

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

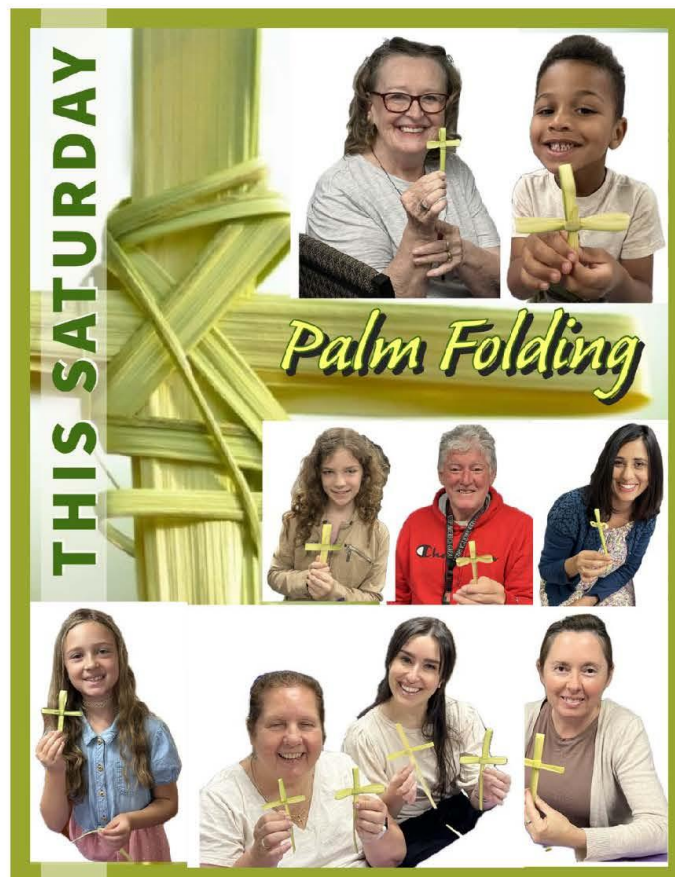
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

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

Friday, April 11, 2025

Pastoral Message from Fr. George



Don't miss
this Sunday,
April 13th ...



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Old Testament Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a donkey, He sat on it and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they immediately took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today. The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

THE PRODIGAL SON

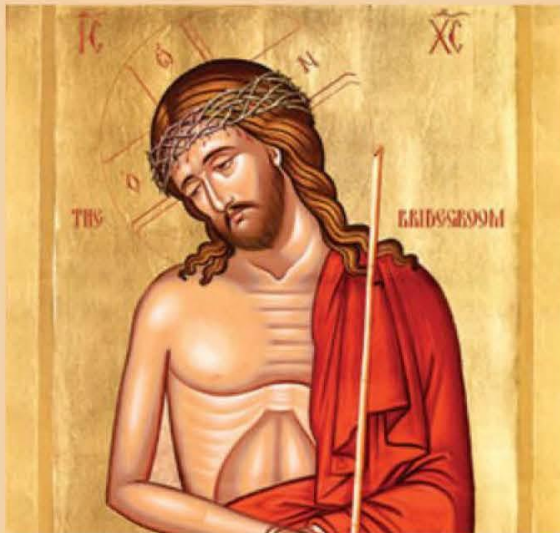


An Opportunity for Holy
Reconciliation (Confession)

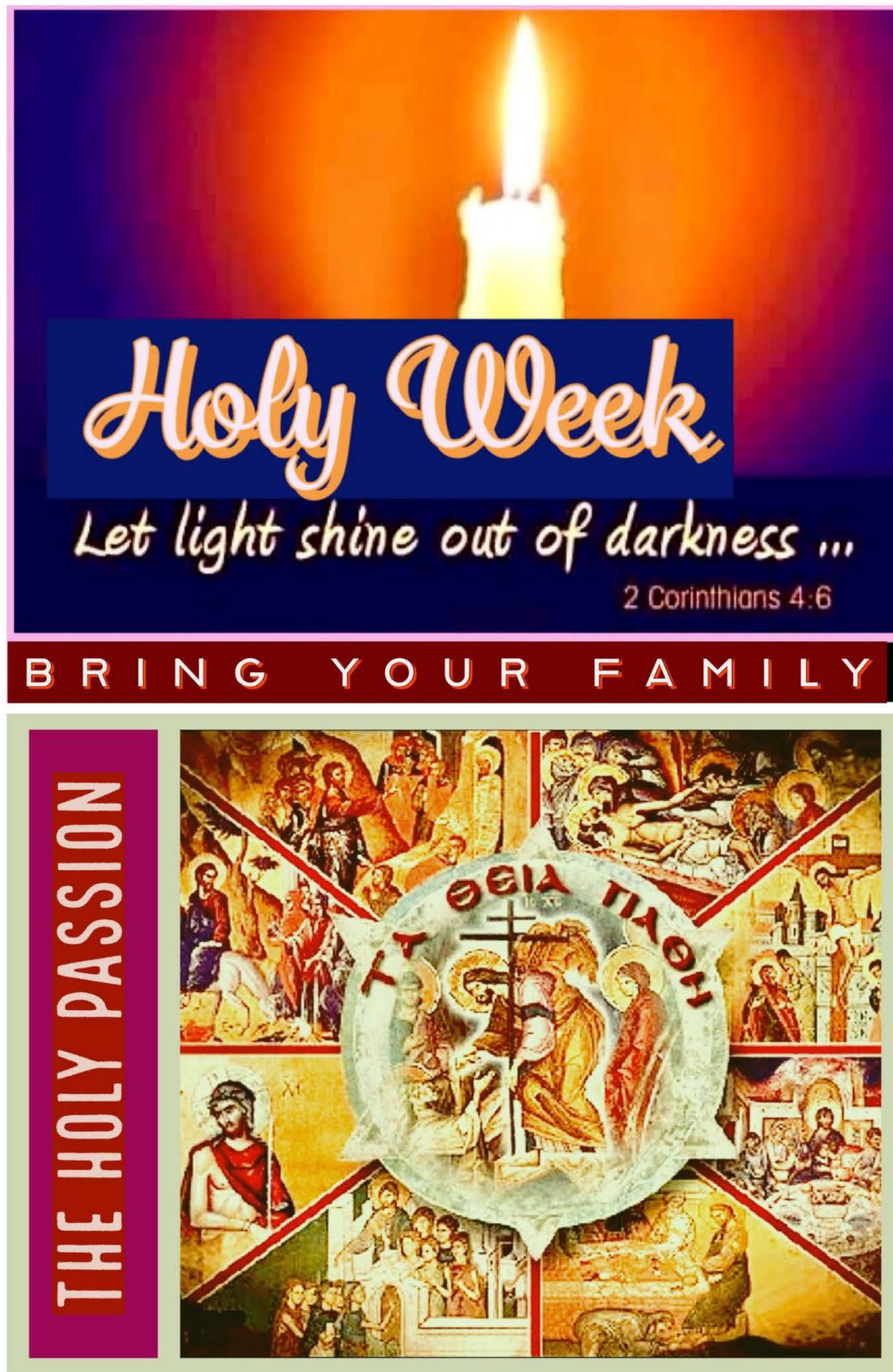
(Sunday after lunch at church)



Φῶς Χριστοῦ φαίνει πᾶσι.
The light of Christ shines on all.







The Spiritual Ladder of Holy Week



By Fr. George Economou

Eighteen weeks, or more than one third of the annual cycle, is the ecclesiastical liturgical cycle that revolves around the celebration of the Resurrection.

This is from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee until the Sunday of All Saints. It is a liturgical journey rich in religious and spiritual experiences.

It is a sweet joyful-sorrow. Grief according to God which leads through the Cross to the Resurrection.

And, as in all the liturgical traditions of our Holy Church, so also with this festal cycle, the wisdom of our Holy Fathers who set it in order is revealed.

Not to follow the formalism provisions but to get to the depth of the essence, which is none other than the eternal plan of the divine economy.

In this direction, this text summarizes the events of Holy and Great Week as a noetic and spiritual ladder, which leads the faithful to venerate the revered Passion and glorious Resurrection of the Savior.

The **Saturday of Lazarus** can be considered the prologue - the first step - and the resurrection of Lazarus the friend of Christ shortly before the Passion of the Lord prefigures His own glorious Resurrection.

Jesus, who wept as He went to the tomb, where His friend was buried, says to the one who was four days dead and commands with the familiar words: "Lazarus, come forth!"

At that moment and with those words of His, who Himself is the Resurrection and the Life, Lazarus immediately resurrected. He who breathed the breath of life into Adam has life in Himself.

This is how His own Resurrection from the dead is theologically interpreted after His descent into Hades, and it ensures our own expectation of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

With the expectation of the Resurrection, therefore, we enter Holy and Great Week, that we may journey together and be crucified together, as well as be resurrected together, and finally be united with our Lord.

On **Palm Sunday** we celebrate the bright and glorious festival of the entrance of the Lord into the Holy City of Jerusalem.

He comes exactly as it was prophesied by Zechariah in the Old Testament: "Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed

with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Meekly He sits on the donkey, just and endowed with salvation, to suffer the perfect injustice and extreme humiliation, by His Passion, and especially the Cross, to grant salvation to fallen humanity.

He fulfills the plan of Divine Providence and reopens the door of Paradise as a compassionate Father, who never ceases to love His children.

On **Holy and Great Monday** the Church remembers blessed Joseph the All-Comely. He was the son of Jacob, whom his brothers wanted to kill and repeat the horrible fratricide of Cain because of their envy.

He suffered horrible bullying by his own brothers. God, however, protected him from death, and so was sold to traders and led as a captive to Egypt, where Potiphar purchased him, and after he refused to sin with his master's wife, he was unjustly slandered and imprisoned.

Still even there, the grace of God acted on his behalf, and not only was he liberated, but he became the closest confidant and collaborator of Pharaoh.

In the sufferings of the all-comely Joseph and in his love, by which he forgave his brothers, the Church saw the Passion of the Lord and His perfect love prefigured, which is why it has been set to honor his memory on Holy and Great Monday.

On the same day we also remember the event of the withered fig tree, which reveals the holy will of God that we are to struggle, and multiply our talents entrusted to us and increase our inheritance of grace, that we may bear spiritual fruit.

Otherwise, as our Lord said at the Sermon on the Mount, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit, is cut down and thrown into the fire." This is what happened with the withered fig tree.

On **Holy and Great Tuesday** we remember the Parable of the Ten Virgins. With this parable we are called to cultivate watchfulness, alertness, as we do not know the day or hour when we will be called to the heavenly marriage of the Bridegroom Christ, and risk not having oil in our lamps.

Let our hands not be empty, because we have no mercy and love, because we are perhaps unmerciful and hard-hearted before the needs of our neighbors.

On **Holy and Great Wednesday** we remember the harlot woman, who anointed the Lord with myrrh prior to His salvific Passion. One act and one person who will probably even scandalize us!

How dare such a woman approach Jesus! Yet our Lord loves all His children. He does not exclude any of His children from salvation and teaches us not to judge, so that we will not be judged.

And, indeed, this harlot woman was saved by repentance, just as the thief who was crucified with the Lord, and like Zacchaeus along with countless other examples in the history of the Church.

So also are we invited if we are sunk in our sins and in despair over our actions, and we are encouraged by the all-loving mercy of God to offer Him our broken and contrite hearts, to be healed and to have a clean heart created within us.

On **Holy and Great Thursday** the Church celebrates the washing of the disciples feet in the sacred Basin, the Secret Supper, the supernatural prayer and the betrayal.

It is a practical teaching of extreme humility, the tradition of the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist, the amazing High Priestly Prayer of Gethsemene, as well as the false betrayal of Judas by a kiss.

Jesus desired to eat with His disciples, and even prepares the details of the supper, and He welcomes them as a servant, washing their feet on His knees, and serving them at the table.

There He delivers the mystery of mysteries and seals the New Testament with His Blood.

He also gives Judas an opportunity at repentance by foretelling who it would be that would betray Him, but the lawless Judas was unwilling to change his mind.

On **Holy and Great Friday** we commemorate the salvific and horrible Passion, especially the Cross and Death of the Lord, as well as the salvific confession of the grateful thief on the cross.

He was crucified for us and He suffered and was buried and became obedient even unto death, death by a cross.

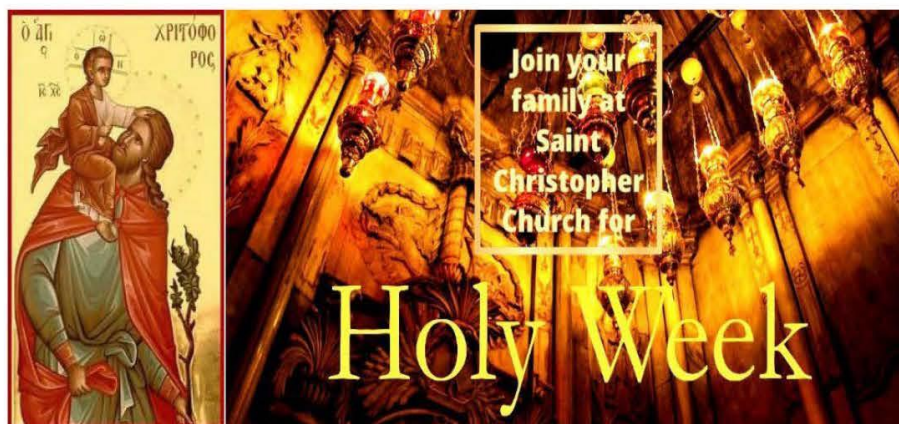
On **Holy and Great Saturday** all flesh is silent, as we celebrate the entombment of the Body of God and the Savior's descent into Hades. But already the tomb cannot contain the Lord of Glory. And we have a foretaste of the joy of the Resurrection. At the Vespers of the Resurrection, which is chanted on the morning of Holy and Great Saturday, we proclaim once again while spreading out bay leaves: "Arise O Lord and judge the earth, for to You belong all the nations."

Through this journey and ladder and our conscious participation in the wonderful life of worship in the Church this year is completed, just as in every year, Holy and Great Week and the spiritual struggle of the faithful.

Since, then, we will hopefully arrive at Pascha Sunday, may we be made worthy of Divine Grace to venerate once again this year, the glorious and life-bearing Resurrection.

[Reprinted from www.johnsanidopoulos.com]

St. Christopher Church, Peachtree City, GA



Holy Day	Service
Saturday of Lazarus, April 12	8:00 am Orthros, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, Breakfast, Fold Palm Crosses
Palm Sunday, April 13	7:45 am Orthros & Blessing of Palm Crosses 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Palm Sunday Luncheon 3:00 pm Bridegroom Service at Ebenezer Road Property
Holy Monday, April 14	5:30 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ (Nymphios)
Holy Tuesday, April 15	5:30 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ (Nymphios) & Hymn of Kassiani
Holy Wednesday, April 16	5:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ (Nymphios) & Sacrament of Holy Unction
Holy Thursday, April 17	8:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (for Mystical Supper) 5:00 pm Passion of Christ with 12 Gospels & Holy Cross
Holy Friday, April 18	9:00 am Royal Hours Service 2:00 pm Vespers of the Unnailing of Christ from the Cross 6:00 pm Lamentations at tomb of our Savior (Epitaphios)
Holy Saturday, April 19	9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil 11:00 pm Preparatory Service, the Canon of Crucifixion
Holy & Great Pascha, Sunday, April 20	Midnight Proclamation of the Resurrection 12:30 am Resurrection Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Great Vespers of Agape (Gospel proclaimed) 12:30 pm Pascha Glendi



PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Fish Fry Provided

By Last Name:

A-H Drinks

I-P Salads or Sides

Q-Z Desserts

April 13

Immediately Following the
Divine Liturgy

Did you know that our parish welcomes every parish family, along with their friends and relatives who may be visiting us on Palm Sunday, to our annual luncheon sponsored by our cherished Philoptochos Society?

Further, there is no charge. Our Philoptochos Society provides the Fish Fry and our parishioners enjoy preparing whatever food or drink group is assigned by their last name (see above). It's an opportunity to share that special recipe.

And best of all, if you forget to bring a dish that day or are unable, there are no judges to make you feel bad or guilty... the Lord has blessed our parishioners and providing food for each other is just who we are and what we do.

The only challenge is to remember to come next Sunday, April 13th. If you are traveling, we still pray for your safety and welfare. If you can volunteer to assist with set-up, let Stephen Butler or Presbyteria Marinda know by this Sunday, April 6th. Thank you. Hope to see you there!

Looking Ahead to Decorate Our Church for

Great & Holy Pascha:

Last year, on Holy Friday and Holy Saturday, our parishioners generously brought beautiful live flowers in pots for us to decorate our church on Holy Saturday. They then took them home after services on the Sunday of St. Thomas (April 27th). Please share your garden favorites with us to use during Pascha & Bright Week.





Pascha Glendi

**On behalf of our Saint Christopher Parish Family
and hosted by
The Sakkas, Panayis, and Theodorakis families
We invite your family and friends to join us @**

**1727 Gordon Rd.
Moreland 30259
A-H Salads
I-O Side Dishes
P-Z Desserts**

**Main dish
and Drinks
provided**

**See You
After
Church**

RSVP by April 13 Jackie Sarantis 770-347-7729



Fire and Ice Combo with Dual Slide




**Easter Egg
Hunt for the
kids!**


**Fun for
all!**



[Click](#) **here to support
the flower fund for the
Kouvouklion and church**



You're invited!

In preparation for Holy Friday Lamentations Service, at which we commemorate the burial of our Lord, we will be decorating the Kouvouklion with flowers immediately following the Service of Royal Hours, which begins at 9:00 AM and lasts approximately two hours.

All are invited to help with the preparations.

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





One Roof Outreach Ministries

*During the month of April "Hands of Love" will be accepting monetary donations to benefit "One Roof". Please place them in the "Hands of Love" **Red Box** in the church entryway, or donate **online** at*

<https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site/>



*Since 2007 "One Roof" ministries in Newnan has been lending a hand to Coweta County families in need. It is an alliance of churches, community organizations and businesses, offering financial **assistance**, food pantry access and clothing assistance. They also maintain a thrift store.*

For more information or to volunteer: <https://oneroofoutreach.org>

"...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me..." Mathew 25:35-40

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Ministry Chair



Annual Pascha Picnic
at the Diakonia Retreat Center
Saturday April 26th, 2025
Vespers – 11 am
Lunch – 1 pm

Join us for Christian Fellowship with Food, Music and Dance.
Roasted Lamb -Chicken-Pastitsio -Lemon Potatoes - Greek Salad and
LOUKOUMADES
Suggested donations of \$17.00 per person

RSVP to Marlene at the DRC office (864-732-1537)

Volunteers Needed!

Diakonia Retreat Center

**Volunteers
Needed!**

Volunteers Needed at The Diakonia Retreat Center
for our Kitchen during events and St. Stephen's Camp.

If you have some free time and would enjoy doing something worthwhile, become a volunteer for the Diakonia Retreat Center kitchen and assist our staff in preparing delicious meals for our campers and our yearly events.

Even if it is just for a day, a weekend, or the entire week it is greatly appreciated. Overnight accommodation is available.

Please think about signing up and sharing your time and talents.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart and passion" Elizabeth Andrews

If you are interested be please contact: Marlene Pridgen, DRC Administrator 864-732-1537, or email drccamp2024@gmail.com

All you will be asked is to complete the Youth Safety Training and a Background Check required by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. More information can be found at www.atlmetropolis.org

Orthodox Identity in America

YOUNG ADULT SYMPOSIUM

THE LIFE OF ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULTS IN THE SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES

The Young Adult Symposium (ages 18-30) is an opportunity for fellowship with like-minded Orthodox Christians. Activities incorporate various workshops, together with meals, and Divine Services (including Vigil and Sunday Liturgy).

GUEST SPEAKERS



Bishop Iakov of Sonora
Second Vicar of the Western American Diocese



Rev. Father Peter Markevich
Rector of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Mebane, NC



SCAN ME

ST. MARY OF EGYPT RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

from MAY 30, 2025
to JUNE 1, 2025

1765 Woodstock Rd.
Roswell, GA 30075-2135

FOR MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION: YOUTHPV.ORG



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Come Together in Fellowship!



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta invites you to the Clergy-Laity Assembly including the Philoptochos, Southeastern Choir Federation, & Sisterhood of Presvyteres Conferences.

Hyatt Place Charleston, Historic District - 560 King Street, Charleston, SC
June 11-15, 2025

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and grow together in faith!

- Register and pay securely online at www.clergylaity2025.com/register.
- Book your stay at our discounted rate of \$295/night right from our website or by phone at 843.414.4900 (specify the 'Greek Orthodox Church' June event).

We can't wait to welcome you to Charleston!

clergyilaity2025.org



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta invites the Young Adult League to the Clergy-Laity Assembly, June 13-15 in Charleston, SC

Hyatt Place Charleston, Historic District - 560 King Street, Charleston



The Young Adult League (YAL) event participants will explore how the four pillars of ministry—worship, community, discipleship, and mission—can shape young adults' spiritual journeys.

Through both structured and unstructured discussions, members will share insights on how to deepen their relationship with Christ and empower others in their faith. You'll focus on ways to foster a stronger sense of belonging within the Church community, help young adults navigate their faith in a meaningful way, and provide a space for them to grow and connect with others on their spiritual journey.



**Young Adult
League
Registration Fee
(\$195)**

Register Now

The fee includes your individual access to the Friday YAL group dinner, Saturday YAL sessions (9AM-12:30PM), a Saturday evening Harbor tour, and the Luncheon at Trinity Hall following Sunday's Divine Liturgy.

Book your stay at our discounted rate of **\$295/night** [right from our website](https://clergy-laity2025.org) or by phone at 843.414.4900 (specify the "Greek Orthodox Church" June event).

clergy-laity2025.org



**SUMMER
2025**

**ST. STEPHEN'S
CAMP**

Week 1: June 22 - June 28
 Week 2: June 29 - July 5
 Week 3: July 6 - July 12
 Week 4: July 13 - July 19
 Week 5: July 20 - July 26

Staff Applications are Open!
 Logistics
 Cabin Counselors
 Medical Staff
 Lifeguard
 and More...

Camper Registration Opens March 20 at 12:00 p.m. est
 Cost \$530.00 per camper.

www.atlmetropolis.org / @ststephenscamp

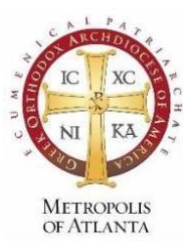
St. Stephen's Camp has a rich tradition, dating back to the 1980's, and is grounded on the principals of living a true Orthodox lifestyle with twice daily liturgical services, opportunities for reflection, community living and meals, athletics, arts & crafts, and nightly social activities.

Recognized as the highlight of the summer, St Stephen's Summer Camp offers teens of the Metropolis of Atlanta entering **6th through 12th grades** when school begins in the fall, an opportunity to spend a week at our *Diakonia Retreat Center*.

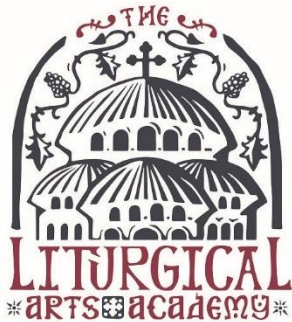
Campers are only allowed to attend camp for one week.

**Camper
Registration**

Staff Applications

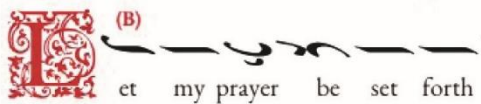


**amazon
wishlist**



**Now accepting applications for
The Liturgical Arts Academy
August 17 -23, 2025**

Diakonia Retreat Center, Salem, SC



**Byzantine
Chant**

This is a 1-week intensive in-person training that offers Intermediate, Advanced and Master Class levels.

Instructors: John Boyer, Samuel Herron
and Photini Downie Robinson



**Byzantine
Iconography**

A week of intensive instruction in gilding and painting an icon at the Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Instructors: Fr. Anthony Salzman

Visit TheLiturgicalArts.org

info@theliturgicalarts.com



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

