



## **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)

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

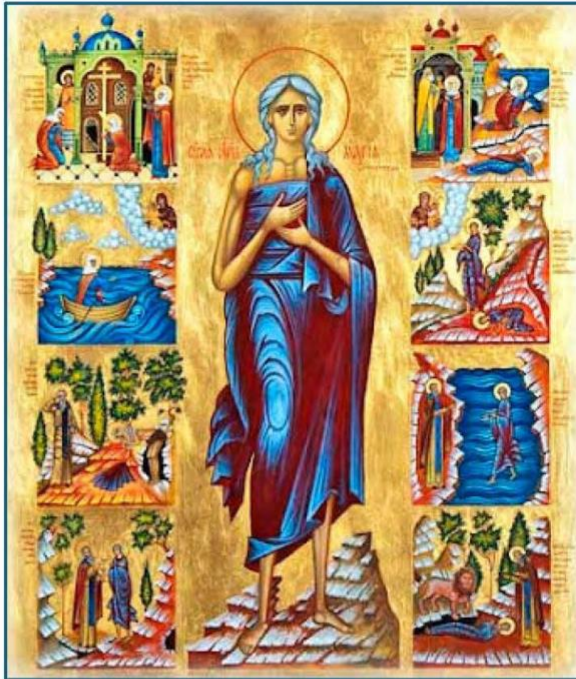
**Friday, April 4, 2025**

### **Pastoral Message from Fr. George**

**DON'T SET YOUR WILL ON HAVING  
YOUR AFFAIRS TURN OUT AS IT  
SEEMS BEST TO YOU, BUT RATHER  
AS IT PLEASES GOD.  
THEN YOU WILL BE UNTROUBLED  
AND THANKFUL IN YOUR PRAYER.  
(EVAGRIUS PONTICUS)**



## 21 Interesting Facts About St. Mary of Egypt



1. Her life was recorded by St. Sophronios of Jerusalem, who served as Patriarch of Jerusalem from 634 to 638. He says St. Mary lived within his lifetime and he heard the tale from a fellow monk of St. Zosimas himself.

2. One third of *The Life* is of Mary's first-person account to Zosimas of her sinful youth, conversion, and flight into the desert.

3. Mary left home at 12-years-old, was a "prostitute" in Alexandria for

17 years, and at the age of 29 converted and left for the desert. During the entire time she was a "prostitute", she never actually received payment for her sexual favors, but survived by begging and by "spinning coarse flax fibers". Her "prostitution" was merely to gratify her sexual appetite.

4. Mary must have been baptized as a child, since there is no record of her having been baptized after her conversion. And in her story to Zosimas, she says: "I am protected by Holy Baptism." Furthermore, we can assume she had some sort of Christian education in her youth, since her first prayer of repentance was addressed to the Virgin Mary.

5. Mary's conversion occurred on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which was on September 14th. We know that in 614 the Persians stole fragments of the Cross from Jerusalem, and it wasn't returned until after the Persian Campaign by Emperor Heraclius himself in 629.

6. The Icon of the Virgin Mary before which Mary of Egypt prayed in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was displayed “on a raised place” in the courtyard before the Church of Constantine; it is mentioned, for example, by the Piacenza Pilgrim (ca. 570) and by Epiphanius the Monk (8th century). Epiphanius states explicitly that he saw “on the left side of Saint Constantine ... the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, who forbade Saint Mary to enter the church on the day of the Exaltation.” St. John the Damascene references this icon which St. Mary of Egypt prayed before in his defense of holy icons.

7. Before going into the desert Mary received Holy Communion in the Church of St. John the Baptist near the Jordan River. The church, built by the emperor Anastasios I (491–518), was located approximately 8 km north of the Dead Sea (and about 30 km from Jerusalem), at the traditional site of Christ’s baptism by John the Baptist.

8. St. Euthymios the Great in the early 5th century was the first to introduce the practice of monks going into the innermost desert of Palestine alone for 40 days. However, he established for it to be done on January 14th following the feast of Epiphany, in imitation of Christ who spent 40 days in the desert following His baptism. Through prayer and fasting they thus prepared themselves for Easter. A few decades later St. Savvas the Sanctified moved the date of the retreat to after the celebration of the feasts of Sts. Anthony and Euthymios (17 and 20 January). Soon after it was placed to the first week of Great Lent.

9. Mary lived 47 years in the desert and never encountered a human being all those years. Thus when she encountered Zosimas, she was 76-years-old. Zosimas was 53 years old when he encountered Mary in the desert, having lived in a monastery since infancy. Mary died when she was approximately 78 years old. Zosimas died when he was nearly 100 years old.



10. Mary encountered great temptation in the desert for 17 years, which is the same number of years she lived a licentious lifestyle in Alexandria.

11. Since Mary was illiterate, the writing on the sand where her dead body lay must be looked upon as miraculous.

12. Mary died on April 1st, which was a Holy Thursday. This means that Easter that year was April 4th. If one consults a perpetual calendar that is keyed to the Julian Calendar (the one in use at the



time), one finds that there are 24 years in the relevant centuries on which April 1 occurs on a Thursday. Of these, the years on which Easter would fall on April 4 according to the Julian Calendar are: 443, 454, 527, 538, and 549. We must incur from all the evidence of dates and ages mentioned above, that only the last two or three years are candidates for the date of the death of Mary of Egypt.

13. The earliest manuscript of the Life of Mary of Egypt dates to the ninth century.

14. Paul the Deacon translated the Life of Mary of Egypt to Latin in the 8th century.

15. In the National Library of Athens alone, 27 manuscripts of the Life of Mary of Egypt are preserved. 37 manuscripts are in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and numerous others in the libraries of Athos, Mt. Sinai, the Vatican, Oxford and Cambridge. The great number indicates the popularity of the text in both the East and West.

16. While the Orthodox Church celebrates Mary of Egypt's feast on the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent and on April 1st, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates her feast on either April 2, 3, 9, or 10, depending on the local tradition and which calendar they follow. The Coptic Church celebrates her on April 1st.

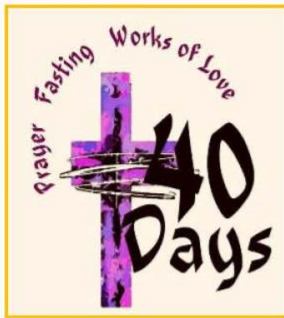
17. There is a chapel dedicated to Mary of Egypt at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, commemorating the moment of her conversion.

18. The Temple of Portunus in Rome was preserved by being rededicated to Saint Mary of Egypt in 872.

19. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* says that "relics of the saint are venerated at Rome, Naples, Cremona, Antwerp, and some other places."

20. In Goethe's *Faust* Mary of Egypt is one of the three penitent saints who pray to the Virgin Mary for forgiveness for Faust. Her words are set by Mahler in his 8th Symphony as the final saint's appeal to the Mater Gloriosa.

21. Scholars who only view such texts as the Life of Mary of Egypt as literature often try to prove that the life of Mary of Egypt was based on previous accounts of a certain woman named Mary who lived in the Judean desert, as described by St. Cyril of Skythopolis and St. John Moschos. But St. Sophronios both in the beginning and at the end of his text goes to great length to dissuade people from such thinking, assuring his readers that what he wrote had never been recorded before and that he had heard the tale from a monk of the monastery in which Zosimas lived and circulated the tale. He also assured the reader that he would never make up such a holy tale, which he believed would incur judgment upon him. To say that he borrowed from other accounts, therefore, is highly improbable. - *By John Sanidopoulos*



**April 4, Friday of the 5<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Lent**

6:00 pm **Akathist Hymn (5<sup>th</sup> Friday of Great Lent)**

**April 6, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Great Lent - Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt**

**Note:** On Sunday, we will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the Great Doxology hymn, followed by the Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves, & Commemorations for February, March, & April. We thank Susan & Pete Kleto for offering the five loaves for today's service.

11:00 **Religious Education Classes**

12:00 **Parish Council Meeting**

**April 9, Wednesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Lent**

8:00 am **Service of 9<sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, followed by Final Lenten Study Series Class for Catechumens & Parishioners**

**April 12, Saturday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Great Lent**

8:00 am **Orthros Service**

9:00 am **Divine Liturgy, followed by Community Breakfast & Folding of Palm Crosses**

**April 13, Palm Sunday**

8:00 am **Orthros Service**

9:00 am **Blessing of Palm Crosses, Divine Liturgy, & Palm Sunday Luncheon**

3:00 pm **Service of the Bridegroom Christ** *(Note earlier time. Join us at our Church Property on Ebenezer Road for this outdoor service. Dress comfortably and bring a folding chair to use during the outdoor service.)*





*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?*

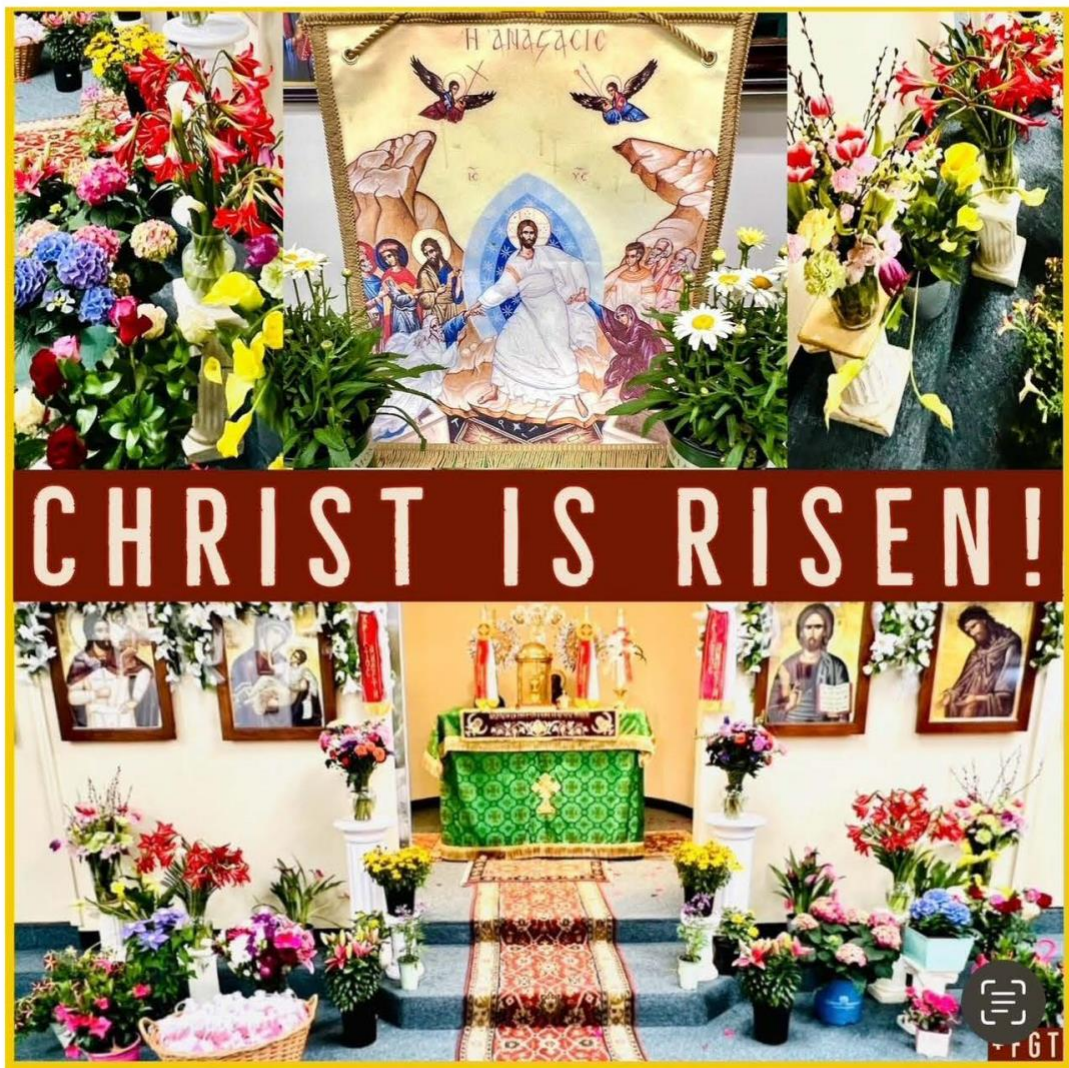
*Further, there is no charge. Our Philoptochos Society provides the Fish Fry and our parishioners enjoy preparing whatever food or drink group is assigned by their last name (see above). It's an opportunity to share that special recipe.*

*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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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 27<sup>th</sup>). Please share your garden favorites with us to use during Pascha & Bright Week.*





## PASCHA CARD 2025

It is time to sign up for the church Pascha Card!

**Our Ladies Philoptochos chapter donates the proceeds from the cards to local charities.**

**The deadline for these donations is April 6<sup>th</sup>.**



It is easy to donate to this worthy endeavor.  
Be sure to include your name as you want it printed on the card.

Forms will be available in the narthex  
Please see Angelique or Suzanne at church to sign up or

**Click the link below to**

**Donate [ONLINE](#) now!**

## 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:

<b>GIVING SCENARIO 1:</b> Currently giving \$100/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$40 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$60 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$80</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$60 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 40%</div>	<b>GIVING SCENARIO 2:</b> Currently giving \$200/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$100 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$100 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$200</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$100 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 30%</div>	<b>GIVING SCENARIO 3:</b> Currently giving \$300/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$100 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$200 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$200</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$200 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 33%</div>
---	---	---

Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





## **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!**





## 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*



# SAVE the DATE

April 4-6, 2025



[AtlantaGreekFestival.org](http://AtlantaGreekFestival.org)

Bring home  
the Atlanta Greek  
Festival Drive-Thru  
Deliciousness!





Annual Pascha Picnic  
at the Diakonia Retreat Center  
Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](https://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](http://www.atlmetropolis.org) / @ststephenscamp

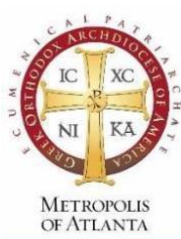
St. Stephen's Camp has a rich tradition, dating back to the 1980's, and is grounded on the principals of living a true Orthodox lifestyle with twice daily liturgical services, opportunities for reflection, community living and meals, athletics, arts & crafts, and nightly social activities.

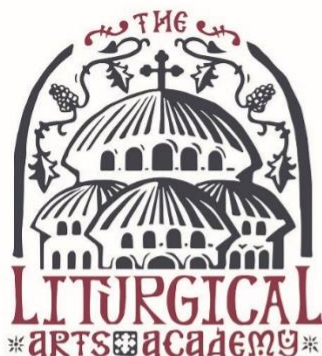
Recognized as the highlight of the summer, St Stephen's Summer Camp offers teens of the Metropolis of Atlanta entering **6th through 12th grades** when school begins in the fall, an opportunity to spend a week at our *Diakonia Retreat Center*.

Campers are only allowed to attend camp for one week.

**Camper  
Registration**

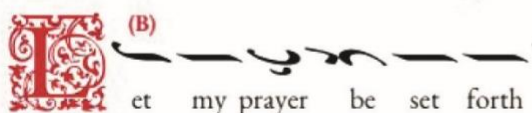
**Staff Applications**





## 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](https://TheLiturgicalArts.org)

[info@theliturgicalarts.com](mailto:info@theliturgicalarts.com)







## 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.

**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](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
- **FBI:** [fbi.gov/tips](http://fbi.gov/tips)
- **Archdiocese Technical Support:** [techsupport.goarch.org](http://techsupport.goarch.org)

**LEARN MORE** by visiting [blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries](http://blogs.goarch.org/internet-ministries) by contacting the Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology with your questions at [techsupport.goarch.org](http://techsupport.goarch.org)

[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](mailto: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](#)



*Copyright © 2025 St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church, All rights reserved.*  
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

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

