



## 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, June 20, 2025



*Icon of St Simon of Cyrene*

*credit Constantine Lavdas*

***Simon of Cyrene** was the man forced by the Romans to carry the cross of Jesus as he was taken to his crucifixion. The incident is recorded in the three Synoptic Gospels: Mark 15:21-22, Matthew 27:32, and Luke 23:26.*

*I was inspired by the following reflection by Rev. Presbyter Samuel Davis, Apostolic Missionary, St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, and reprint it below:*

#### St Simon of Cyrene: A Symbol of Compassion and Service

St. Simon of Cyrene is vividly depicted in tradition as the man who was compelled by the Roman authorities to assist Our Lord in carrying His Cross on the way to His Crucifixion. His initial reluctance transforms into an act of compassion, embodying

human fear and struggle intertwined with moments of grace and selflessness. This icon portrays St Simon with an expression of burden, reminding those who venerate the icon the unexpected burdens life can impose.

This icon of St Simon offers multiple spiritual and pedagogical purposes:

**An Invitation to Compassion:** By depicting Simon being compelled to serve, the icon encourages faithfulness to recognize moments when they are called upon to help others bear their burdens.

**Reflection on Suffering:** The scene emphasizes that suffering is a shared human experience, crossing ethnic and cultural boundaries. It prompts contemplation on the nature of suffering, both Our Lord's and that of others.

**Participation in Our Lord's Passion:** Simon's act of assistance connects believers with Christ's suffering, highlighting that we are called to participate in transforming suffering into compassion and love.

The story of Simon resonates deeply with the Black American narrative. Enslaved Americans and their descendants endured brutal oppression, yet their suffering often motivated acts of resilience and resistance. Like this blessed saint, Black Americans have historically been compelled to bear the burdens of racism, injustice, and violence in our nation. Simon's act of carrying Our Lord's Cross has been seen as an act of solidarity and a step forward in Our Lord's plan for the Salvation and liberation of the entire human race. It reflects the possibility that shared suffering, in the witness of shared suffering, in the witness of Martyric Salvation can lead to redemption and freedom. The intercessions of St Simon of Cyrene emphasize the culturally rich and

resilient heritage of the African diaspora. It affirms the enduring strength of Black Americans, West Indians, Afro-Latinos, and Caribbeans amid adversity. This connection enhances the understanding that the struggle for justice and freedom is rooted in a long history of resistance, faith, and communal perseverance. The Scriptures and Divine Services attached to his act of empathy invites reflection on the importance of solidarity in pursuit of liberation. Simon's presence in the story symbolizes the vital role that marginalized groups play in confronting oppression. For Africans in the diaspora reinforces a sense of historical resilience and cultural pride empowering ongoing struggles for justice, healing, and reconciliation. Suffering is an inherent aspect of human existence. Be it physical pain, emotional distress, loss or injustice. The icon of St Simon reminds us that no one is immune and that often, it is in moments of hardship that compassion and solidarity emerge most vividly.

The Orthodox Christian messages underscores that suffering can serve as a catalyst for spiritual growth, communal bonding, and empathy. Simon's act, though prompted by circumstances beyond his control, becomes a symbol of the voluntary sharing of burdens and the essential aspect of human connectedness.

This icon of St Simon of Cyrene invites us to reflect on our own encounters with suffering and the opportunities to serve others. It teaches that compassion often requires stepping into discomfort and that through acts of assistance, we participate more fully in the divine love exemplified through the offering of Our Lord on the Cross. Recognizing our shared suffering fosters a sense of community, reminding us that together, we can bear the burdens of life with grace and hope through the love of Our Lord.

This icon of St Simon of Cyrene serves as a powerful symbol within the wider narrative of suffering and liberation. His story reminds us that people of African descent have been integral to historical moments of hope and overcoming opposition. Recognizing this connection enriches the understanding of the ongoing struggle for freedom faced by Black Americans, emphasizing shared resilience, faith, and the collective pursuit of repentance.

## Join Us This Sunday with Your Family

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 Philoptochos – Roll Pites

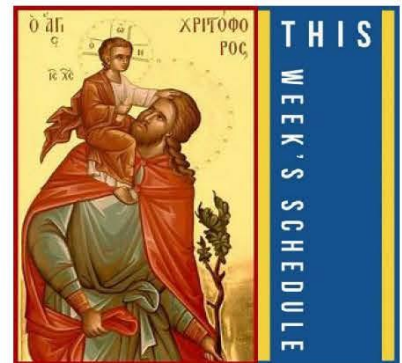
**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of St. Matthew\***

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

11:00 Bonus Father's Day Celebration – Join us for Brunch

*\* We welcome Fr. Ken Anthony to our parish on Sunday while Fr. George and his family are in NC for a family funeral.*



The Gospel can guide us towards holiness and salvation through the Grace of God, our spiritual endeavors, and acts of love. The lives of the Saints, characterized by a life of dedication, repentance, and boundless love, serve as spiritual beacons for us.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE)





### **South Atlanta Golf Classic Welcomes New Digital Marketing Intern Paige Panos**

**PEACHTREE CITY, GA** – The South Atlanta Golf Classic team (SAGC) is pleased to announce the addition of Paige Panos as a Digital Marketing Intern for the upcoming 2025 tournament. Paige will be involved in developing and executing social media strategies to create awareness and promote The Golf Classic across various platforms.

Paige Panos is currently a junior at The University of Georgia, majoring in Marketing. She brings a strong understanding of digital marketing and new ideas to the team.

"As the SAGC Co-Chair, I am thrilled to have Paige join our team for a great cause and for a formal learning experience as an official intern for UGA," said Maria Cahill. "This is a hands-on work experience internship where she will receive formal credit towards her marketing degree."

In this role, Paige will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including creating and managing content for Facebook and Instagram, monitoring social media interactions, assisting with sponsorships, and content creation for the newsletter. She will work closely with the South Atlanta Golf Classic Chairs to amplify its presence and engage with a wider audience.

"I am incredibly excited to join the South Atlanta Golf Classic team as an official intern," said Paige. "I'm looking forward to learning from this experience and applying my knowledge to help create awareness for this amazing event and see my contributions making a positive impact on this year's tournament."

The South Atlanta Golf Classic is scheduled for October 27, 2025, at Eagle's Landing Country Club. Further announcements regarding tournament details, player commitments, and sponsors will be made in the coming months.

There has been a search for an intern for several years now and it's a blessing to have Paige join the team. Feel free to contact Maria Cahill with any questions at [mariacahill@att.net](mailto:mariacahill@att.net).

## **Welcome Paige!**



PLEASE JOIN  
US FOR A  
**FATHER'S  
DAY**

*Brunch*

**JUNE 22**

SPONSORED BY  
PHILOPTOCHOS



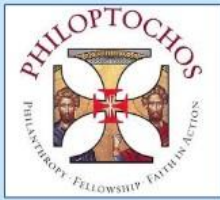


# MENU



Shrimp and Grits  
Fried Shrimp and fries  
Collards  
Bagels  
Salad  
Fruit  
Dessert





## **Collecting Canned Meats**

**Deadline: June 22**

Beef tuna chicken  
vienna sausage hash  
Beef stew Spam  
Peanut butter fish

**Family Friendly Sizes**

# Greek Fest Baking



Sign up [here](#)



**Includes:  
Appetizers, dolmathes,  
cookies and baklava**

**Questions? Call Helen 770-298-4493**



**Philoptochos**



## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

June	21	Folding Day! 9:00
	22	Bonus Father's Day Luncheon <b>Bring canned meats too! For i-58 Mission</b>
	26	Batter Day! For GreekFest 8:30
	28	Folding Day! 9:00
July	19	Koulourakia Day! 8:30
	20	<b>Board Meeting</b>
	26	Kourambiethes Day! 8:30
Aug	2	Baklava 8:30
	12	Dolmathes 8:30
	24	<b>Philoptochos Meeting (30min)Aug</b>



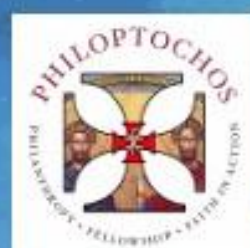
Join us for

# *A Night in Greece*

We're bringing Greece to you!

Everyone welcome for this community event.

## PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



**Saturday, August 16th, 2025**  
**6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner**  
**The Shipyard at Trilith**



Tickets include an all-you-can-eat Greek buffet, open bar, live Greek music, Greek dancing, & more!

To purchase, please scan the QR code or visit

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

Questions? Contact Emilia at [greekfestfayette@gmail.com](mailto:greekfestfayette@gmail.com) or 678-749-1550

Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



Join us for

# *A Night in Greece*

We're bringing Greece to you!

## Sponsorship Levels

Proceeds benefit St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church's building fund, Beyond Performance & local charities. Thanks for your support!

### **OLYMPIAN \$5000**

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating  
Program Recognition  
Title/Name Mentioned During Event  
Full Page Ad in Program

### **ATHENIAN \$3000**

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating  
Program Recognition  
Title/Name Mentioned During Event  
1/2 Page Ad in Program

### **SPARTAN \$2000**

10 Tickets with Reserved Seating  
Program Recognition  
Title/Name Mentioned During Event  
1/4 Page Ad in Program

### **AGAPI \$1000**

4 Tickets with Reserved Seating  
Program Recognition  
Title/Name Mentioned During Event  
1/4 Page Ad in Program

### **OPA! \$500**

2 Tickets with Reserved Seating  
Program Recognition  
Title/Name Mentioned During Event

### **PILLAR \$150**

1/8 Page Ad in Program

**August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at The Shipyard at Trilith**  
**6 PM Appetizers | 7 PM Dinner**

To purchase a sponsorship, please scan the QR code or visit [www.GreekFestFayette.com](http://www.GreekFestFayette.com)



Questions? Contact Emilia at [greekfestfayette@gmail.com](mailto:greekfestfayette@gmail.com) or 678-749-1550  
Brought to you by St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



## ***"A Night in Greece" - 2025***

**~ ~ We need EVERYONE's Help to Sell Tickets and Sponsorships ~ ~**

**Share the link below with family, friends, coworkers!!**

**Click for Sponsorships & Tickets: <https://www.greekfestfayette.com/>**

**This is a Fundraiser to support OUR Building Fund and Charities within OUR community.**

**With a \$100.00 ticket OUR Guests will Enjoy ALL of this!**

- Appetizers - Spanakopita, Tiropita's, and Dolmades
- Dinner - Greek Chicken, Potatoes, Salad, Green Beans, Pastitsio, Souvlaki, Gyros, Giouvetsi, Fresh Baked Bread, Turlou Turlou
- Dessert - Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia
- Water, soft drinks, beer and wine

**\*Guests will enjoy a Live Greek Band and Greek Dancing – OPA!**

**Facebook link to share with friends and family!!**

**<https://facebook.com/events/s/greekfest-fayettes-a-night-in-/1146921094115751/>**

**Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:**

**<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-47913143-greekfest#/>**

**Any Questions?**

**Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs**

**Emilia Moraitis – [emoraitis@bellsouth.net](mailto:emoraitis@bellsouth.net)**

**Claudia Sliwinski – [claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com)**

**Julie Skouteris – [gsis401mq@gmail.com](mailto:gsis401mq@gmail.com)**

**Thank you for YOUR Support!**



## 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





During the Month of June **"Hands of Love"** will accept monetary donations, **canned meat and peanut butter** for **I-58 Mission** in **Senoia GA**

Isaiah 58:6-12 is the inspiration and the blueprint for this mission:

"...says the Lord; " cancel the debts of the oppressed; and tear apart every unjust contract. Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless into your house. If you see a naked man, clothe him, nor shall you disregard your offspring in your own household. Then your light shall break off as the morning, and your healing shall spring forth quickly. Your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of God shall cover you" ..."

I-58 mission in Senoia supports a food pantry, clothes closet, household goods room and a baby room.



To donate: <https://stchristpherphiloptochos.square.site>

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



SUMMER 2025

# CAMPER REGISTRATION

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.

**REGISTER TODAY!**



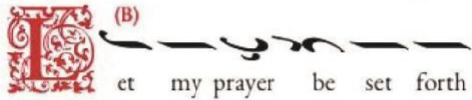
amazon  
wishlist

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)



[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](#).

