



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

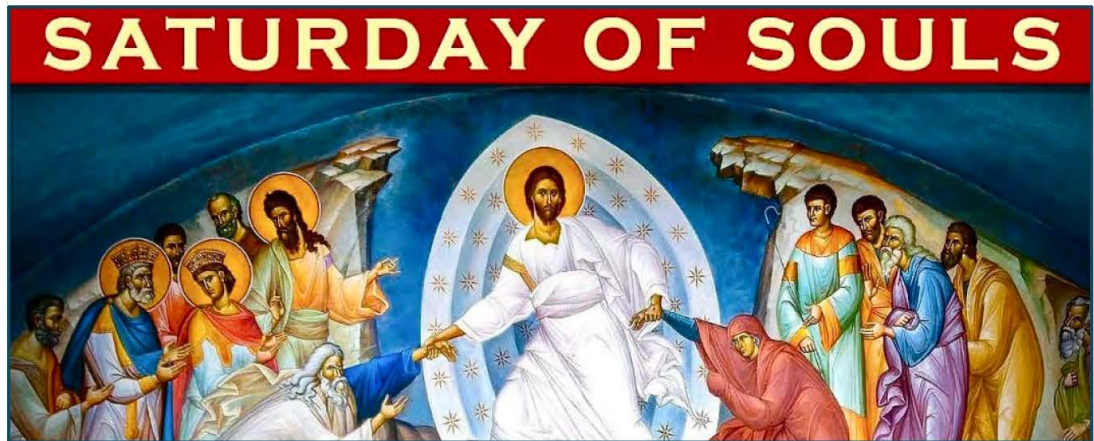
313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

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 6, 2025**



[Click here to offer your names for Memorial Saturday](#)

### **What Does It Mean When We Chant “Eternal Memory” at Memorial Services?**

When we chant “eternal memory” (“αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη”) at the end of Memorial Services and Funerals, it is often falsely assumed that this memory of the departed be preserved on earth not only in the

minds of loved ones, but even for many generations after. In fact, however, this hymn is not addressed to the loved ones of the deceased, nor is it addressed to the deceased, nor does it have any mortal purpose, but it is addressed as a prayer to God, Who is eternal, on behalf of the departed.

One day the Apostles came to Christ with joy saying: “Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.” Jesus replied: “Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you but rejoice that your names are written in the heavens” (Lk. 10:17-20). In other words, Christ told His Apostles to not rejoice over something here on earth that bears nothing on their salvation, but to rejoice over the fact that their names are eternally remembered in the kingdom of heaven. Their names are written in what is commonly known in Holy Scripture as the “Book of Life”. This is best illustrated in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. Poor Lazarus after death is found in God's kingdom, and his name has become eternally remembered, while the miserable rich man lingers in Hades, utterly nameless. The name of a person is their identity.

“Eternal Memory” is equivalent to saying “may you ever be in God's memory.” The Church says this prayer so that the deceased “continue” in God's memory. Because if God “forgets” us, if He says “I never knew you” (Matt. 7:23), we are led into spiritual extinction. But if He remembers us, then like the thief on the Cross who asked Christ to remember him, we also will live eternally with Him in Paradise.

According to the Holy Fathers, creation lives and exists spiritually only when it participates in the deifying energies of God. Through this uncreated Grace we continuously receive our spiritual being and the potential for development. And this is natural, since “the divinity is being and creation is non-being” (St. Maximus the Confessor). Therefore, creation exists and has being because it participates in the essence-giving, life-giving, and deifying uncreated Grace of God. As Saint Basil the Great says: “Only two things exist, divinity and creation, the sanctifying power and the sanctified.”

The immortality of the soul after death is a given. We could say that it is natural and therefore forced on humans. And the damned exist eternally on the basis of the immortality of the soul, but their existence, precisely because immortality is natural and forced, is a “death”. Hell is a “place of the dead,” because participation in the deifying and life-giving uncreated Grace of God is absent from those in it. Absent is the necessary relationship with God and therefore the personal identity that creates this relationship. For we must know that the relationship with God, the partaking of the deifying energy of His Grace, is what gives substance to a person and not nature itself. The relationship of a person with God substantiates their nature and they become truly a person.

Many see the salvation of the soul only in light of the fact that they won't be tormented eternally, while salvation is in fact this relationship, this love, our participation in uncreated Grace. The soul, because it is immortal by nature according to the Grace of

God, and not immortal by nature in and of itself, has an existential need for existence, to be substantiated in a relationship to a Person, to acquire a personal and eternal identity. And this identity, as we said, is given by God within a relationship that is freely initiated and created by people already in this life within the Church through her Mysteries. If, therefore, we do not create this divine relationship, we will be “deprived” of being in God’s memory and “fall” into the “I never knew you.” Essentially, this is “spiritual death.” - *By John Sanidopoulos*

## Join Us This Sunday with Your Family

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday of the Souls**

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service

3:00 Pan-Orthodox Vespers for Pentecost

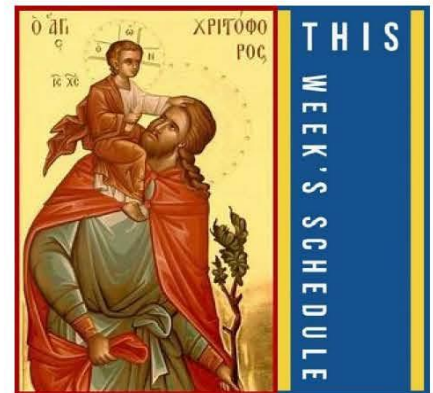
*Join our Atlanta Orthodox parishes at St. Philothea Church in Athens for this Vespers Service featuring the Gospel to be read in various languages followed by an outdoor picnic celebration. It is a truly Orthodox family gathering. It is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. to ensure that we have a relaxed fellowship/dinner following the Vespers and return to our homes before dark!*

**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Holy Pentecost**

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Vespers of the Feast of the Holy Spirit

11:00 Blessing of Prayer Shawls & Bloom Our Youth Presentation





# Pentecost Picnic

## St Philothea Greek Orthodox Church

3761 Mars Hill Road, Watkinsville, GA

**Saturday, June 7**  
**3:00 pm Vespers & Picnic**

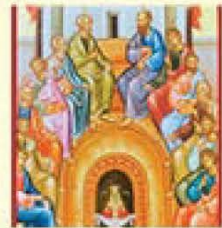
*Indoor & Outdoor Seating*



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**  
**A Family Event - Indoors & Outdoors Seating**

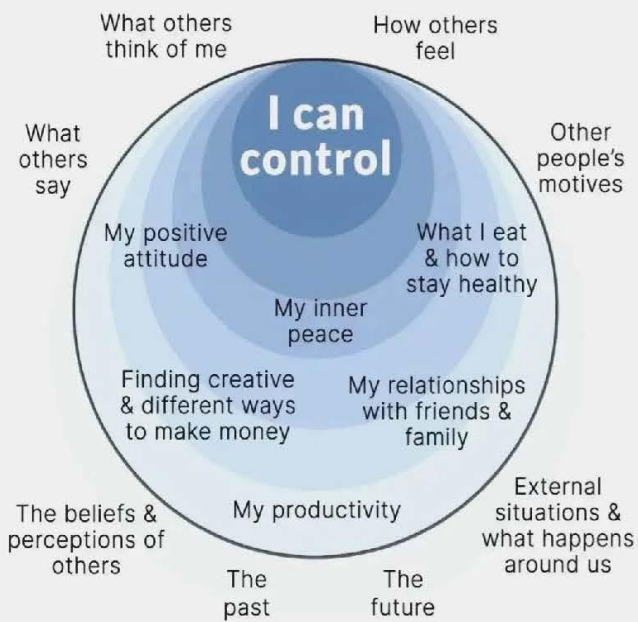


Join our Atlanta Orthodox parishes at St. Philothea Church in Athens for this Vespers Service featuring the Gospel to be read in various languages followed by an outdoor picnic celebration. It is a truly Orthodox family gathering. It is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. to ensure that we have a relaxed fellowship/dinner following the Vespers and return to our homes before dark!



**Every day, you have two choices:  
To focus on what's wrong or to  
embrace what's right. Choose  
gratitude. Choose joy. Choose to  
see the beauty in the little things,  
and life will become even more  
incredible than you imagined.**

## **I cannot control**

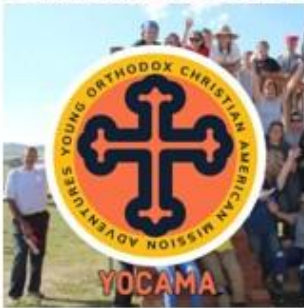




## Pentecost and Prayer Shawls

On the same Sunday we will be celebrating Pentecost, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Fr. George will also be blessing our next donation of Prayer Shawls. In the **Prayer of the Holy Spirit**, we pray: *"Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One."* This prayer is one that is, also, prayed numerous times as each shawl is being handcrafted.

Pentecost is also when, upon receiving the Holy Spirit, the disciples began to take God's word to all nations. YOCAMA (Young Orthodox Christian American Mission Adventure) is trying to fulfill this mandate by organizing mission groups to help on the Blackfeet and Navajo Nations. St. Christopher's member, Isabelle Wiley, will be returning to serve on a YOCAMA team in June, and possibly taking other members with her. She will also be delivering our Prayer Shawls. Anyone interested in supporting YOCAMA, physically or financially, can learn more at [www.yocama.com](http://www.yocama.com).



Earlier this year through the efforts of Angelique Soulakos, 12 prayer shawls were shared with BeLoved Atlanta. This organization is a 2-year residential program assisting survivors of sex trafficking heal and become independent by the time they leave. These women received their shawls and our prayers (and a teddy bear) as part of a Valentine's Day party they were given. **BELOVED believes every woman escaping sexual exploitation deserves a place of restoration within community.** To learn more about this organization and how to help, check out their website at [www.belovedatlanta.org](http://www.belovedatlanta.org). Fr. George encourages us to pray for these, and all, women affected or entrapped by sex trafficking.



For more information about St. Christopher's Philoptochos Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Susan Kleto, (678) 877-9115 or [sbkleto@gmail.com](mailto:sbkleto@gmail.com).



## Quick Pajama Drive

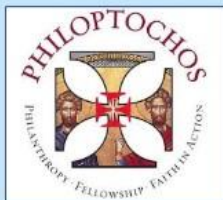
*"Bloom Our Youth" is in need of*

**New pajamas**

**One week only!!**

**Bring this Sunday- June 8**

**Youth boy   Youth girl   Teen Boy**



## **Collecting Canned Meats**

**Deadline: June 22**

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

**Family Friendly Sizes**





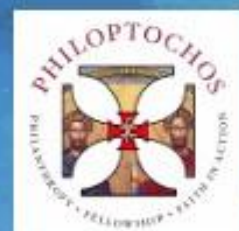
Join us for

# *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

### **OPAI \$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, Tourlou Tourlou
- 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 Slivinski – [claudia.slivinski@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia.slivinski@yahoo.com)**

**Julie Skouteris – [gsjs401mq@gmail.com](mailto:gsjs401mq@gmail.com)**

***Thank you for YOUR Support!***





# Greek Fest Baking



Sign up [here](#)



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

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



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

# DAY Brunch

# JUNE 22

SPONSORED BY  
PHILOPTOCHOS





# MENU

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





## 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>
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Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

June	1	General Meeting for all
	8	Prayer Shawl Blessing Guest: Bloom Our Youth
	19	<u>Batter Day!</u> For GreekFest 8:30
	21	Folding Day! 9:00
	22	Bonus Father's Day Luncheon
	26	<u>Batter Day!</u> For GreekFest 8:30
	28	Folding Day! 9:00

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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://stchristpherphiloechochos.square.site>

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





SUMMER 2025

# CAMPER REGISTRATION

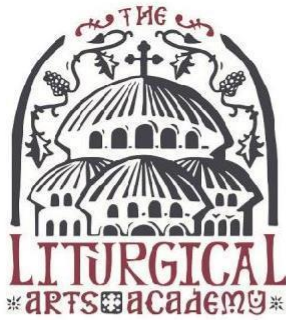
St Stephen's Summer Camp offers teens of the Metropolis of Atlanta entering 8th through 12th grades when school begins in the fall, an opportunity to spend a week at our Diakonia Retreat Center.

**REGISTER TODAY!**



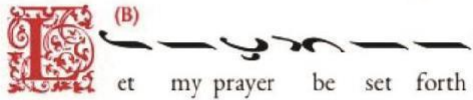
amazon  
wishlist

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)



[CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES](#)



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[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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Dividend Dr.  
Ste. 210  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

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