



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor
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Pastoral Message from Fr. George for Friday, June 27, 2025



This is the Final Week of the Apostles Fast: Honoring Our Roots as a Church in the Teaching and Witness of the Apostles

Every year the fast to honor the Holy Apostles begins on the Monday after All Saints Sunday. This year, the Fast to honor the witness of the Apostles began on Monday, June 16th and concludes on Saturday,

June 28th, in preparation for the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on Sunday, June 29th and the Synaxis of the 12 Apostles on Monday, June 30th.

What does it mean for us to confess that our Church is ***apostolic***, as we do each Sunday in the Creed? First and foremost, of course, it means that our Church roots itself in the teaching and witness of the Apostles. It means that—like the Apostles—we are to engage in evangelism and missions both here at home and around the world.

Our mission as a parish and as individuals is to share the Good News of salvation with as many people as possible, being His witnesses “in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth”—or, as we would say today, at the local, national and even international levels.

It also means that we are to live as the Apostles lived, totally committed to Christ, willing to do His will in every aspect of our lives, and engage the spiritual disciplines they engaged in, one of which was fasting (Acts of the Apostles 10:30;13:3; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 6:5).

As we approach the end of the Apostle's Fast this weekend, let us look back at [one of Trisagion Films videos about the Feast and about Saints Peter and Paul](#). Through this video, and by completing the fast and partaking of the feast, may we contemplate the faith that transformed simple fishermen, timid and unlearned men, and even a great persecutor of the early church into bold apostles and preachers who carried a message of hope and love: the good news of Christ's saving resurrection and the opening of the door to eternal life to all the world. Join us this Sunday for this blessed commemoration.



Beloved in Christ, this is our call to action! The Lord has equipped each of us with gifts not meant to be hidden but shared for the strengthening of His Holy Church. Whether your voice lifts in song, your smile welcomes at the door, your hands guide our children, or your spirit inspires our youth—there is a place for you in God’s work. Let us rise together in joyful service, so that through every greeting, every note sung, every lesson taught, we declare His glory and build His kingdom among us. ***Will you answer the call? Join us on Sunday, July 13th at 10:45 a.m. to respond!***



We offer our deepest condolences to Jackie Sarantis and her family on the falling asleep of her half-sister, Angie, this week. May her memory be eternal.

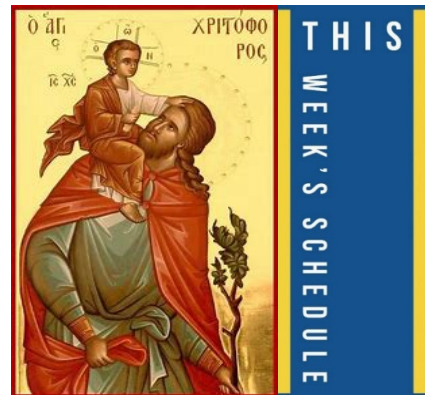
Join Us This Sunday with Your Family

Sunday, June 29th – Peter & Paul, the Holy Apostles

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:00 Let's EAT! at Broadway
Diner



Friday, July 4th – American Independence Day

Sunday, July 6th – 4th Sunday of St. Matthew

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves (offered
by Helen & George Psihountas) & July
Commemorations

Saturday, July 12th

9:00 Philoptochos – Rolling Day

Sunday, July 13th – Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:00 Parish Council Meeting



LOOKING AHEAD TO FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

On this blessed day of our nation's independence, we give thanks to Almighty God for the gift of freedom and the many blessings we enjoy in this land. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be faithful stewards of liberty—using it not for selfish gain, but to serve one another in love and truth.

This day reminds us not only of our national heritage but also of our sacred responsibility to uphold truth, justice, and compassion in all we do.

May we honor those who sacrificed for our freedom by living lives of virtue, compassion, and justice. And may the light of Christ guide our nation toward peace and righteousness.

Let us remember that true freedom is found in Christ, who calls us to love one another and to serve with humility. May our gratitude for this nation inspire us to be peacemakers, bridge-builders, and faithful stewards of the gifts we have received.

"Love forgives
many mistakes,
while hatred
imagines mistakes
even where they
do not exist..."

St. John Chrysostom

