encourage one another and build each other up.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 - “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

With love in Christ, Fr. George Tsahakis

Note Two Calendar Updates

Healing Sacrament: Fr.

George will assist Fr. Gheorghe Ascente at Saints Constantine and Helen Romanian Orthodox Church in Lilburn, GA, offer the



Sacrament of Holy Unction this Friday, December 19th, at 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners are welcome to join us for this service in Romanian and English. Address is 664 Dickens Rd NW, Lilburn, GA 30047-5839



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Service of the Blessing of the Foundation of our New Church: His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos will visit our parish on Sunday, February 22nd for church services, community lunch, and the Blessing of our New Church Construction on Ebenezer Road. [The previous date of February 15th was not possible.] We encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us on February 22nd as we pray for God to bless His new church as it is being built.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH THIS CHRISTMAS!

Looking for meaningful gifts that celebrate the true spirit of the season? Visit our **PARISH BOOKSTORE** and explore a beautiful collection of **RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND GIFTS** for youth and adults.

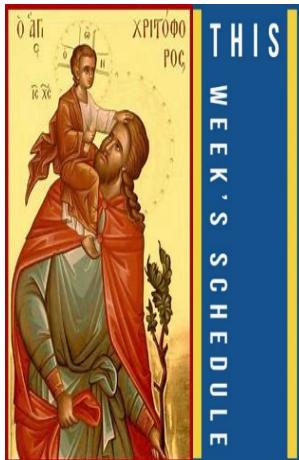


- Books for worship and learning to deepen your Orthodox faith
- Bible storybooks for youth to help them grow closer to God
- Specialty items and unique gifts available through catalogs

This year, let your Christmas gifts reflect **FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE IN CHRIST.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO BECKY BUTLER for curating such a rich collection that gives glory to God and offers something for everyone!

Join Us Often with Your Family



Friday, December 19th

6:00 Sacrament of Holy Unction at Sts. Constantine & Helen Romanian Church in Lilburn

Saturday, December 20th

3:00 Young Adult League Kickoff

Sunday, December 21st – Sunday Before Holy Nativity

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Annual Christmas Pageant, & Community Luncheon

5:00 Candlelight Service & Christmas Concert (Pan-Orthodox) at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

8:00 Great & Royal Hours of the Nativity & Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Thursday, December 25th (Christmas – The Nativity of our Lord)

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Fast Free Period from December 25th to January 4th

Saturday, December 27th – Feast of St. Stephen the First Martyr

8:30 Sacrament of Baptism and Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 27th – December 30th – Metropolis of Atlanta Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta

Sunday, December 28th – Sunday After Holy Nativity

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:30 Let's EAT! (at Broadway Diner)

We thank you for your Stewardship and Building Fund Donations Pledged and Offered in 2025. We encourage you to continue your faithful efforts in 2026 and commend you.