

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210 Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

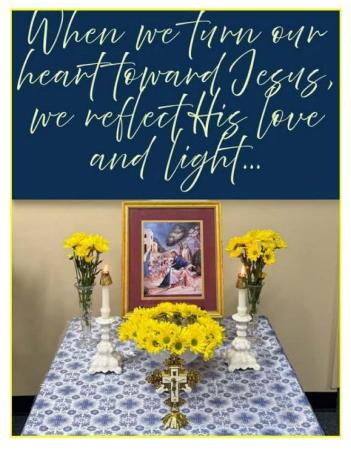
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

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

Pastoral Message from Fr. George, August 13, 2025

On Sunday, August 10, Fr. George blessed the religious educators and parish youth and adults as we begin the 2025-2026 school year. He gave everyone a daisy to remind them of his spiritual encouragement in the following message: "Children's Sermon - The Daisy and the Divine Light".



As you begin this new school year, I want you to think about a simple daisy blooming in a field. It doesn't try to be the biggest or the brightest flower—it simply turns its face toward the sun and soaks in the light. That light helps it grow strong, beautiful, and full of life.

Each of you is like that daisy. When you turn your heart toward Jesus, you begin to reflect His love and light in everything you do—whether you're learning in school, helping a friend, or being kind at home.

Now here's something special: once a week, I water the plants in my office. If I forget, they start to droop. But when I care for them, they perk up and bloom again. In the same way, each Sunday we gather in church to receive the blessings God gives us—especially through worship and the Holy Eucharist, His precious Body and Blood. That's how we stay fresh and strong in our faith, just like the daisy that needs water to stay vibrant.



So as you begin your school year, remember to turn toward the light of Christ, and come each Sunday to be nourished by His love. You are His

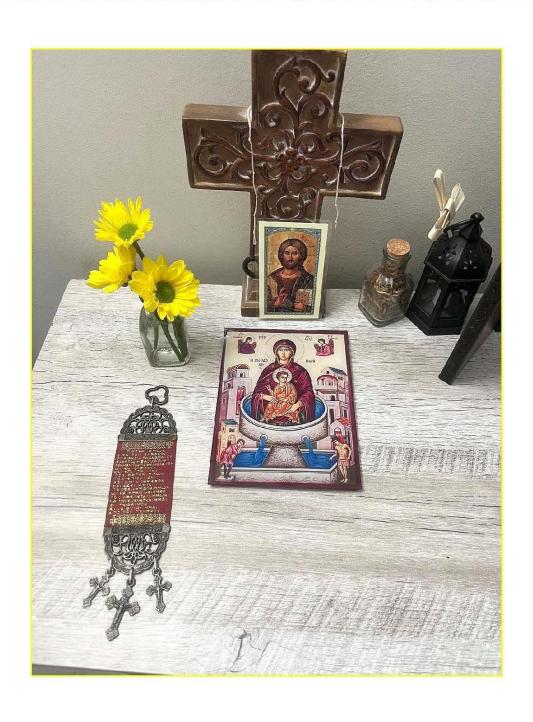
beautiful creation—meant to grow, shine, and bless the world around you.

+Fr. George Tsahakis, 8.10.25

Fr. George is so grateful to Jeanie Ellinas for sharing the beautiful sunflowers she and Johnny saw after hearing the above sermon. Like the daisies, the sunflowers grow facing the sun and are inspiring to view. Jeanie's Orthodox name is Alexandra... she shared: "I pass these fields of sunflowers frequently in Turin, 1 mile from my home in Senoia. They are so beautiful! I thought you would enjoy the pictures. I am enjoying the daisies given to Johnny and I today. Thank you so much! - Alexandra



[Priest's note: During our adult religious education lesson on Sunday, we discussed the importance of a "prayer corner" in our homes. Alexandra shared a photo of her family's prayer area – notice her vigil light along with her cross, icons, and fresh daisies! Thank you for helping reinforce this Orthodox tradition, Alexandra and Johnny.]





Did you know Orthodox Christians observe the Sabbath on Sunday — the Lord's Day?



In the book of Exodus, God commands His people to keep the Sabbath — Saturday — as a day of rest, because on the seventh day, God rested after creating the world (Exodus 31). This was a holy command for the people of Israel, shaping their entire rhythm of life.

But everything changed with Christ's Resurrection. In the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 28), we read that "after the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week," the women came to the tomb — and found it empty. Christ had risen. That first day of the week, Sunday, became "the Lord's Day" (Κυριακή in Greek), the day of joy, of new creation and eternal life in the light of the Resurrection.

The early Christians, including the Apostles, gradually shifted communal worship from Saturday evening into Sunday, celebrating the Holy Eucharist (the breaking of bread — what we now know as the Divine Liturgy) and gathering in the joy of the Resurrection.

The Didache, a first-century Christian text, tells believers to gather and give thanks on "the Lord's Day." By the second century, Saints like Ignatius of Antioch encouraged Christians to worship on Sunday, not the Sabbath. By the time of the First Ecumenical Council in 325, Sunday had become the central day of Christian worship.

In Greek, we don't call it "Sunday" but Kyriake (Κυριακή) — "the Lord's Day." We don't rest because of the seventh day — we rejoice because Christ is risen. We worship the Risen Son of God, who fulfilled the Sabbath and gave us eternal rest in Him. [From Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Religious Education]

This Is A Season of Worship, Witness, Fellowship, & Service



Dear Beloved Parishioners.

As we journey through this sacred month, our parish offers many opportunities to deepen our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and serve with love. We invite you to participate fully in the life of our Church.

Sunday Services

Join us every Sunday for Divine Liturgy and spiritual nourishment. Come early for Orthros and stay for coffee hour fellowship, followed by Religious Education classes.

Paraklesis Services

Experience the comforting prayers of the Supplication to the Theotokos throughout the Dormition Fast. A time for healing, intercession, and peace.

Feasts of the Transfiguration and Dormition

Celebrate with us the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on August 6th and the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15th. These holy days remind us of Christ's Glory and the Theotokos' loving protection.

GreekFest Fayette - A Taste of Greece

Mark your calendars for our annual GreekFest on August 16th. Enjoy authentic Greek food, music, dancing, and cultural exhibits. A joyful celebration for the whole community! Invite friends and neighbors to experience the joy of our heritage!

Religious Education Classes on Sundays

Our new Religious Education year begins August 10th. Classes for all ages will deepen your understanding of the Orthodox faith and prepare hearts for Christ. Our Adult Religious Education Class is a great opportunity for catechumens – newcomers interested in becoming Orthodox through the Sacraments of Baptism and/or Chrismation.

Philoptochos Ministry

Join our Philoptochos women in acts of love, compassion, and service. From preparing baked goods to raise funds for charitable needs to making Prayer Shawls, this ministry brings comfort and hope to those in need.

A Call to Action: Reaching, Shining, Building Together

Let us reach out to our neighbors, reflect the light of Christ, and build a stronger parish family. This initiative invites every member to participate in the life and growth of our Church.

Together, let us be the Church—alive in worship, active in service, and radiant in God's love through witness and fellowship. Amen! +Fr. George Tsahakis



Mother of Every Mother

By: His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos

National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor

Model of Motherhood

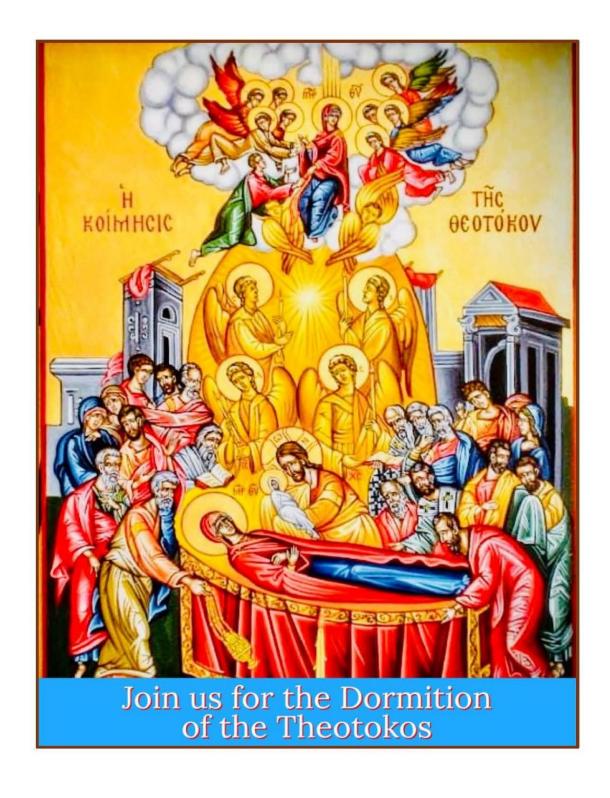
Panaghia's motherhood is prayer, offering, and love. In her, every woman finds a holy example.

Mother of Every Mother

The Theotokos understands the joys and sorrows of motherhood. She raised Christ with love and watched Him walk the road to the Cross. Her motherhood is not just biological—it is spiritual, eternal, and full of prayer.

Today's challenge: Whether you are a mother, daughter, godmother, or spiritual friend —find one woman today to encourage or support.

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos – Join us This Friday for Services – Lamentations at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. We will finish by 10:00 a.m.



Lamentations at Tomb, 8:00 a.m.









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August
15 +FGT

Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.

- 1. In a tomb, O Pure one, you were truly interred, as the woman who contained God within your womb and ineffably gave birth to Him on earth.
- 2. Mary, as the Mother of the Giver of life, how can you now die and dwell in a sepulcher, since your Son has raised the dead out of decay?
- 3. He who set the measures of the earth, God the Word, deigned to be contained, O Pure one, within your womb How do you now fit within a tiny tomb?

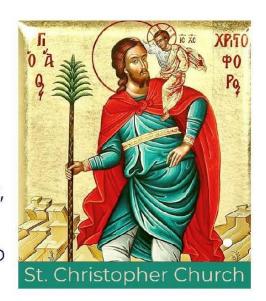
amentations for the Theotokos



- Right it is indeed that we magnify you who received God; for you are the animate treasury of the virtues and of every grace of God.
- She who has contained
 Him who holds the universe together
 and is thus perceived as the house of God
 is translated now to heaven, there to dwell.
- All generations offer,
 O Virgin, hymns in honor and praise of your entombment.
- To death you have submitted, O Virgin, who gave birth to Him who dealt death to Hades.
- In dying you went over to the undying dwellings, putting to death the foe death.

Beloved Parish Family,

With heartfelt gratitude, I thank each of you for your faithful and generous financial pledges to both our operating and building fund budgets. By God's grace and your unwavering commitment, we have met our budget projections year-to-date—a remarkable testament to your love for Christ and His Church.



As your Spiritual Father, I commend the sacrifices you have made to sustain our ministries and help build our future church complex. Too often, we overlook the quiet generosity of others, but today I pause to celebrate and acknowledge your stewardship and thank you.

Let us be reminded of the words of King David:

"All things come from You, and of Your own we have given You."

— 1 Chronicles 29:14

I also ask the Lord's blessing upon our annual **GreekFest Fayette** event this Saturday. What a blessing it is to witness the many hands and hearts that have helped plan and prepare for this joyful event.

Again, I thank you for your great help and support—for our Chairs, Patrons, Sponsors, and Friends who will join us in fellowship and celebration.

May the Lord bless you abundantly for your sacrificial offerings, and may our parish continue to grow in faith, love, and unity.

With love in Christ,

+Fr. George Tsahakis

Building Our Parish Outside Its Four Walls

It's amazing what one photo can hold. Ten years ago, our parishioners and their friends were at an Atlanta Braves game—sunny skies, foam fingers, and the kind of laughter that echoes louder than a home run cheer. Looking at the snapshot below, it's like opening a time capsule filled with joy. Some of the kids in the photo are now taller than the adults were back then. Some faces have added a few laugh lines, and some are cheering us on from a different seat. But the spirit in that moment? Still alive and well. There's something beautiful about watching lives unfold. That day wasn't just about baseball—it was about being together, sharing stories, and making memories that still warm the heart a decade later. Time moves fast, but joy has a way of lingering. So grateful to those pictured and for their encouragement and support. May God bless us always.



Trust In the Lord With All Your Heart

The distant jet ascending into a thick blanket of clouds calls to mind the moments in life when our path ahead is obscured—when clarity fades and uncertainty looms. The jet, though vanishing from sight, continues its journey with purpose, guided by instruments unseen to us.



So too we can trust in God when the way forward is hidden. Our Lord does not abandon us in the fog of confusion or the weight of sorrow. Like the pilot who relies on unseen guidance, we are called to lean not on our own understanding, but on the divine wisdom of our Creator.

The clouds may be heavy, the sky may be gray, but above them shines the light of God's presence. Let us walk forward in faith, knowing that even when we cannot see the destination, God is already there—waiting, guiding, loving.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:5–6 Orthodox Nun Mother Agapia Stephanopoulos is interviewed by Tucker Carlson. She is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, former dean of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Cathedral in NYC, and sister of George.

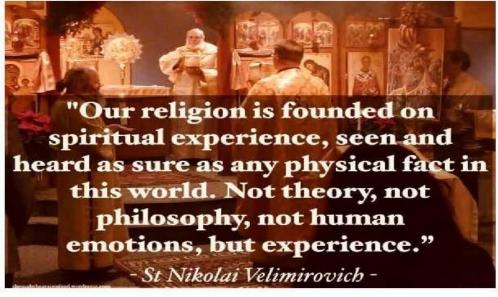
She shares a candid and deeply personal account of life as a Christian in the Holy Landnavigating challenges few outsiders truly grasp.

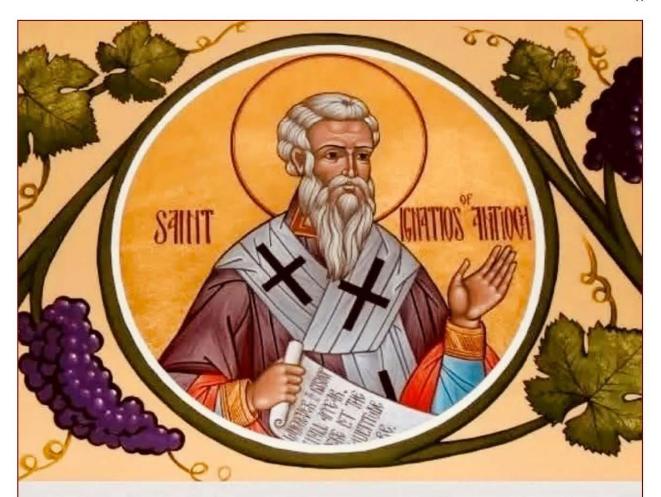
Against the backdrop of geopolitical indifference, she exposes uncomfortable truths: how Western Christian support of Israel often ignores the struggles of local Christian believers.

Click to View Video









Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself.

St. Ignatius of Antioch

Join Us Often with Your Family

Wednesday, August 13th

8:00 Paraklesis Service (join us as we pray for health & welfare)



Friday, August 15th - Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

8:00 Lamentations, followed by Divine Liturgy for Feast of Dormition of the Theotokos

10:30 GreekFest Preparation Day - please volunteer to help

Saturday, August 16th

6:00pm GreekFest Fayette

Sunday, August 17th – Tenth Sunday of St. Matthew

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by GreekFest Truck Unloading/Put Away Supplies

Sunday, August 24th – Eleventh Sunday of St. Matthew

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Prayer Shawls

10:45 Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

11.45 Philoptochos General Meeting

Come, and be strengthened in your witness of Orthodoxy through regular worship, fellowship, and service with us.

CULTURAL TABLE FOR GREEKFEST

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE CULTURAL ITEMS You would like to share with our guests at GreekFest this year on Saturday, August 16, 2025.

In the past, we have had Bulgarian, Romanian, Greek, Russian, Spanish, Serbian and French items from these various countries.

I encourage you to share these items at our cultural table this year. I am sure our guests will enjoy viewing these different culture items and information.

There will be guidelines for this exhibit, which I will share with you before the festival.

Please notify me at mcgeejeanie47@gmail.com, if you are planning to participate in this event.

Thank you, Jeanie McGee

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church GreekFest 2025 ~ "A Night in Greece"

If you are volunteering for the GreekFest please do so by Friday 8/15 by 9:00 am SHARP!

We need to have everyone signed up so name tags can be created.

Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:

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

Please Note: If you are not signed up on Sign Up
Genius – you will not have a name tag and therefore
are not considered a volunteer!

Thank you for your Support!!

GreekFest Timeline 2025

Let us all come together in Christian fellowship to share our Orthodox faith and Greek Culture with our guests, as St. John of Kronstadt exhorts us to do; "Let us all work together as children of God, in love, harmony, tranquility and above all in peace, esteeming on another, being indulgent to one another as the Lord is indulgent to us."

Thank you to everyone for all your efforts to have a successful 2025 GreekFest!

Friday, August 15:

10:45 am - Meet at church for prayer, load trucks. Go to storage unit to pick up items.
We will have a rented truck to use, but other trucks are welcomed.

1:00 – 1:30 pm – Arrive at The Shipyard to unload and begin to set up.

George Psihountas – Table/chair placement, hanging of banners, flags, etc.

Steve Theodorakis – Food prep area & food lines

Helen Psihountas – Decorating of tables & room

12:00 pm - Cleaning, peeling and cutting potatoes at St. Christopher's.

Saturday - August 16 - The Shipyard at Trilith - Dress code is White Top/Black Pants/Skirts

NOTE: If you are doing set up for a particular area today – please check with the chair of that area for what time you should be at The Shipyard.

3:30 pm - Volunteers arrive, check in to receive name tag. ALL parking for volunteers will be in the gravel lot at the very back - please follow parking volunteer directions.

Important If you have not signed up on Sign Up Genius – you will not have a name tag! If you are volunteering and have not signed up – please do so. If you are at GreekFest and have not volunteered – you are expected to purchase a ticket in advance.

4:15 pm - Opening prayer and remarks from Father George, group picture and briefing Please be prompt!

5:00 pm - Volunteers report to stations.

Smiles Everyone – Smiles!!

5:30 pm - Our guests start to arrive - everything should be ready.

10:00 pm - All Hands-on Deck - We need to remove everything from The Shipyard. Some items will remain in trucks; food items will need to be taken to church and refrigerated.

Sunday - August 17 - St. Christopher's

Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am, after Divine Liturgy clean-up/put away anything else that needs to be done. Everyone is welcome to join in!



~ ~ 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/

SOCIAL MEDIA

This is one of our best tools for reaching new attendees!

Here's how YOU can help:

- Follow our official pages
- · Instagram: GreekFestFayette
- Facebook: Peachtree City GreekFest (GreekFest Fayette)
- Like, comment, and share the posts from these official accounts.
 Sharing directly from these pages ensures our reach expands!
 Creating your own post is great, but sharing from the official account is far more effective!

Facebook link to share with friends and family!!

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

Instagram link to share with family and friends!

https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=%2Fgreekfestfayett e%2F&source=omni redirect

Click below to Sign Up to Volunteer:

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

Any Questions?

Contact your GreekFest Tri Chairs
Emilia Moraitis – emoraitis@bellsouth.net
Claudia Sliwinski – claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com
Julie Skouteris – qsjs401mg@gmail.com

Thank you for YOUR Support!

GREEKFEST 2025 CHILDCARE

If you are volunteering the night of GreekFest (and we hope you are!) and want your kids under the age of 15 to be in attendance:

We will provide a vetted/background checked member of our parish to watch the kids at The Shipyard at Trilith. An area with games & crafts will be provided. The kids will be able to eat after our guests have eaten. **Please let Julie Skouteris know by Mon. 8/11 (if you haven't already!) which youth will be joining us!

If <u>one</u> parent is not volunteering the night of GreekFest and you want your kids to be in attendance:

One parent can volunteer, the other parent pays for a ticket (\$125.00) themselves and \$50.00 per ticket for each child (under age 15) attending, with the non-volunteer parent being responsible for the child(ren).

IF YOU PLAN ON PURCHASING A TICKET FOR AN ADULT AND CHILDREN, PLEASE CONTACT EMILIA MORAITIS AT EMAIL BELOW OR AT 678-749-1550

Youth age 15 and above can volunteer as long as a parent is at the event.

Please reach out to Julie Skouteris with any questions and to let us know which option would work best for your family at gsjs401mg@gmail.com.

Any Questions?

Contact

Emilia Moraitis - emoraitis@bellsouth.net Julie Skouteris - qsjs401mg@gmail.com

Today is the last day to sign the Community Partner Book at Mucklow's they are open from 10:00-5:30.

Please Help in Support of OUR

GreekFest Silent Auction

by Visiting!

MUCKLOW'S

Fine Jewelry

It's Easy! Just visit Mucklow's at: 1103 Crosstown Court, PTC

Business Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am to 5:50 pm Saturday – 10 am to 4 pm Closed Sunday & Monday

What to do: Ask to Sign the Community Partner Book!

They will show you to the book, you write down your information

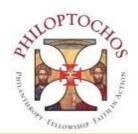
And leave – Easy Peasy

Note: Anyone 18 yrs and older can sign, only 2 individuals with the same Address can sign

The more signatures we receive the larger the Gift Certificate we receive and that translates to a larger bid at the Silent Auction

Here's What We Can Earn!!:

Bronze Level – Receive a \$100 gift certificate by having 5 people sign
Silver Level – Receive a \$250 gift certificate by having 6 to 10 total people sign
Gold Level – Receive a \$500 gift certificate by having 11 to 15 people sign
Platinum Level – Receive a \$750 gift certificate by having 16 to 20 people sign
Diamond Level – Receive a \$1,000 gift certificate by having 21 to 25 people sign.
Ultimate Level – We continue to give from the 26th to the 200th person. Contact us





Philoptochos Save the Dates!



- Aug 24 General Philoptochos Meeting (open to all)
- Sept 7 Fanaroupita Event and Board Meeting
- Oct 4 Koulourakia 8:30am
 - 15 Tiropita Batter 8:30am
 - 17 & 18 2 folding days 8:30am
 - 19 General Philoptochos Meeting (open to all)
 - 22 Spanakopita Batter 8:30am
 - 24 & 25 2 folding days 8:30am
- Nov 1 Kourambiethes Baking 8:30am
 - 2 Paximadia- after Religious Education
 - 14-15 Baklava make, bake and cup 8:30am
 - 16 Board Meeting
 - 17 Almond Cookies 8:38am
 - Box and Bow 4pm
 - 18-19 Dolmathes make, bake and package 8:30am
 - 21-22 Bake Sale Pick up

Fanouropita Luncheon



Bake Sale And Auction



Sunday, September 7
Begins at Coffee Hour
Ends at 11:30

Benefits Youth Activities in our Metropolis We will have a kids \$1 table, too!!

Contact Helen Psihountas at (770)-298-4493

Fanaroupita Luncheon

You're invited to bring a soup or sandwiches to feed 10 people!

Bake Sale and Auction

We need your favorite cakes, pies, breads, or Fanaroupita for the sale and auction.



Wellspring Living





All Sundays in August 2025: Wellspring Living

Wellspring Living transforms the lives of girls and boys 12-17 and young women 18 and older in our neighborhoods, who are at risk or victims of sexual exploitation.

Headquartered in Atlanta, since 2001, it provides restorative services - housing, healing and education through its residential, community-based programs and post-program support. It impacts the lives of more than 300 individuals yearly. "Hands of Love" ministry will be accepting monetary donations in the red box in the church narthex.

For online donations:



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

The "Wellspring Treasures" store on 116 Peachtree City East Shopping Ctr. in Peachtree City is also accepting gently used furniture and clothes. To learn more or to volunteer: https://wellspringliving.org

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

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, <u>St Christopher Capital Campaign Pledge Card Link</u>, so we can show the lenders our unwavering commitment and take the next steps toward our shared goal.

Here are some examples to consider:

GIVING SCENARIO 1:

Currently giving \$100/month

- . \$40 to Building Fund
- \$60 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign

- \$80 to Building Fund
- \$60 to Operations

Total Giving Increase = 40%

GIVING SCENARIO 2:

Currently giving \$200/month

- · \$100 to Building Fund
- \$100 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign

- \$200 to Building Fund
- S100 to Operations

Total Giving Increase = 30%

GIVING SCENARIO 3:

Currently giving \$300/month

- . \$100 to Building Fund
- \$200 to Operations

During the Building Fund Campaign

- . \$200 to Building Fund
- S200 to Operations

Total Giving Increase = 33%

Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





Saint Nicholas **Greek Orthodox Cathedral**

419 South Dithridge Street | Pittsburgh, PA | 15213 | USA

September 11 -

Thursday afternoon to Sunday midday September 14

With new youth Culminating on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

\$250 per participant*

includes all meals, workshops, e-music packet, & more

Blessed by His Eminence + Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, this synaxis (coming together) of female cantors from across the country and the world for Orthodox Christian worship, education, and practice in the Psaltic Art was the first event of its kind in the USA and is convening for its third year in a new region of the country.

Workshop Instructors





Amy Hogg



Sarah Roumas



Photini Downie Robinson



Featured Presenter Father Eleftherios Constantine Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral Teaching License in Byzantine Music, Central Music Conservatory of Thessaloniki

Register online

workshops for

ages 12-17!



*Additional Costs: Travel and Accommodation

REGISTRATION, Travel info, and more at: www.stnickspgh.org/sowbc2025



CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES



CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SERVICES



Click Image for Online Giving

For questions, please email <u>communications@saintchristopherhoc.org</u> or call the church office at (770) 347-7729.

<u>Click here</u> for Online Giving Instructions



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