



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

Holy Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Pastoral Message from Fr. George

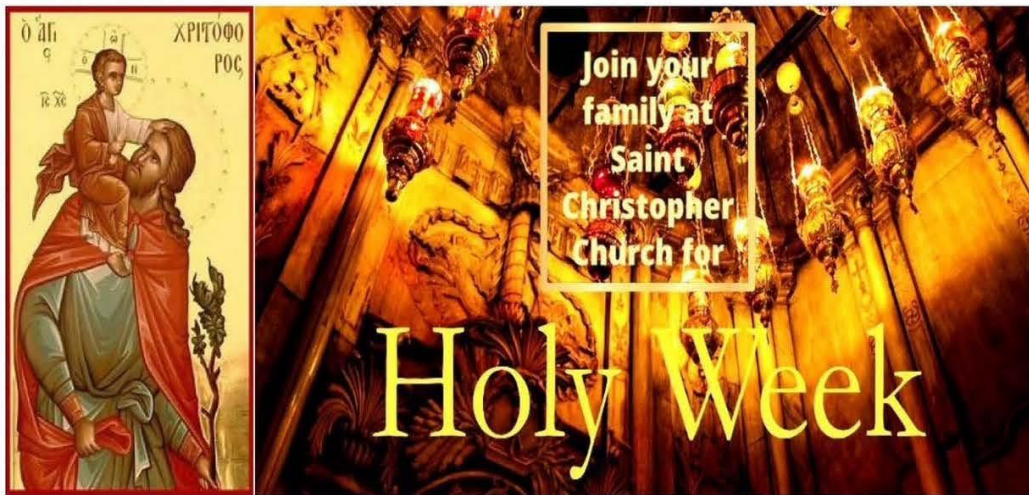
With the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday, we journey now through Great & Holy Week... a special time for parishioners to worship together. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros shared the following message which touched me deeply... His words reflect why I think this week is so special:

"I know that it is difficult to put aside the daily affairs and cares of life, of business, of family, and to enter into this alternate timeline. For in Holy Week, we truly stand in the presence of our Lord Jesus and all the various persons we read of in the Gospels, as they struggle to understand the



meaning of His precious and unfathomable sacrifice on the Cross,” His Eminence remarked, “For this is not a time of the usual community happenings – whether they are social, educational, or cultural... Holy Week is our encounter with the fullness of our salvation, the totality of God’s redeeming love for us. Let us stand with our Lord in these Holy Days, and live this Holy Week with Him.”

St. Christopher Church, Peachtree City, GA



Holy Day	Service
Holy Wednesday, April 16	5:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom Christ (Nymphios) & Sacrament of Holy Unction
Holy Thursday, April 17	8:00 am Vespereal 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 Vespereal 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









**Hide
not
the
Word
of
God;
instead
proclaim
His
Wonders.**

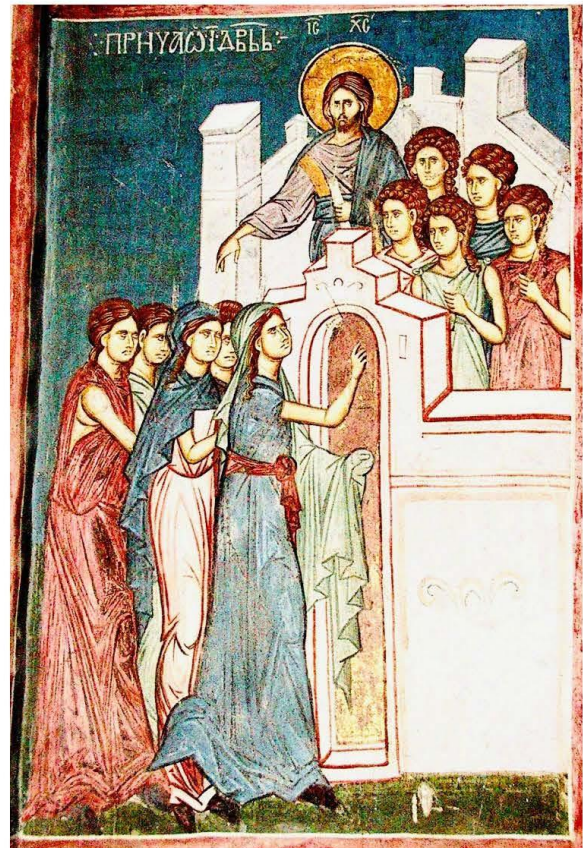


In Holy Week, we truly stand in the presence of our Lord Jesus and all the various persons we read of in the Gospels, as they struggle to understand the meaning of His precious and unfathomable sacrifice on the Cross. For we proceed with the Lord moment by moment, together with His Disciples - those who followed Him, those who betrayed Him, and those who denied Him.

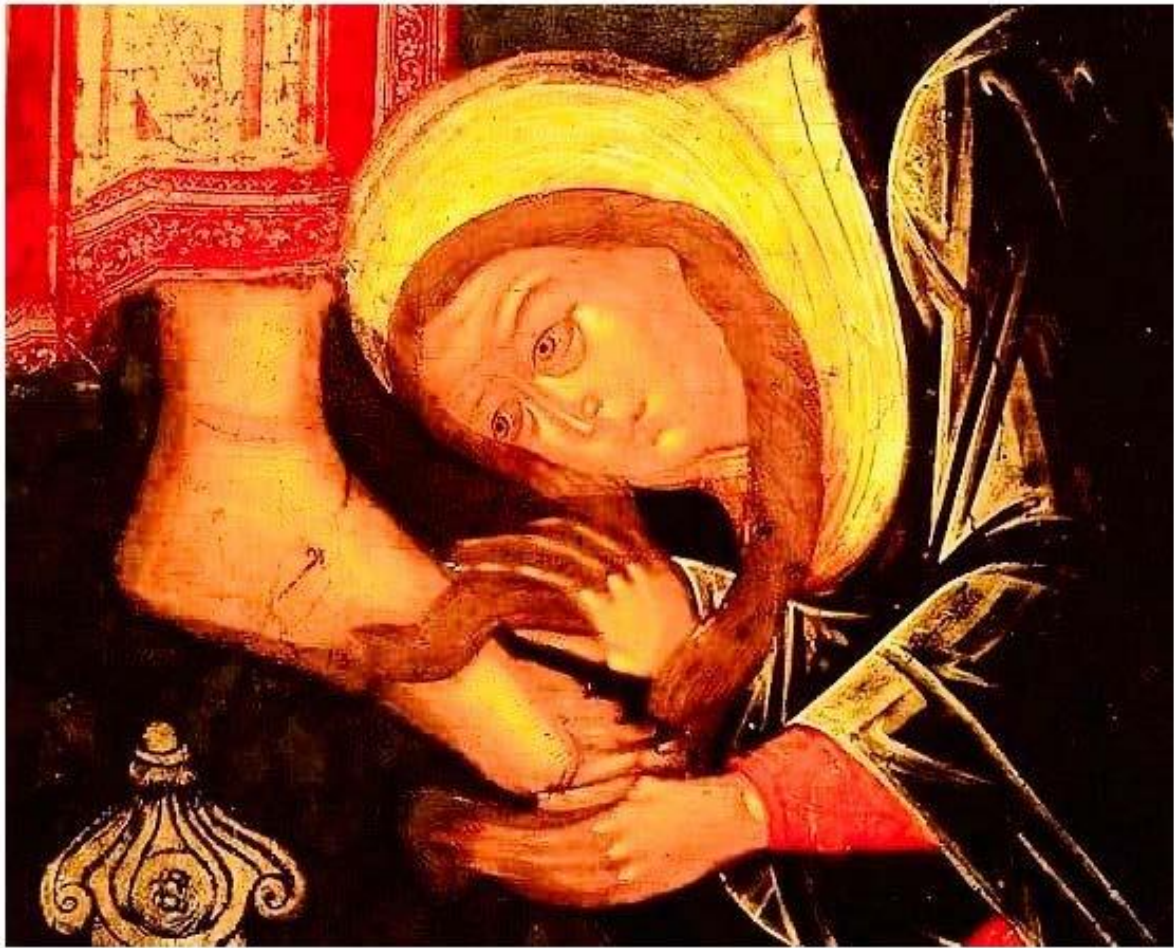
If we were standing by the Cross of the Lord Jesus as He gave His life for ours, how would we stand the test? These are the moments in the flow of every Holy Week which

challenge our hearts and souls. Either they lift us up, or uncover how far we have fallen. You see, my friends, Holy Week is the crucible of our spiritual honesty. Within these days, if we truly live as if we were right there with the Lord Jesus Christ, at every stage, our souls can be purified like gold in the fire of this crucible.

Holy Week is our yearly opportunity to be confronted with the full accounting of the price of our salvation, to encounter the fullness of our salvation and the totality of God's redeeming love for us. Let us stand with our Lord in these Holy Days and live this Holy Week with Him. – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



Parable of the Ten Virgins, Visoki Decani Monastery, Kosovo, c. 1300.



“My beloved Christians, the sinful Woman acted before the Passion. And we are here now in this Holy Week, two thousand years after the Passion, but we can still act. We can still offer.

Therefore, my friends, we are not only in marvelous Churches, but we are spiritually also in the house of Simon the Leper. We are standing in the same room, but it is up to us to choose whom we shall be.

The one who judges the deeds of others? The one who complains about the waste, the cost, the value of another's gift? Or the one who offers true and sincere repentance, who rains down tears upon the feet of the Lord, who offers the most precious gift of heart and soul, and who perceives the Resurrection before there is any manifestation.

May we join with that Sinful Woman in all her excellencies, in all her faith, in all perceptions, and thus announce beforehand the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who is blessed forever. Amen”. – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Help 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.



Holy Wednesday – A Story for our Youth – Niko & the Healing Oil



It was Holy Wednesday, and Niko was excited. All week, he had been following the special services of Holy Week with his family, but tonight was something different—**Holy Unction**.

“Niko, tonight we will receive a special blessing with holy oil,” his grandmother told him as they walked to church. “It’s a gift from God to heal us—inside and out.”

As they entered the church, the soft glow of candles lit the icons, and the Priest stood by a table with a beautiful golden container of oil. Seven candles flickered beside a big Bible, ready for the readings.

Niko listened as the Priest read stories about Jesus healing the sick, forgiving sins, and showing His love to everyone. He heard about how Jesus made a blind man see and how He cured a paralyzed man just by speaking to him!

Then, the moment came. The Priest dipped a small brush into the blessed oil and made the sign of the cross on Niko’s forehead, cheeks, chin, and hands.

“For the healing of soul and body...” the Priest whispered.

Niko felt a warm, peaceful feeling in his heart. He closed his eyes and whispered a little prayer:

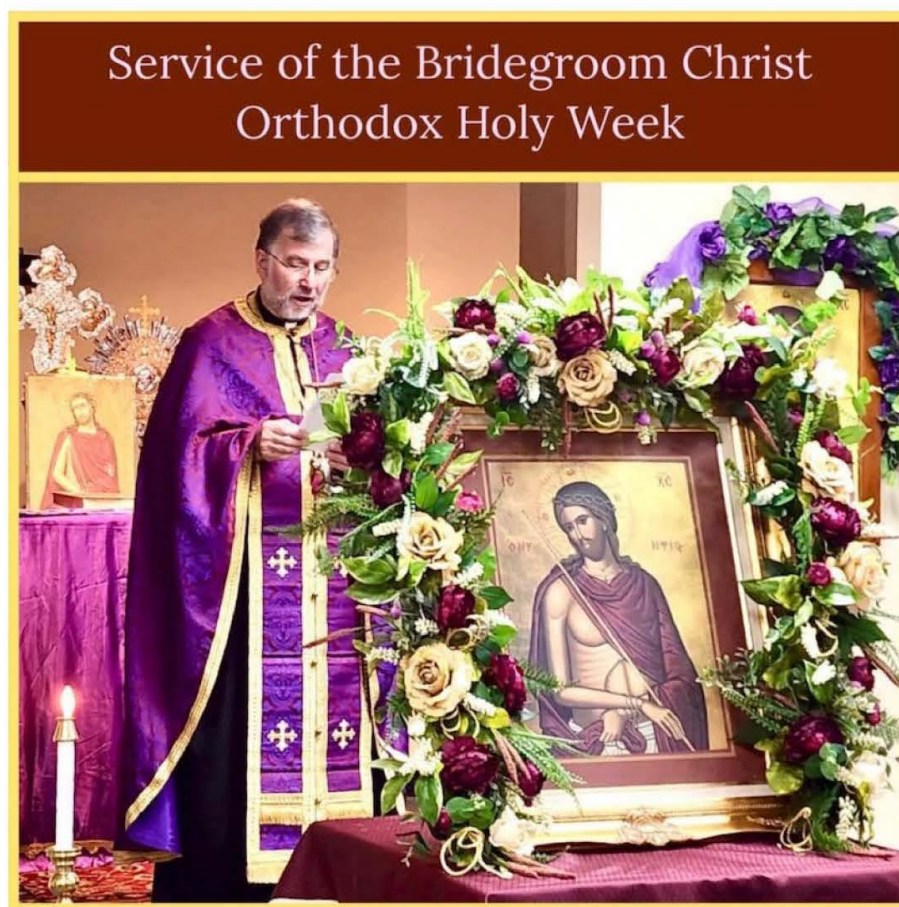
“Thank you, Jesus, for Your love.”

As he walked home with his family, Niko smiled. He felt lighter as if Jesus had wiped away all his worries. Now, he was ready to continue Holy Week, knowing that Christ was with him, healing and protecting him every step of the way. – Archdiocese Department of Religious Education

Join us throughout the rest of Holy Week and for Pascha as we offer our devotion to our Crucified Lord and witness His love for us. *The following images are from not too long ago...*

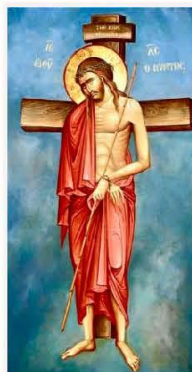
This week is Holy Week for Orthodox Christians. We gather daily to remember the last week of Jesus... beginning with His Raising of Lazarus and our Lord's Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His Saving Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection on Pascha (Easter).

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night." (from Service of the Bridegroom Christ)





**HOLY THURSDAY MORNING WE COMMEMORATE
THE INSTITUTION OF HOLY EUCHARIST
AT THE LAST SUPPER OF JESUS
WITH HIS DISCIPLES IN THE UPPER ROOM**



**Join Us for the Passion
Service (12 Gospels)
Holy Thursday Evening**



Holy Thursday Passion Service



**We Bring Flowers to
Decorate Tomb of Christ**





Unnailing of Christ from the Cross



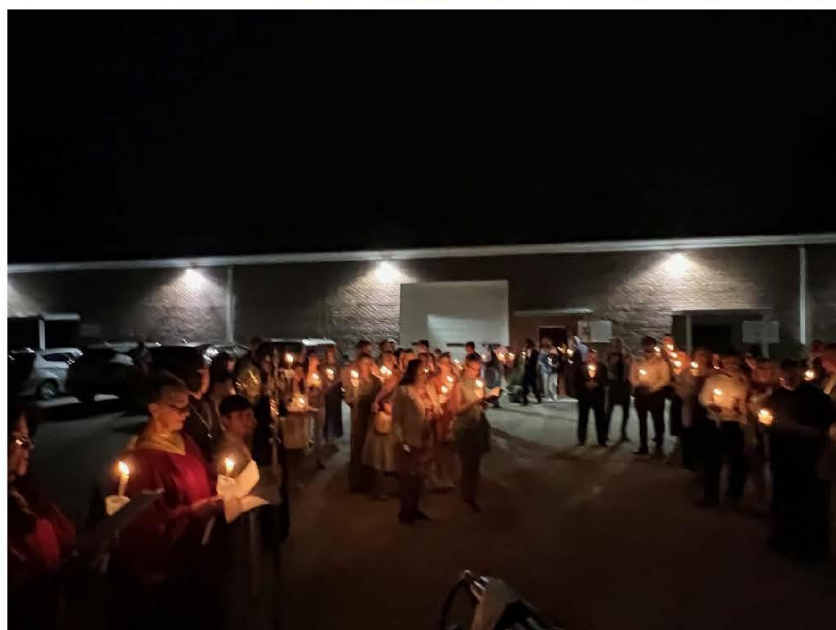


Holy Friday Lamentations





Holy Saturday Vespers Liturgy





Thank you for
your gifts of
time, talents,
and treasures...
today and
always!



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 @**

**Main dish
and Drinks
provided**

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

**See You
After
Church**



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!

clergyalaity2025.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](https://www.instagram.com/ststephenscamp)

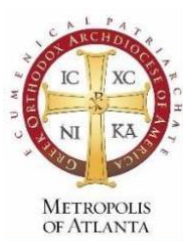
St. Stephen's Camp has a rich tradition, dating back to the 1980's, and is grounded on the principals of living a true Orthodox lifestyle with twice daily liturgical services, opportunities for reflection, community living and meals, athletics, arts & crafts, and nightly social activities.

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*.

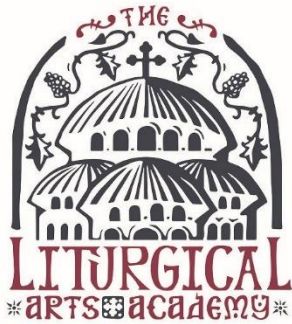
Campers are only allowed to attend camp for one week.

**Camper
Registration**

Staff Applications

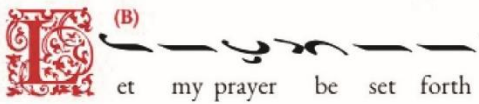


**amazon
wishlist**



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

