

## 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

### Pastoral Message from Fr. George for Friday, May 2, 2025

In Orthodox Christianity, the Bishop's pastoral ministry is deeply rooted in the tradition of apostolic succession and the spiritual oversight of the faithful. The bishop, or *episkopos* (Greek for "overseer"), is seen as the successor to the Apostles, entrusted with preserving the teachings of the Church and guiding the spiritual life of the community.

The pastoral role of a Bishop includes:

- **Teaching and Doctrine:** *Ensuring that the faith remains true to Orthodox teachings and addressing theological concerns.*

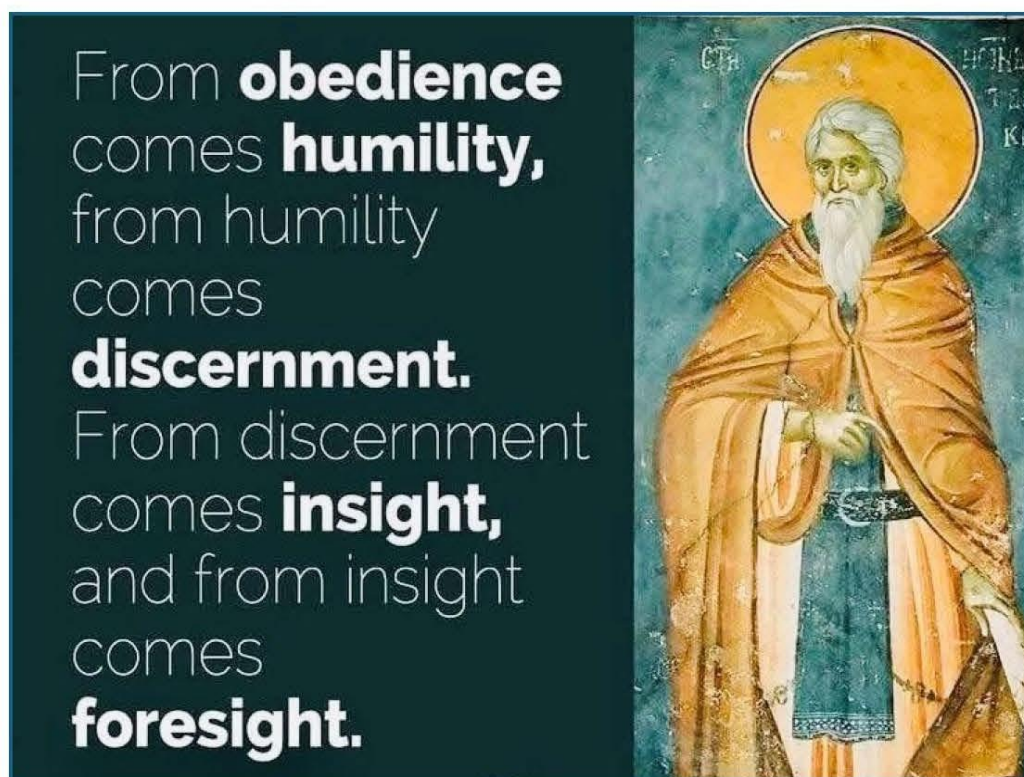


- **Liturgical Leadership:** *Leading worship, administering sacraments, and maintaining the integrity of liturgical practices.*
- **Spiritual Shepherding:** *Providing pastoral care, guiding clergy and laity, and fostering the spiritual growth of the faithful.*
- **Church Governance:** *Overseeing the administration of the diocese, appointing clergy, and maintaining order within the Church.*

Orthodox pastoral theology emphasizes the Bishop's role as a shepherd, mirroring Christ's ministry. The Bishop is not merely an administrator but a spiritual father, guiding the faithful toward *deification*—union with God through the sacramental life of the Church.

Next Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, His Eminence Sevastianos will be visiting our parish for the first time as our new Metropolitan of Atlanta. In preparation, I have invited Dr. Constantine Kokenes to lead our chantors for the Orthros Service and assist our Choir during the Divine Liturgy for the special hymns in Hierarchical Liturgy. You, the faithful pillars of our parish, are essential to completing our local Body of Christ. Please join us to *1) worship with our new Metropolitan, 2) allow our youth to meet Him and receive His blessings, 3) to honor our Mother's on Mother's Day, and 4) to celebrate with a joint Mother's Day/Name Day Luncheon the Name Day of our parish which we will celebrate on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.* All are welcome! Please bring your family and friends for worship and fellowship. Orthros, 8:15 a.m. & Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.





During my theological school training, I had the blessing to meet and hear Christos Yannaras (1935–2024), a Greek philosopher, Eastern Orthodox theologian and author of more than 50 books which have been translated into many languages. He was a professor emeritus of philosophy at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens. As we consider the choice of welcoming our new Metropolitan in person, I want to share what he wrote about our participation in the worship services of the Orthodox Church:

*"The liturgical unity of the faithful, under whatever conditions and in whatever institutions, networks and structures, is the starting point for the*

*transformation of mass coexistence into a communion of persons, a society."*

For me personally, that calling reflects our Risen Lord's desire that we come together in the fullness of our local parish of St. Christopher... not only when the Bishop is visiting, but every opportunity we have to honor and serve God so that the eight counties we serve receive the witness of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

*During this paschal period, I encourage you to reflect on the following spiritual teaching of St. Seraphim of Sarov that emphasizes the importance of peace, mercy, and unity in fellowship: "You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy,*

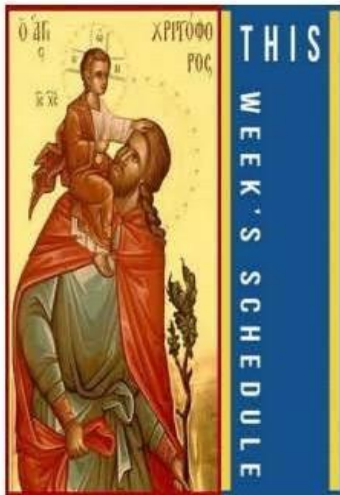


*streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives. All condemnation is from the devil.*



*Never condemn each other. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a swamp that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away and make much of the faults of others. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgment. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil."*

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



**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Myrrhbearers**

9 am **Great Doxology, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Five Loaves & May Commemorations**

*(offered by Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi)*

11 am **Religious Education Classes**

12 pm **Parish Council Meeting**

**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Christopher the Martyr**

9 am **Divine Liturgy**

**Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of the Paralytic, Mother's Day/Name Day (from Friday)**

8:15 am **Orthros**, with Dr. Constantine Kokenes, Chantor

9:30 am **Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Sevastianos Presiding**

11:00am **Mother's Day Luncheon**





# Pentecost Picnic

St Philothea Greek Orthodox Church

3761 Mars Hill Road, Watkinsville, GA



Saturday, June 7  
3:00 pm Vespers  
& Picnic

*Indoor & Outdoor Seating*



Blessed are You,  
O Christ our God,  
who made fisherman all-wise,  
by sending down upon them  
the Holy Spirit, and through them,  
drawing all the world into Your net.



RSVP: Please scan the QR code

Or go to: [StPhilothea.org](http://StPhilothea.org)

For more information call 706-340-6366

**This is a Pan-Orthodox AIOPA Event**  
Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring their families!



## HELP US LIVESTREAM OUR SERVICES

Would you like to help Livestream our Church services.

It is a very simple process to turn the system on and off.

The only requirements are:

- \* Be above the age of 18.
- \* Be at Church before the start of Orthros or  
Divine Liturgy depending on the schedule.
- \* Attend a 3 minute tutorial of how to do it.

If interested, please email or text

Kirk Panayis

Cell: 347-203-9324

[kpanayis@yahoo.com](mailto:kpanayis@yahoo.com)

Thank you,

Kirk Panayis

Audio / Livestream Ministry



# FRANK'S



## WELLNESS CHAMPION WALK

Join us for a meaningful walk in memory of Mary Ramsaier-Kirk, honoring her spirit and passion for wellness. All proceeds benefit Ignite Living Senior Living, supporting our mission to integrate the 8 dimensions of wellness into our fitness programs and gyms. Walk with us as we celebrate life, health, and community!

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### MAY 17, 2025

9 AM

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519 Perkins Road, Palmetto, GA  
30268

770-463-2460

[www.igniteliving.com](http://www.igniteliving.com)



## Sharing Talents in Multiple Ways

Fr. George will bless our next collection of Prayer Shawls on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. For the third year in a row, we get to partner with YOCAMA. If it is possible for the maker to do so, we request the shawls be made with wool yarn. It can get very cold in the locations that YOCAMA serves.



While the Prayer Shawl Ministry is about shawls, we also try to assist our partnering organizations in other ways. Supporting the Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventures (YOCAMA) financially is one way to do so. Participating in a Mission Trip with your teens and young adult family members is another. YOCAMA sponsors mission trips to Native American Indian Reservations to provide medical, dental, vision and developmental screenings for pre-school children. They also help with educational programs and small construction projects.

YOCAMA is an independent, non-profit organization. We seek to provide teens and young adults an opportunity to share the experience of working side-by-side with Native Americans who are helping to improve the quality of life in their own communities in the Navajo and Blackfeet reservations. Missionaries pay their own travel and lodging expenses. We rely on fundraising and donations to support our medical, food distribution and construction projects. Donations are fully tax-deductible. Annual fundraising and donations from missionaries and their parishes from throughout the Greek Orthodox churches in North America and with other interested organizations, support our medical, social welfare and construction projects.

Since 2008, over 1,000 missionaries have participated in trips to New Mexico and Montana. In addition to pre-school screenings, we built houses, completed building renovations, and delivered food and firewood to families in remote parts of the reservations.

YOCAMA supports Native American families by partnering with local organizations such as St. Bonaventure's or the De La Salle Blackfeet School. They aim to support and enhance the great work being done by these groups, while providing additional funding and manpower. Each summer YOCAMA trip participants distribute food boxes put together by the St. George Albuquerque Philoptochos across the Eastern Navajo reservation. Many of the homes receiving deliveries lack electricity or plumbing. For more information about these volunteer opportunities or to support YOCAMA directly, see their website at <http://www.yocama.com/>.

As our Parish member and YOCAMA volunteer Isabelle Wiley has shared with us, day-to-day life is very difficult on both the Blackfeet and Navajo Reservations. Philoptochos has already pledged a donation to accompany our Prayer Shawls. However, you can help too. To support YOCAMA through our Philoptochos, please make donations to Philoptochos but put YOCAMA Donation on the "For" line.

Please contact Susan Kleto at (678) 877-9115 or [sbkleto@gmail.com](mailto:sbkleto@gmail.com) to either become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions or suggestions.

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## 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><u>GIVING SCENARIO 1:</u></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><u>GIVING SCENARIO 2:</u></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><u>GIVING SCENARIO 3:</u></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>
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Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





**Midwest  
FOOD BANK**



During this time of giving, we have the opportunity to offer monetary donations for our month of May “Hands of Love”

charity partner: Midwest Food Bank in Peachtree City

Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is a faith-based, non-denominational top-ranked charity in Peachtree City with a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator. Those of us who volunteered last year will be happy to learn that MFB has expanded with the completion an 8,000 sq.ft. addition, as the service they provide is much needed and well managed.

Since 2003, when the Kieser family began serving ten food pantries in McLean County, IL, the food bank has grown to more than ten distribution centers in the US, as well as overseas - in Africa and Haiti.



The Georgia distribution center was established in Peachtree City in 2011 and it now supplies food items to over 320 agencies in 52 counties throughout the Southeast.

We thank you for your continuous support and, as always, please place your donations in the "Hands of Love" RED BOX in the church entryway, online at:

<https://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site/product/hands-of-love/57?cs=true&cst=custom>

or mail to 313 Dividend Dr, Suite 210, Peachtree City, 30269

Faithfully, Anna Andreeva-Naydenova,  
"Hands of Love" Ministry Chair



## Big News! More Rooms, More Time – But Don't Wait!



2025 Clergy-Laity Assembly including the Philoptochos, Southeastern Choir Federation & Sisterhood of Presvyteres Conferences

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Thanks to overwhelming interest, we sold out of our original room block — so we've added more rooms for our convention!

*(Heads-up: this came with a slight (~\$34/night) price bump for new hotel bookings — but if you've already booked, you're locked in at the original rate.)*

To help offset the increase we're postponing the Registration Fee increase from May 1st to May 16th!

That's right — you now have two extra weeks to register at the current rate. But don't delay:

- Book your room ASAP before the new block fills up!
- Register by May 16th to save on your fee!
- Final Deadline: Absolutely NO Registrations after June 1st.

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

[Clergylaity2025.org](https://Clergylaity2025.org)





## SUMMER 2025 CAMPER REGISTRATION

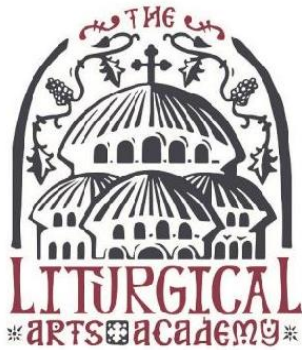
St Stephen's Summer Camp offers teens of the Metropolis of Atlanta entering 8th through 12th grades when school begins in the fall, an opportunity to spend a week at our Diakonia Retreat Center.

**REGISTER TODAY!**



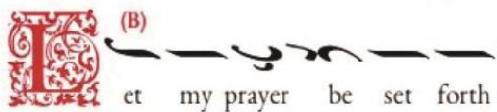
amazon  
wishlist

St. Stephen's Camp 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](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](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint)
- **FBI:** [fbi.gov/tips](https://www.fbi.gov/tips)
- **Archdiocese Technical Support:** [techsupport.goarch.org](https://techsupport.goarch.org)

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



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