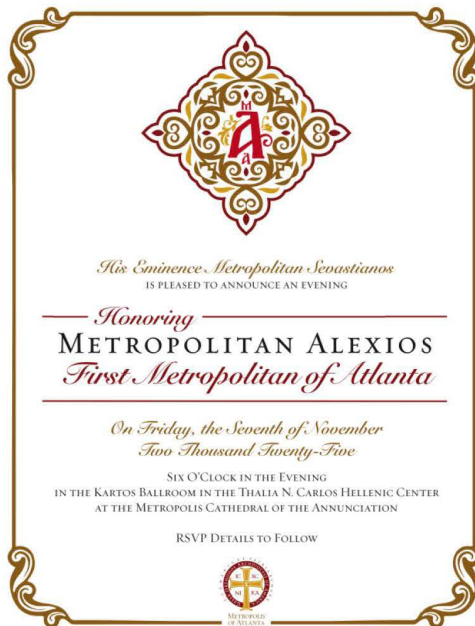




GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS ^{OF} ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ



September 18, 2025

To the Reverend Clergy, the Parish Council Presidents, Philoptochos Sisters, and all the Faithful of the Metropolis of Atlanta:

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to welcome the coming Fall season, I am proud to announce an exciting and worthy opportunity: an evening to celebrate our Former Metropolitan of Atlanta, Alexios, on **Friday, November 7, 2025, at 6 PM at The Kartos Ballroom in the Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Center of the Metropolis Cathedral of the Annunciation. (RSVP details to follow.)**

That evening will feature live testimony from our Metropolis co-workers, sharing heartfelt reflections on the profound impact that Metropolitan Alexios's

leadership and love have had on each of us—both personally and collectively. It will be a night of gratitude, remembrance, and celebration of a legacy that continues to inspire. We hope you will join us.

Knowing that our beloved Geronda's humility prefers his Metropolis family not to make him the center of attention, it is only fitting that this evening's celebration highlights one of His Eminence's most enduring legacies, the ministry he loves, which was renamed in his honor: the Metropolitan Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center. Among our first Metropolitan's many accomplishments, the DRC is a living testament to his vision, faith, and tireless dedication to nurturing the spiritual lives of generations, young and old alike, through the beauty of God's natural creation.



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlmetropolis.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, September 28, 2025

ON THIS DAY, THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, THE CHURCH COMMEMORATES Chariton the Confessor; Our Righteous Father Alkeisonus, Metropolitan of Nicopolis, Old Epirus; Baruch the Prophet; Neophytos & Auxentios the Martyrs of Cyprus; & Wenceslaus the Martyr, Prince of the Czechs. *Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Grave Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.122-125):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: By Your Cross, O Lord, You destroyed death; to the thief You opened paradise. The myrrh bearers' sorrow You transformed into joy, and You sent Your apostles forth to proclaim that You had risen from the dead, Christ our God, bestowing on all the world Your great mercy.

3. Hymn for St. Chariton the Confessor – (not in Hymnal):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. With the rivers of your tears, you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Chariton our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

4. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see handout):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance. Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

5. Kontakion – (Hymnal-pp.224-227):

It is sung *after* the Small Entrance: O unfailing protection of Christians, and our faithful advocate before the Creator: though we are sinners, do not ignore our entreaty; but in your goodness, grant your timely help to us who appeal to you in faith. Quickly make intercession; on our behalf make speedy supplication, O Theotokos, for you always protect those who honor you.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

<p><i>The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts.</i></p> <p>– St. John Chrysostom</p>
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:12-35)

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then He said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into

His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (2 Corinthians 6:1-10)

As we work together with Him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 5:1-11)

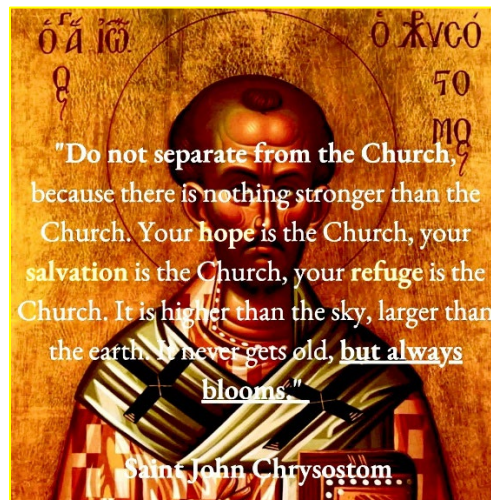
Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, He saw two boats there at

the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if You say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with Him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Him.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your Name's sake."

(Psalm 79:9)



PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



Just as the sun in this image refuses to be hidden, so too must our faith refuse to be silenced. We are not called to be passive observers of suffering—we are called to be bearers of light. To speak truth with love. To act with compassion. To forgive when it's hardest. To hope when it seems foolish.

Today's world tests our resolve. Whether it's economic instability, cultural polarization, personal loss, or the quiet battles of anxiety and doubt, we are constantly called to stand firm. Holy Scripture reminds us: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5



All Sundays in September :
Holy Cross School of Theology



Hands of Love ministry will be accepting **monetary donations** to benefit the school.



As the **sole Greek Orthodox** School of Theology in the United States, education here is an integration of learning and faith. Located in Brookline, Massachusetts, **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology** offers graduate programs leading to advanced degrees in Divinity and Theology. The school is the *alma mater* of many orthodox priests - <https://www.hchc.edu/holy-cross>. You may **place your donations** in the red box in the church narthex or online at <https://stchristopherphilopectochos.square.site>

Thank you for your generosity,

Anna Andreeva-Maydenova, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair



WANTED:



THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

UNUSED/DISCONTINUED PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE COWETA SAMARITAN CLINIC

The Coweta Samaritan Clinic can accept prescriptions and over-the-counter medications that are within 2 years of the "original fill" date (circled in red on photo below). *Inhalers must be unopened. They do not accept any opened topical medications/creams/etc. or any controlled substances/narcotics.* It is requested that medications stay in their original packaging, but also suggested the person's name and prescription numbers be blacked out on the labels.

Please bring your prescriptions and place them in the designated basket in the Community Room. This is the only day we will collect prescriptions.

Individuals can always make direct donations to Coweta Samaritan Clinic, 137 Jackson St., Newnan, GA. They are open Monday-Thursday, 9 AM-5 PM.

Contact Susan Kleto for more information,
sbkleto@gmail.com or (678) 877-9115.





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ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

September 27, 2025

To all in attendance at

The National Philoptochos Society's Children's Medical Luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia

With heartfelt joy and deep gratitude to Almighty God, I welcome each of you to this sacred gathering of love, compassion, and healing. Your presence here today is a testament to the enduring commitment of our Orthodox Christian community to care for the most vulnerable among us—our children in medical need.

We give thanks to God for the incredible and lifesaving impact this ministry has had on countless young lives. Through your generosity and prayers, hope has been restored, healing has been offered, and Christ's love has been made manifest.

We are especially blessed by the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, who serves as Chair of the National Philoptochos Society, and His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, its devoted Spiritual Advisor. Their spiritual guidance and pastoral care inspire us all.

I extend sincere appreciation to Mrs. Debbie George, National Philoptochos President, whose faithful stewardship continues to elevate the mission of Philoptochos across our Archdiocese. We also are grateful to Mrs. Irene Politis, President of the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos Board, whose dedication and love have helped bring this event to life in our beloved city. Her outstanding leadership and heartfelt dedication to organizing this year's Children's Medical Luncheon have blessed our Metropolis and uplifted its tireless ministry to serve all in need.

Together with His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta, our clergy and laity are honored to host this blessed luncheon. It is a joy to welcome you to Atlanta, where the spirit of fellowship and service shines brightly.

For me personally, as Chancellor of the Metropolis of Atlanta, this experience has been unforgettable. To witness the generosity, love, and faith of our Philoptochos sisters from across the country and their generous supporters is to behold the living Gospel in action.

Thanks be to God for the healing, hope, and joy this ministry brings to our children and their families. May He continue to bless and guide all who serve in His name.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Fr. George Tsahakis

Chancellor, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

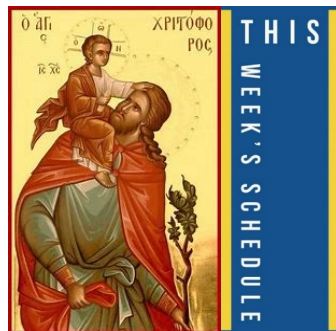
2480 Clairmont Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30329 Telephone: 404-634-9345 Fax: 404-634-2471

Web: www.atlmetropolis.org E-mail: info@atlmetropolis.org

Join Your Parish Often with Your Family

Sunday, September 28th – 1st Sunday of St. Luke

- 8:00 Orthros
- 9:00 Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 Prescription Recycling Opportunity
- 10:45 Religious Education Classes
- 11:30 Blessing of the Animals Planning Meeting
- 12:00 Let's EAT! At Broadway Diner



Saturday, October 4th – Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale

- 8:30 Koulourakia

Sunday, October 5 – 2nd Sunday of St. Luke & National Church Music Sunday

- 8:00 Orthros
- 9:00 Divine Liturgy
- 10:45 Religious Education Classes

On this the 1071st Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. ***Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!***

The crown jewel of His Eminence's vision for the DRC is a place of worship dedicated to our Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. His Eminence understood that that dedication of this church to the Panagia Vimatarissa--the patron of his Athonite spiritual home, Vatopedi, would forever bond generations to their DRC. Already, we have seen the first fruits of His Eminence's dream, as our St. Stephen's Campers worship in the Chapel, and where couples have wed, or have had their children baptized.

By supporting His Eminence's joyful dream to see the completion of the Panagia Chapel in the very near future, we not only express our love and gratitude for his many years of tireless service, but we also help ensure that this ministry continues to bear fruit in the lives of countless faithful.

For this reason, I challenge each community, each family, and each faithful individual to do their part and demonstrate their love for His Eminence, by showing their support for his vision. Let us work to complete the mission he faithfully began by raising the \$500,000 we are lacking to complete the Panagia Chapel. With God's help—and the unwavering support of our Metropolis family, parishes, and clergy—we will fulfill this sacred task and complete the legacy of our beloved retired Metropolitan Alexios.

To that end, please note the following sponsorship opportunities that will ensure our families and parishes can contribute as they are able:

Patron
\$1,000

Silver
\$2,500

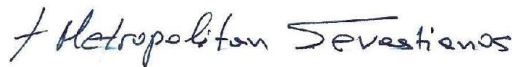
Gold
\$5,000

Benefactor
\$10,000

Grand Benefactor
\$25,000

I pray that your Metropolis can count on the participation of all our parishes to honor the work and the far-reaching vision of our first Metropolitan.

In the love and service of our Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Sevastianos". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

+Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta