

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

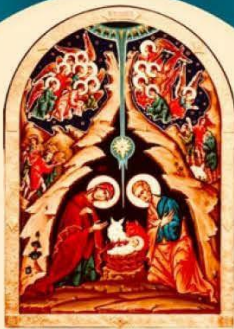
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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, 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.

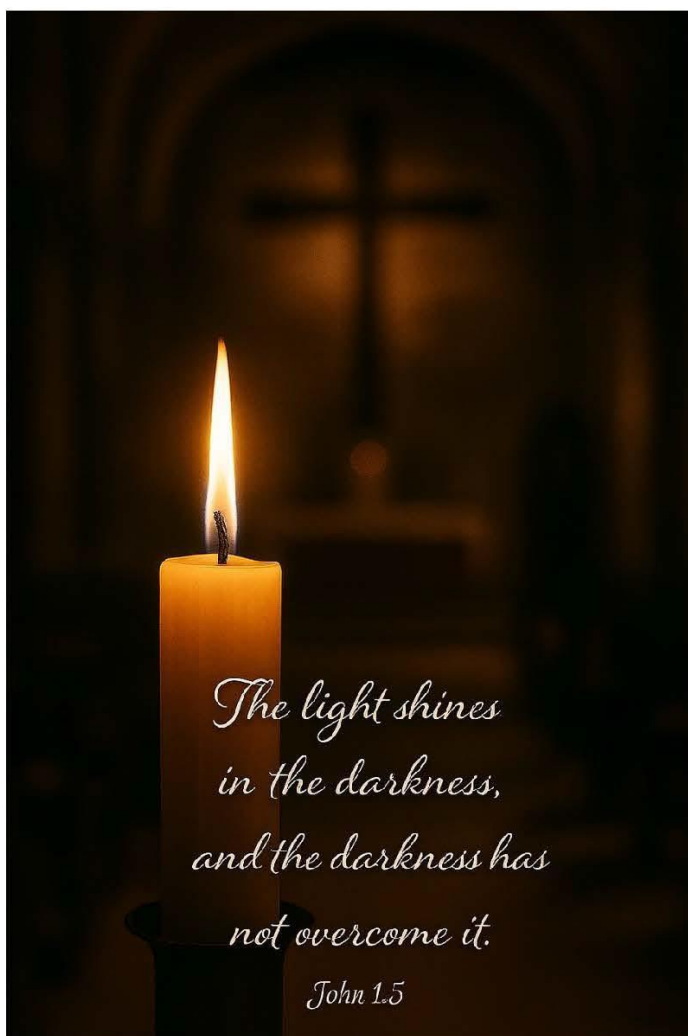
Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord through a beautiful Nativity pageant written by **Fr. George Tsahakis**, designed to help our youth and adults memorize and share the timeless story of Christ's birth.

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 heartbreaking 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

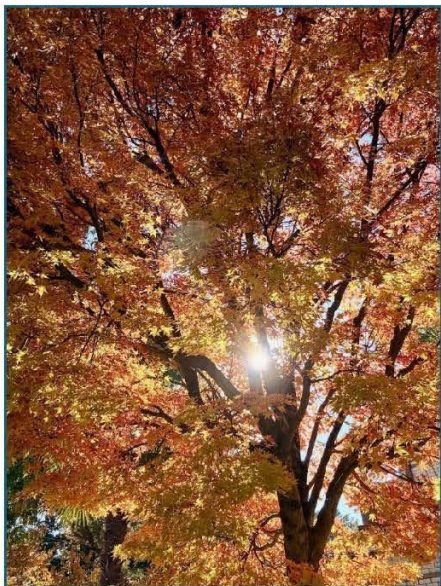


If you notice these signs in someone, **do not ignore them**. Reach out with compassion, listen without judgment, and encourage them to seek help. You can also contact me directly for pastoral support.

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



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.

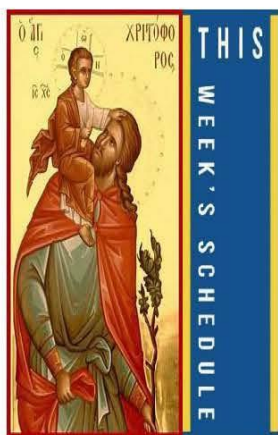


- Books for worship and learning to deepen your Orthodox faith
- Bible storybooks for youth to help them grow closer to God
- Specialty items and unique gifts available through catalogs

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 & Vespers 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.

PAN-ORTHODOX CANDELIGHT SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

presented by the
Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association (AIOPA)

Sunday, December 21

5:00 pm

Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia



Homily Offered by Fr. Elias Dorham

Melkite Catholic Church

"O Bethlehem Prepare: Welcoming Christ into Our Hearts"

Featuring Choirs from

Annunciation Cathedral Men's Choir

Annunciation Cathedral Mixed Choir

Holy Transfiguration Mixed Choir

St. Elias Mixed Choir

Sts. Constantine and Helen Mixed Choir

St. John the Wonderworker Mixed Choir

St. Mary Romanian Orthodox Church Mixed Choir

Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene Mixed Choir



Refreshments to Follow in Carlos Hall

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church's

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE KICKOFF

Parishioners and friends ages 18-35(ish) are invited to join us on Saturday, December 20 at 3-7 pm for our first YAL social at Angelique's house. RSVP for the address. Bring a drink or snack to share if you'd like!

Email Angelique (asoulakos77@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Join our GroupMe to stay connected!




Christmas Luncheon ~ Lenten Foods ~



December 21

After Christmas Pageant



Invitation to my Baptism

Ioanna kitsias

We invite you to come celebrate the Baptism of
Ioanna Kitsias

January 3rd 2026

Saint Christopher Greek Orthodox
Church in Peachtree City GA
11:30 am

Reception following:
1727 Gordon Rd Moreland Ga 30259

We would be honored to have you
Kitsias family
RSVP @ 678-619-9939





*The Angel Tree is here!
Take a look in the back
of the sanctuary
and:*

*Take home an angel ornament from the tree
as a keepsake to remind you to share your
blessings this **Christmas!** You can also email me to
Anna Naydenova : anna_nayd@yahoo.com*

*Take an angel, be an angel to a child this Christmas! Donate to
or volunteer for a charity of your choice. These are some
opportunities that come to mind:*

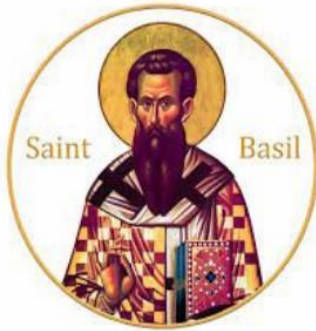
USPSOperationSanta.com;

***St.Nicholas-Tele-Santa.com** and*

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots-ToysforTots.org

USPSOperationSanta.Com

Dear Santa	
My name is Tasha	
I am 2 years old what I want for	
Christmas is	
Blue Toys	Shirts 31-41 girls
Mickey Mouse Toys	Shirts 31-41 girls
Clothes	Shirts 15 shirts
Learning Toys	
Shoe	
Socks	



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL

VASILOPITA!

LIVE AUCTION & DINNER!

SATURDAY JANUARY 10TH : 5-8PM

FREE ENTRY FEE!

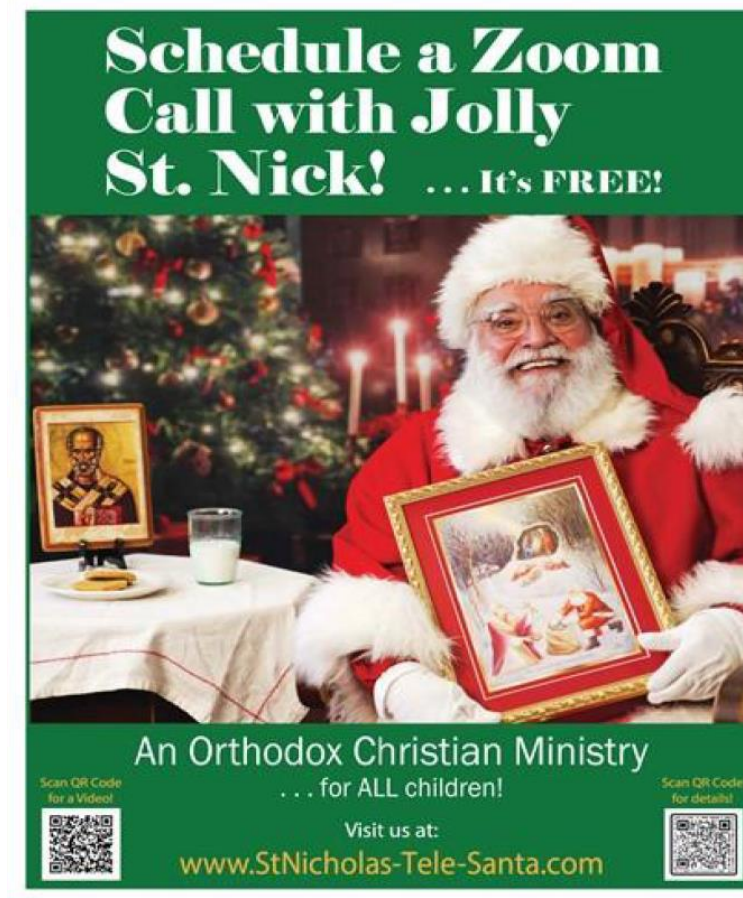
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH FOR 8

(MEATS, BEVERAGES, and DESSERT PROVIDED)

All proceeds will benefit:

ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY, BLOOM OUR YOUTH & PARADISE 4 KIDS

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH- 149 EBENEZER ROAD



The Department of Religious Education (DRE) and the Saint Nicholas Tele- Santa Program launch Kids Nativity Series collaboration

In the spirit of giving, the Department of Religious Education (DRE) is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Saint Nicholas Tele-Santa Program to present a new seasonal series: the Kids Nativity Series, a special holiday initiative designed to bring the true meaning of Christmas into the hearts and homes of our children and their families everywhere.

This holiday season, our Kids Nativity Series offers 12 short stories that celebrate both the Incarnation of our Lord and the life and legacy of Saint Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra. Designed for children, parents, and Sunday School teachers alike, the series connects the Christmas spirit to the meaning of Salvation and the familiar figure of Santa Claus to the real-life saint. Each story offers a meaningful way to help children understand the more profound significance of the holiday, bridging the secular traditions they know with the timeless teachings of the Church.

Families participating in the Saint Nicholas Tele-Santa Program can use the Kids Nativity Series alongside their scheduled calls from “Saint Nicholas.” Parents are encouraged to read the Nativity-themed stories with their children before the call. At the same time, the Saint Nicholas stories serve as extraordinary selections for Santas to share during their conversations, creating a truly faith-filled and memorable experience for children.

Each story is available in both English and Greek. Click the link below.

[Nativity Series | StNicholas TeleSanta](#)

SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual

WESTERN CONFERENCE YAL RETREAT

St. Athanasios Greek
Orthodox Church
Gulf Shores, AL

JANUARY 9-11

2026

FRIDAY NIGHT MIXER

SATURDAY GUEST
SPEAKER

Fr. Micah Hirschy on
OVERCOMING DIVISION AND
LIVING A LIFE OF
COMMUNION

LUNCHEON

GROUP ACTIVITY

GREEK NIGHT!

SUNDAY LITURGY

REGISTRATION:

REGISTRATION FEE: \$65

REGISTER BY DEC. 31

DISCOUNTED HOTEL RATES ARE AVAILABLE

See following page for weekend details



SCAN

For questions, contact:

mallorieadesigns@gmail.com | tonypapadelias@gmail.com

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



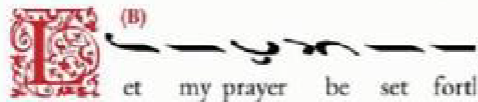


The Liturgical Arts Academy

Winter Academy - for Beginners
Summer Academy - for Upper Levels
at The Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC

WINTER ACADEMY: FEB 8 - 14, 2026 * Registration opens 09/23/25
SUMMER ACADEMY: AUG 23 - 29, 2026 * Registration opens 03/23/25

Byzantine Chant



A week of intensive in-person training in Byzantine notation, modal theory, ornamentation and rubrics. Students are accepted into Beginner thru Master Class levels based on their application. Instructors: J.M. Boyer, S. Herron, G. Cremeens, P.D. Robinson

Byzantine Iconography



A week of intensive instruction in line drawing, color theory, gilding, painting, and varnishing. Beginners learn the basics of the Byzantine technique; Summer Academy is for more advanced icon painting. Instructor: Fr. Anthony Salzman



Foods in Faith

Learn to make and offer Prosphora, Artoklasia, and Koliva for the worship life of the Church. Winter Academy only. Instructor: Presvytera Meredyth Houpos

Visit TheLiturgicalArts.org

info@theliturgicalarts.org



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF HELLENIC DESCENT!



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2025-2026



\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

20 Awards of \$10,000 each

based on academic achievement, financial
need, & Hellenic engagement
*\$20,000 allocated to music or arts majors

20 Awards of \$2,500 each

based on academic achievement & Hellenic
engagement

In order to apply students must:

- Be U.S. Citizens/U.S. Permanent Residents and living in the U.S
- Be of Hellenic descent
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.6
- Be enrolled at an accredited U.S. college or university for Fall 2025 and actively in your **sophomore, junior, or senior year**
- Be full-time students who are pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree

Applications are due

January 31, 2026

The application, criteria, requirements,
and guidelines are available at

www.panhellenicsf.org

For inquiries please email
scholarships@panhellenicsf.org or
call our office at **(312) 357-6432**



PANHELLENIC
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432
📠 312.872.0090
🌐 panhellenicsf.org
✉ scholarships@panhellenicsf.org

CROSSROAD
CROSSROADINSTITUTE.ORG

10

Days to Explore
& Connect!

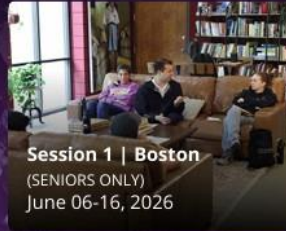
11TH & 12TH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

YOU BELONG AT CROSSROAD!

Join youth from across the country to explore your faith, purpose, and the Orthodox tradition.

CrossRoad is designed to give students:

- A deeper understanding of faith and purpose
- Transformative experiences in the Orthodox tradition
- New friendships with other Orthodox Christians



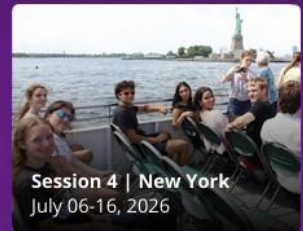
Session 1 | Boston
(SENIORS ONLY)
June 06-16, 2026



Session 2 | Boston
June 20-30, 2026



Session 3 | SoCal
June 22-July 02, 2026



Session 4 | New York
July 06-16, 2026

Apply by December 20, 2025
SAVE \$50! Hear by January 15, 2026

Apply by January 20, 2026
Hear by February 15, 2026

Final Deadline:
Apply by February 20, 2026

**LEARN MORE
AND APPLY!**



qrco.de/CR-Summer

[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

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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You are receiving this email because you are a Parishioner or Friend of St. Christopher

Our mailing address is:

St. Christopher Hellenic
Orthodox Church

313 Dividend
Dr.
Ste. 210
Peachtree City, GA 30269

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

