



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Pastoral Message from Fr. George, September 3, 2025

In the Care of the Good Shepherd: A Priest's Reflection

"Brethren, the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God." {2 Corinthians 9:12}



In this verse, St. Paul teaches us that when we give from the heart—whether time, resources, or compassion—we become vessels of God's grace. Our acts of service ripple outward, touching lives and lifting prayers to heaven. And in all of it, we are reminded that the greatest gift is Christ Himself, whose love inspires every good work.

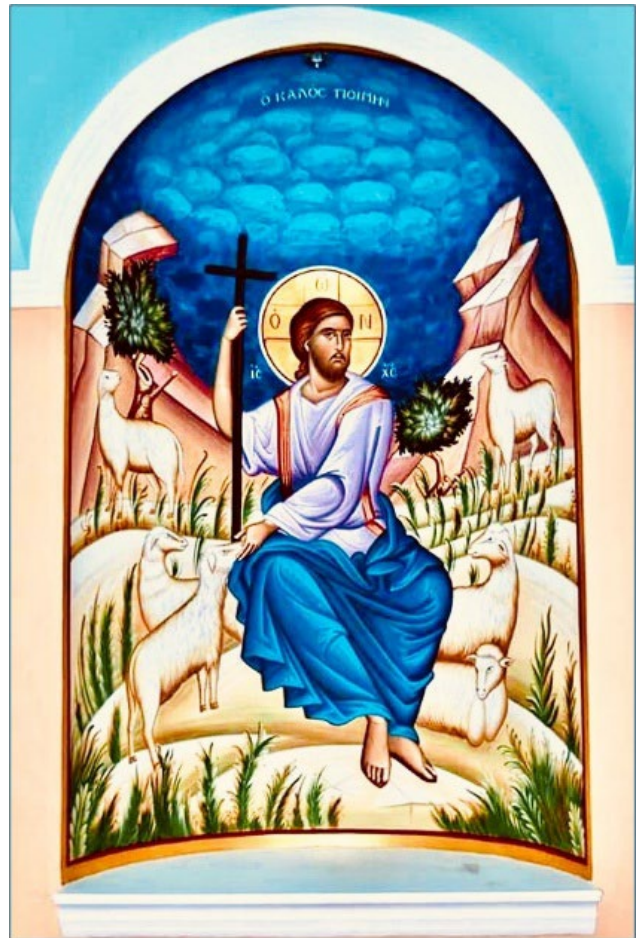
On this sacred day, September 3rd, I bow my heart in gratitude to our

loving and merciful God, Who called me to serve in His Holy Priesthood. Thirty years ago, surrounded by family and friends, I stood before the Holy Altar, trembling with awe and joy, ready to offer my life in service to Christ and His Holy Church. Today, I remain humbled by the journey filled with God's loving kindness, and the countless blessings that have accompanied me.

Throughout these years, I have come to understand more deeply the image of *Christ the Good Shepherd*—the One who knows His sheep, calls them by name, and lays down His life for them. In my ministry, I have strived to reflect His love, His patience, and His unwavering care for each soul entrusted to me.

I thank my beloved family, whose love has been my anchor and whose sacrifices have allowed me to serve with devotion. Their quiet strength and unwavering support have sustained me through every season of ministry.

I offer my deepest love and gratitude to my wife, Presbytera Marinda. Her Orthodox name, *Theodosia*, means “*gift of God*”... indeed, my gift from God throughout the 45 years of our marriage. She has been my steadfast companion, a source of



loving kindness and encouragement, and a living witness of faith and love. Her devotion to our family and her quiet strength have blessed every step of my Priesthood.

To our children—John, Andrew, and Katherine, and to their spouses—I give thanks for their unwavering support and love, often supporting me “behind the scenes” and without credit. They have walked beside me with grace and understanding, and now, their seven children—our beloved grandchildren—continue to bring light and hope to our ministry and family life. Their presence is a reminder that the seeds of faith planted long ago by my parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers, cousins, teachers, clergy, and friends continue to blossom in new generations.

I give thanks to my Hierarchs, especially to Metropolitan Alexios, whose leadership shaped my Priesthood, and now to Metropolitan Sevastianos, under whose guidance I continue to serve. I also honor our beloved Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, whose pastoral care uplifts our Lord’s Holy Church and calls us to deeper communion with Christ.

I hold in deep reverence my mentoring from Bishop Philip, of blessed memory, who ordained me to the Holy Diaconate and likewise Bishop Iacovos, of blessed memory, who ordained me to the Holy Priesthood. Their faith, vision, and pastoral hearts left an indelible mark on my life and ministry. I carry their legacy with gratitude and strive to honor their trust in me.

My ordination took place on one of the feast days of Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker, a saint whose life of humility,

healing, and unwavering faith continues to inspire my ministry. I believe his intercessions have accompanied me throughout these years, and I remain devoted to his example of holiness and service. I forever hold dear to my heart his reassurance: *“Do not despair, do not lose hope. The Lord is always with us.”*

I am especially grateful to my spiritual father, Fr. John, whose wisdom and prayerful counsel have been a light in moments of discernment and challenge. His guidance and that of Presbyteria Susan, of blessed memory, are gifts I cherish deeply. Our family’s Godparents have been a steadfast source of spiritual encouragement, reminding us through their love and prayers that we are never alone in our walk with Christ.

There are many individuals—clergy, parishioners, family, and friends—who have gone above and beyond, supporting my ministry in God’s Holy Vineyard. Their kindness, generosity, and faith have been a reflection of Christ’s love, and I carry their names in my heart with gratitude and pray for them daily.

I also thank God for the privilege of helping to establish and serve St. Christopher Church, a community rooted in love, faith, and service. It has been a sacred joy to witness its growth and to walk alongside its faithful in our shared journey toward Christ.

As Chancellor of the Metropolis of Atlanta, I have the special privilege of serving alongside clergy and laity in its 75 parishes, five monasteries, and Metropolitan Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center. This ministry is deeply rewarding, as together with my Metropolis co-workers, we strive to reflect Christ’s light in our parishes, communities, and hearts.

As I look back upon these thirty years of priestly service, I am deeply aware that the journey of the Priesthood is never walked alone. It is a sacred calling—a life of servanthood offered to God and shared with His people. Like Christ, the Good Shepherd, I have strived to walk not above the flock entrusted to me, but among them—with love that listens, humility that learns, and faith that endures. Though I have stumbled at times, the Lord’s mercy has lifted me, and His grace has sustained me, granting far more than I could ever merit. To Him be the glory, now and always.

In today’s Epistle, St. Paul reminds us: *“Look at what is before your eyes. If any one is confident that he is Christ’s, let him remind himself that as he is Christ’s, so are we.”* (2 Corinthians 10:7).

This verse challenges us to cultivate a spirit of mutual belonging in Christ... to see clearly, not just with physical sight, but with spiritual discernment. If we are confident that we belong to Christ, then we must also recognize that others do too. As I continue to serve in the Holy Priesthood, St. Paul’s counsel is reminding me of four challenges: 1) *to honor the dignity of others as fellow members of Christ’s Body*, 2) *to resist pride or exclusivity, remembering that our belonging to Christ does not elevate us above others*, 3) *to foster unity and humility, seeing Christ in those around us, especially in those we might overlook or undervalue*, and 4) *to encourage one another, affirming the gifts and calling of others in God’s Holy Church*.

As I continue to serve in the remaining years of my Priesthood, I seek even more to keep my eyes fixed on Christ and my heart open to each of you—striving always to walk humbly beside you, honoring our shared belonging in Him, and encouraging the gifts He has planted within us all. Amen.

With love in Christ,

+Fr. George Tsahakis





**Fanouropita - Bread
of St. Fanourios**

**We offered this
Fanouropita on the Feast
of St. Fanourios on behalf
of our parish fsmily. You
can offer one on Sunday,
September 7th to
support our Fanouropita
Bake Sale & Auction.**



**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.

Join Us Often with Your Family

Wednesday, September 3rd – Translation of the relics of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker

8:00 Orthros & Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel



Sunday, September 7th – Sunday Before Holy Cross

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Artoklasia, Blessing of Fanouropites, September Commemorations, Lunch, Bake Sale & Auction

11:15 Religious Education Classes

12:15 Philoptochos Board Meeting

Monday, September 8th – Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

8:30 Divine Liturgy (note earlier starting time)