



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

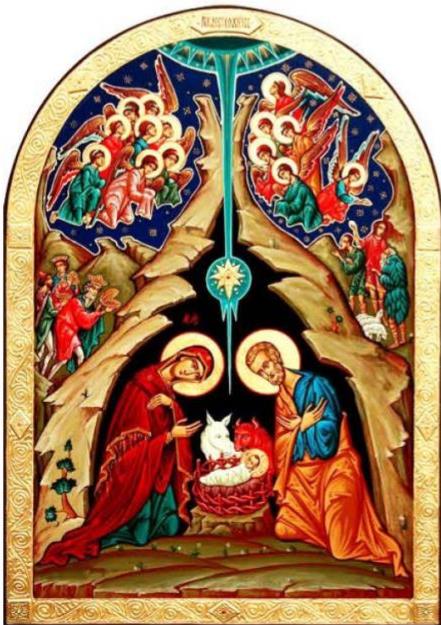
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Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator

Nativity Message from Fr. George, December 26, 2025

“The Power of Small Things: Bearing Christ’s Light in Our Daily Lives”



Introduction:

Beloved in Christ, as we gather these days to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we rejoice that the eternal God chose to enter the world in humility—a small child in a manger. This feast reminds us that God’s greatest gift came in what seemed small and insignificant. Today’s reflection draws from a surprising source—Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. In this

passage, Ebenezer Scrooge realizes that Fezziwig’s kindness, though

costing little, brought immense joy. It teaches us something profoundly Christian: **small acts of love can bear great light.**

Scriptural Foundation:

Listen to the words of the Gospel:

- **John 1:9:** *"The true Light which gives light to every man was coming into the world."*
- **Matthew 5:16:** *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Christ is the Light of the world, and He calls us to reflect His light in our lives. But how do we do this? Through grand gestures? Through costly sacrifices? Not always. Often, it is through **small, humble acts of love and mercy.**

The Nativity: God's Greatness in Humility

Think about the Nativity itself. The Creator of the universe did not come in royal splendor but in a humble cave, laid in a manger. The first to hear the good news were not kings or nobles, but shepherds—ordinary workers keeping watch over their flocks. A star guided wise men who brought simple gifts. Every detail of this feast reminds us that **God's grace is revealed in humility and simplicity.**

This is the mystery of Christmas: God's infinite love expressed in what seems small. A baby's cry in Bethlehem changed the course of history. If God works through such humble beginnings, then surely He can work through our small acts of kindness.

A Lesson from Dickens

In Dickens' story, Fezziwig's generosity was not measured in money but in kindness. He created joy through simple gestures—words, smiles, hospitality. Scrooge admits, "The happiness he gives is quite as great as if it cost a fortune." Likewise, in our lives, the power to bring light and joy often lies in **small, intentional acts of love**.

A Story from the Saints

Consider **St. Nicholas**, whose memory we recently celebrated. He did not seek fame or recognition. Instead, he quietly left coins for the poor, rescued young women from slavery, and defended the truth of Christ at the Council of Nicaea. His acts were often hidden, yet they changed lives and inspired generations. St. Nicholas teaches us that holiness is not found in grand displays but in humble, loving deeds done for God's glory.

Application for Our Lives

So, how do we bear Christ's light in our everyday life—at work, at school, in our homes, parishes, and community gatherings? Here are some simple ways:

- **A kind word** to someone burdened with stress.
- **A smile** that lifts a weary heart.
- **A prayer** for someone who feels forgotten.
- **A gesture of mercy** toward a neighbor in need.

These may seem small, but in God's eyes, they are radiant. St. Seraphim of Sarov said, *"Acquire the Spirit of peace, and thousands around you will be saved."* When we live with Christ's peace and love, we become lamps shining in the darkness.

The Connection to Christmas

Reflection on St. Gregory's "Christ is Born"

The Nativity proclaims that God's love transforms the world through humility. If Christ entered the world in such simplicity, then our small acts—done with love—can also transform hearts. This is the meaning of Christmas: **God with us, and God working through us.**

St. Gregory the Theologian captures this mystery in his famous Oration on the Nativity:

"Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, because He who is heavenly has now come upon earth. He who is invisible is seen. He who is without beginning now has a beginning. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man, so that we, who were dead, may live. He takes what is ours to give us what is His." (St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 38)

St. Gregory reminds us that the Incarnation is not only a cosmic event—it is deeply personal. God takes what is ours—our humanity, our weakness, our poverty—and gives us what is His: life, light, and

salvation. This exchange calls us to imitate His humility in our own lives.

A Story to Illustrate This Truth

There is a story from the life of **St. Spyridon of Trimythous**, a humble shepherd who became a bishop. During a famine, a wealthy merchant came to him asking for food, but Spyridon had nothing to give except his prayers. Later, he found a small loaf of bread and gave it to the man with kindness. That simple act—so small in the eyes of the world—saved the man's life and led him to faith in Christ.

St. Spyridon's life teaches us that holiness often appears in ordinary gestures: a loaf of bread, a word of encouragement, a prayer offered in secret. These acts, done with love, become radiant with God's grace—just as the manger held the Infinite God.

Takeaway for Us

When we offer a kind word, a prayer, a gesture of mercy, we participate in this divine exchange. These acts may seem small, but they carry the power of Christ's love. Just as the manger held the Infinite God, so our simple deeds can hold His grace.

Closing Exhortation

Beloved, let us *not* leave this holy feast *without re-committing* to let our Christian light shine. In every conversation, every decision, every encounter, let us reflect the mercy and love of Christ. For in these "small things," the greatness of God is revealed.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Closing Prayer:

O Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world, born in humility for our salvation, grant us the grace to reflect Your light in all we do. Teach us to love in small ways that bring great joy, to speak words that heal, and to act with mercy that transforms hearts. May Your peace dwell in our homes, our work, and our communities, so that all may glorify You, together with Your eternal Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



[Prayers and greetings from our Vigil Service, December 24th]



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε!



Join us New Year's Eve, on Wednesday afternoon for Divine Liturgy, 4:00 p.m.



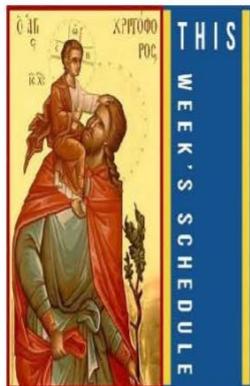
Fr. George will offer the Blessing of the Vasilopita after the Divine Liturgy.

Have You Invited Your Friends & Family for Our Special Sunday on February 22nd?



**Service of the Blessing of the Foundation of
our New Church:** His Eminence Metropolitan
Sebastianos 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.

Join Us Often with Your Family



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

8:30 Sacrament of Baptism and Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 28th – Sunday After Holy Nativity

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

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

Wednesday, December 31st (New Year's Eve & Eve of Circumcision of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ & Feast of St. Basil the Great)

4:00 Divine Liturgy & Blessing & Cutting of Vasilopita

Saturday, January 3rd

11:30 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sunday, January 4th – Sunday Before Holy Theophany

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Memorial for Nick Christodoulopoulos

10:30 Blessing of Five Loaves & January Commemorations

(We thank Presbytera Marinda and Fr. George for offering the five loaves)

**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.**



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 Taylor
I am 3 years old what I want for
Christmas is
Bluey Toys
Matched Movie Toys
Clothes
Learning Toys
Shoe
Socks

Shirts	3T-4T girls
Pants	3T-4T girls
Sizes	5-10 girls



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

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 Hirsch 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 | tonypapadeliash@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
• \$40 to Building Fund
• \$60 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign
• **\$80 to Building Fund**
• **\$60 to Operations**

Total Giving Increase = 40%

GIVING SCENARIO 2:
Currently giving \$200/month
• \$100 to Building Fund
• \$100 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign
• **\$200 to Building Fund**
• **\$100 to Operations**

Total Giving Increase = 30%

GIVING SCENARIO 3:
Currently giving \$300/month
• \$100 to Building Fund
• \$200 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign
• **\$200 to Building Fund**
• **\$200 to Operations**

Total Giving Increase = 33%

Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





CYBER SECURITY WATCH

Provided by the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology



CYBERCRIME HAS BEEN INFILTRATING OUR LIVES FOR YEARS.

More recently, parishes and religious communities around us are being targeted by a phishing scam where the attacker poses falsely as the parish priest and asks the recipient for money usually in the form of gift cards.

Illustration by: iStockphoto.com

EDUCATE yourselves and others about the dangers of emails and phone scams.

YOUR PARISH PRIEST **should never** reach out via personal email to request immediate financial assistance. Be vigilant if you do receive an email that fits this description! Here are some do's and do not's to guide you:

DO NOT...

- 🚫 reply to the message
- 🚫 click on any links
- 🚫 download any attachments
- 🚫 use the contact information provided in the email
- 🚫 share personal or financial data via email or phone

DO... FOLLOW THE 3 V'S

- ✓ **VIGILANCE** requires that you should question every email that comes in
- ✓ **VERIFY** the email by contacting your parish
- ✓ **VERY OFTEN** change your passwords

REPORT CYBERCRIME IMMEDIATELY to the following Federal agencies and to the Archdiocese:

- **Federal Trade Commission:** ftc.gov/complaint
- **FBI:** fbi.gov/tips
- **Archdiocese Technical Support:** techsupport.goarch.org

LEARN MORE by visiting blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries by contacting the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology with your questions at techsupport.goarch.org



The Liturgical Arts Academy

Winter Academy - for Beginners

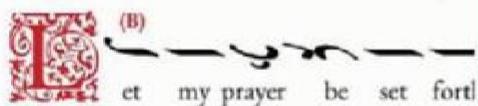
Summer Academy - for Upper Levels

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 Proshphora, Artoklasia, and Koliva for the worship life of the Church.

Winter Academy only.

Instructor: Presvytera Meredyth Houpos

Visit TheLiturgicalArts.org

info@theliturgicalarts.org



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[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED 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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