



Sunday, September 21, 2025



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 21, 2025

ON THIS DAY, THE SUNDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY, PRECIOUS, AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD, GOD, & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, we commemorate its Leave-Taking. We also remember Quadratus the Apostle; Jonah the Prophet; and Isaakios & Meletios, Bishops of Cyprus. *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. 2nd Antiphon Hymn Commemorating the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-p. 28):

This hymn replaces hymn on pgs. 28-29. Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, as we sing to you, Alleluia.

2./5./10. Hymn for Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.180-181):

This hymn, "*Save, O Lord*" – is sung before and after the Small Entrance. Save, O Lord Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Priest:

On the occasion of today's feast, the Priest intones the following at the Small Entrance: Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool, for He is holy. Save us, O Son of God, Who was crucified in the flesh, as we sing to You, Alleluia.

4. Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.118-121):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood

at Your grave seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

6. 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.

7. Kontakion for the Feast of the Holy Cross – (Hymnal-pp.232-235):

It is sung after the Small Entrance. Bestow Your mercies on the people called by Your Name, Christ God, Who freely let Yourself be raised on the Cross. To all who battle evil give joy in Your power, by gracing them with victory over every foe, for having You as their ally they possess a weapon of peace, an invincible trophy of victory.

8 Megalynarion (Hymn to the Theotokos) – (not in Hymnal):

Instead of “Axion Estin” or “Truly it is proper to call you blessed...”: Eating the tree’s forbidden fruit once in Paradise brought death to the human race. But through the Cross, today death has no effect, because the curse that fell on the entire human race through mother Eve was undone by the Offspring of the all pure Mother of God, who now is by all the hosts of heaven magnified.

9. Communion Hymn – (Hymnal-p.325):

For today’s Feast of the Holy Cross, we sing the following: Let the light of Your face shine on us, O Lord. Alleluia. [Psalm 4]

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S 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 24:1-12)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Galatians 2:16-20)

...yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I

demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Mark 8:34-9:1)

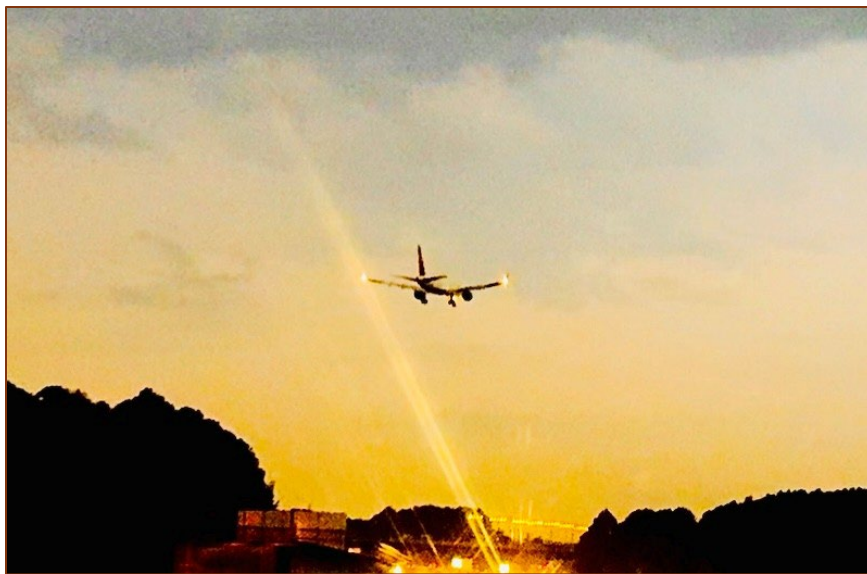
He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Educate your children in the way in which they should go, and when they are grown, they will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:

“Touching Down at Dawn”



As the plane descends upon the Atlanta airport, the horizon begins to reveal the first light of day. The city, still wrapped in the quiet of early morning, awaits the arrival of countless souls—each with a purpose, each with a destination.

There’s something spiritual about this moment: the stillness before movement, the hush before the rush. The aircraft, massive and powerful, glides gently toward the earth, guided by unseen hands and precise instruments. It is a symbol of trust, of journey, of arrival.

In our spiritual lives, we too are in flight—sometimes soaring, sometimes circling, sometimes descending toward a place we’ve longed to reach. The pending sunrise reminds us that today is not just another day; it is the day to arrive. To land. To fulfill what God has placed before us.

Whether our destination is a conversation we’ve postponed, a prayer we’ve neglected, a person we’ve meant to help, or a calling we’ve hesitated to embrace—today is the day to touch down. To be present. To act.

Let us not wait for perfect conditions or clearer skies. The runway is lit. The dawn is breaking. And the Holy Spirit whispers, “You are cleared to land.”

On this *the 1070th* 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!***

On September 17, the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates St. Sophia and her three daughters—Faith (Pistis), Hope (Elpis), and Love (Agape)—who were martyred for their Christian witness in the 2nd century. Their story offers profound spiritual lessons, especially for clergy and faithful seeking to live courageously and sacrificially in Christ.



There are several key lessons from their martyrdom that I wish to lift up:

1. The Power of a Mother's Faith

St. Sophia raised her daughters in the Christian faith during a time of persecution. Her name, meaning “wisdom,” reflects her spiritual insight and unwavering trust in God. She did not shield her daughters from martyrdom but encouraged them to remain faithful. Parents, especially mothers, are spiritual nurturers. Their example and teachings can shape children into saints. I encourage families to cultivate faith at home, even amid adversity.

2. Witness Through Suffering

Each daughter—Faith (12), Hope (10), and Love (9)—was tortured and killed for refusing to renounce Christ. Their young age highlights the depth of their conviction. Age does not limit spiritual maturity. Even children can

bear witness to Christ with courage. I remind you that suffering for righteousness is a path to holiness, regardless of age.

3. The Triumph of Christian Virtues

Their names—Faith, Hope, and Love—are not just symbolic; they represent the theological virtues St. Paul extols in 1 Corinthians 13. Their lives embodied these virtues to the point of death. These virtues are not abstract ideals but lived realities. I challenge believers to cultivate these virtues daily, especially in times of trial.

4. Martyrdom as a Path to Resurrection

Though Sophia did not die by execution, she died three days after burying her daughters—of grief and spiritual longing. Her death is seen as a martyrdom of the heart. Martyrdom is not only physical but also spiritual. Her example speaks to the “white martyrdom” of those who suffer silently for their faith, offering their lives in service, prayer, and sacrifice.

5. Unity in the Body of Christ

The family of St. Sophia shows how unity in faith can strengthen individuals. Their shared witness is a model for Christian families and communities. The Church is a family of faith. I encourage parishioners to support one another in spiritual struggles, fostering unity and mutual encouragement.

Wednesday’s service was beautiful. I appreciate Sophia taking off to attend her Name Day Liturgy and read the Epistle lesson. What a beautiful morning filled with our faithful and their families. *Blessed and Happy Name Day to all celebrating today. + Fr. George Tsahakis*





Beloved Parishioners and Friends of St. Christopher Church,

Our building project remains actively underway, and I am grateful to share that we continue to make meaningful progress on multiple fronts. Since your approval earlier this year, we have been working diligently and simultaneously in several key areas:

- *Capital Campaign:* Of our \$1.5 million goal, nearly \$1 million has already been raised—a testament to your generosity and faith.
- *Financing:* We are in active discussions with local banks to secure the necessary building loan.
- *Design & Construction:* Together with our architect and construction company, we are value-engineering the most effective plan for our church, administrative offices, and a shelled-in fellowship and educational building with support services.

We are navigating a complex landscape—market uncertainties, tariffs, interest rates, and evolving building codes—but we remain

steadfast in our commitment. Like a ship guided through rocky seas, our course is steady, and our destination is clear. *Let us thank God for guiding us.*

I also am deeply appreciative to all who have pledged their five-year support, including family and friends beyond our parish. Your faith and encouragement uplift us. I also wish to recognize the tireless efforts of our Building Committee, chaired by Stephen Sarantis, our Fundraising Committee, chaired by Tom Farmakis, our Parish Council, and the many volunteers behind our GreekFest and Golf Classic fundraisers. Each of you reading this message is appreciated and needed to ensure our success.

Let us remember – what weakens us is not the challenge itself, but the spread of misinformation or doubt. Our direction has not changed. We seek consensus, transparency, and unity.

As our Lord reminds us, “*With God all things are possible*” (Matthew 19:26), and “*You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” (John 8:32). These words guide our hearts and strengthen our resolve to serve God and our parish family.

With God’s help, we will complete this project—not just with bricks and mortar, but with faith, unity, and love.

In closing, I invite you to join me in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for Your countless blessings and for the unwavering support and love of our St. Christopher parish

family. You have guided us thus far, and we place our trust in You as we continue this sacred work.

Grant us wisdom and discernment as we build—not only a church complex, but a spiritual home where Your name is glorified and Your people are nurtured. Help us to work together with mutual respect, patience, and love, always seeking Your will above our own.

May our efforts be a witness to the world around us. Transform our hearts so that we may bring peace where there is division, healing where there is hurt, and hope where there is despair.

In all things, may we glorify You, the source of all good things. Through the intercessions of St. Christopher and all the saints, strengthen us to be faithful stewards of this holy task. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

In Christ's service, +Fr. George Tsahakis





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://stchristopherphiloptochos.square.site>

Thank you for your generosity,

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



PRESCRIPTION RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

The Coweta Samaritan Clinic offers prescription drugs to their clients through their "inhouse" pharmacy. The pharmacy is stocked through the donation of medications people are no longer taking because the prescription has been changed or discontinued. Their donation policy is as follows:

"Essentially, we're able to accept any unused prescriptions and over the counter medications that are up to one year past their expiration date. Inhalers must be unopened. We do not accept any opened topical medications/creams/etc. or any controlled substances/narcotics (we recommend those be taken to the Coweta County Sheriff's Office unused medication drop box). Donations may be dropped off at the Clinic, located at 137 Jackson Street in Newnan, Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m."

Coweta Samaritan Clinic requests medications stay in their original packaging, but also suggests the person's name and prescription numbers be blacked out on the labels.

Please bring your prescriptions on **Sunday, September 28, 2025**, and place them in the designated basket in the Community Room. This is the only day we will collect prescriptions. Individuals can always make donations to Coweta Samaritan Clinic at the location and times shown above. Contact Susan Kleto for more information, sbkleto@gmail.com or (678) 877-9115.



You don't have to be a golfer to be part of this year's **South Atlanta Golf Classic**. Whether you're swinging a club, volunteering your time, or simply cheering us on, there's a place for everyone to participate!

For those who'd like to contribute off the course, it's easy to **donate**! At the bottom of our website, you'll find a dedicated "Donate Here" button. With just a few clicks, you can give any amount. Every gift, big or small, helps us continue to support our **community**.

So whether you're teeing off or giving online, **thank you** for being part of something meaningful!



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Philoptochos Society Fall Pastry Sale

"To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach to preserve the sanctity of life and family and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions."



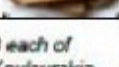
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pickup Dates: Friday, November 21st 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm @ Church Address

Saturday, November 22nd 9:00 am -12:00 pm @ Church Address

Order Deadline: November 7, 2025

		Quantity	Cost/Dozen	Total
Spanakopita: Spinach & Cheese stuffed phyllo triangles			\$ 15.00	\$
Tiropita: Cheese stuffed phyllo triangles			\$ 15.00	\$
Baklava: layers of phyllo filled with chopped nuts and sweetened and held together with syrup or honey			\$ 20.00	\$
Kourambiedes: sugar dusted butter cookies			\$ 15.00	\$
Koulourakia: twisted butter cookies			\$ 10.00	\$
Paximadia: Greek Biscotti with Pecans and Cinnamon			\$ 10.00	\$
Sampler Dozen: Package containing 3 each of Baklava, Kourambiedes, Paximadia and Koulourakia			\$ 25.00	\$
Pastitsio: luscious layers of seasoned ground beef, pasta, and a creamy bechamel sauce baked to perfection			\$ 60.00 12"x9" pan	
Dolmades: stuffed grape leaves with ground beef, rice and herbs			\$ 15.00	\$
Amygdalota: Greek chewy almond cookie Gluten-free			\$ 10.00	
TOTAL DUE:				\$



REMINDER: YOU CAN ONLY PLACE ORDERS ONLINE

BY VISITING ONE OF THE 3 OPTIONS BELOW

<https://saintchristopherhoc.org/> <https://my-business-104643.square.site/>

For Questions Pls Contact Dedee Panayis Tel: 817-690 6610

Join Us Often with Your Family

**Wednesday, September 17th – St. Sophia
& her three daughters: Faith, Hope, &
Love**

9:00 Divine Liturgy



Sunday, September 21st – Sunday After Holy Cross

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Golf Classic Update

10:45 Religious Education Classes

Saturday, September 27th

11:00 20th Children's Medical Luncheon (Philoptochos)

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

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:30 Prescription Recycling Opportunity

10:45 Religious Education Classes

12:00 Let's EAT! At Broadway Diner

Saturday, October 4th – Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale

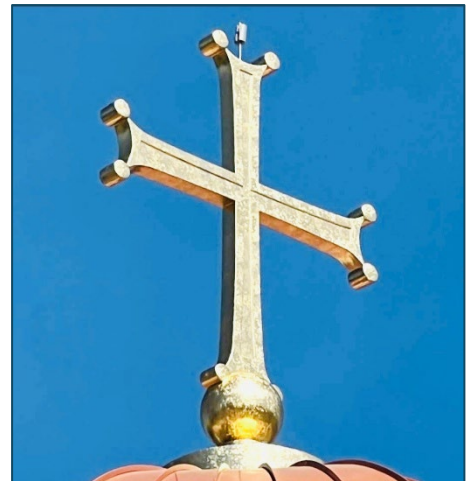
8:30 Koulourakia

The Cross That Shines -Take a moment to reflect:

(This spiritual activity is in follow-up to Fr. George's sermon this morning.)

- *What cross am I carrying today—not just in suffering, but in the daily struggle to live faithfully?*
- *How might my perseverance, even in weakness, allow others to glimpse the light of Christ?*
- *Can I see my hardships not as obstacles, but as sacred opportunities to grow closer to God?*

St. Theophan the Recluse reminds us that the Christian life is inseparable from the cross. He writes, ***“Rejoice, feeling the cross on yourself, for this is a sign that you are following the Lord.”*** In our reflection, let us not rush past our burdens. Let us sit with them, pray through them, and ask God to transform them into light for others.



The Cross of Christ crowning the chapel of the new Pittsburgh Metropolis Center

Spiritual Challenge:

This week, reach out to someone who may be quietly carrying a cross. Offer a word of encouragement, a prayer, or simply your presence. In doing so, you will help them—and yourself—walk the path of salvation with hope.