



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor
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Pastoral Message from Fr. George, September 16, 2025

**The Cross stands still, yet speaks in
grace—**

A beacon bright in sacred space.

**We are called to love as Christ has
loved,**

Forgive as He forgave.

May we bear our cross,

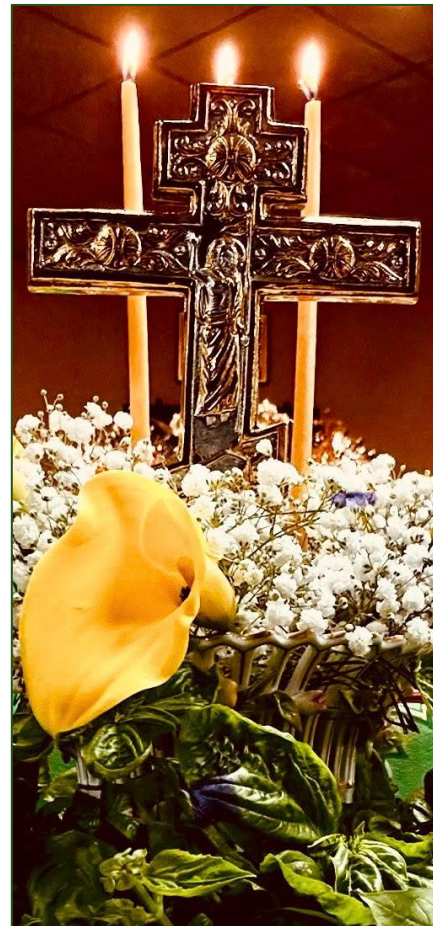
And walk the path He has shown—

Faithful, step by step.

May our lives shine bright—

Mirrors of His Holy Name,

Love made visible.





The Cross—A Paradox of Power and Mercy

“What a paradoxal miracle!” the Church sings on 9/14 - the Sunday of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. Indeed, the Cross of Christ is the great paradox of our faith: a symbol of death that brings life, a tree of suffering that bears the fruit of salvation, a sign of defeat that becomes the banner of victory.

On this Sunday, the life-bearing plant, the all-holy and precious Cross, is lifted high—not only in our churches, but in our hearts. It is

displayed and carried aloft, not as a relic of the past, but as a living witness of God's love and mercy.

The hymn proclaims that "all the ends of the earth do glorify, and all the demons are greatly terrified." Why? Because the Cross reveals the depth of divine compassion—a love so powerful it shatters evil and restores hope.

This paradoxal miracle is not meant to be admired from afar. It is a gift to mortals, a sacred invitation to participate in Christ's sacrificial love. The Cross challenges us to:

- Lift up others who are burdened by sorrow or injustice.
- Display mercy in a world that often chooses vengeance.
- Carry aloft the message of hope to those who feel forgotten.

The hymn concludes with a plea:

"Hence, O Christ the only compassionate, do thereby save our souls."

This is not only a prayer for salvation—it is a call to embody compassion. If we are saved by the Cross, we must also become servants of the Cross, bearing its grace into every corner of our lives.

As you contemplate the Cross, ask yourself:

How can I make this paradoxal miracle visible in my life?

- Can I forgive someone who has wronged me?
- Can I offer comfort to someone in despair?
- Can I speak truth with love, even when it's difficult?

Let the Cross you behold be the Cross you carry—with humility, with courage, and with joy. For in doing so, you become a living witness of the miracle that saves souls and transforms the world.



“Do not do anything without signing yourself with the sign of the Cross! When you depart on a journey, when you begin your work, when you go to study, when you are alone, and when you are with other people, seal yourself with the Holy Cross on your forehead, your body, your chest, your heart, your lips, your eyes, your ears. All of you should be sealed with the sign of Christ’s victory over hell. Then you will no longer be afraid of charms, evil spirits, or sorcery, because these are dissolved by the power of the Cross like wax before fire and like dust before the wind.”

- ELDER CLEOPAS OF ROMANIA -



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



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