

## **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**

**313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269**

**Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)**

**Website: [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org)**

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

### **Pastoral Message from Fr. George, September 12, 2025**



As we commemorate the anniversary of September 11th, our hearts are already heavy with grief. We remember the thousands who perished, the bravery of emergency responders, and the sacrifices made to help our nation heal.

We also mourn the recent death of Iryna Zarutska, a young Ukrainian refugee whose life was taken in a

senseless act of violence on a Charlotte light rail train. And now, we are shaken once more by the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

Charlie, a devoted Christian, husband, father, and friend to many, was shot and killed while speaking at Utah Valley University. A single bullet to the neck ended his life in front of thousands gathered to hear him speak. The shooter, believed to have fired from a rooftop 200 yards away, remains at large. Witnesses described the horror of the moment, the panic that followed, and the deep sorrow that now grips his family and supporters.

To disagree with Charlie's views is everyone's right. But to assassinate him is a tragic violation of the very principles that uphold our democracy and our faith. Charlie believed in dialogue—not violence—as the bridge between differing viewpoints. He sought to engage, not to divide. His death is not only a personal loss to those who loved him, but a national wound that calls for reflection and repentance.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to respond not with vengeance, but with mercy. We are called to forgive our enemies, to lift up the downtrodden, and to be peacemakers in a world torn by hatred. The Gospel of Christ does not promise us agreement—it promises us love. It does not demand uniformity—it demands compassion.

When we follow God's will—when we choose love over hate, mercy over judgment, and peace over violence—He leads us through the darkness into brighter days. His light does not merely illuminate our path; it transforms our hearts and renews our

communities. It makes us, in the truest sense, “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” In this unity, we find the strength to heal, the courage to forgive, and the grace to build a future rooted in hope and peace.

Let us honor Charlie’s memory by rejecting the culture of demonization that leads to violence. Let us teach our children that disagreement is not a threat, but an opportunity for understanding. Let us recommit ourselves to the sacred work of building bridges, not walls.

## **Let God Be Our Light, for Hope & Peace**

*A Pastoral Reflection on Unity & Compassion*

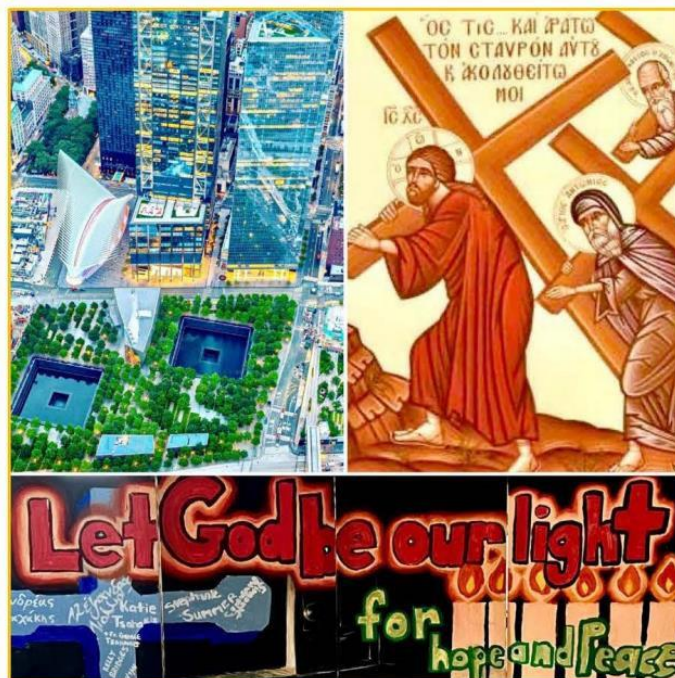
+Fr. George Tsahakis, 9/11/2025

This title speaks to the divine presence we seek in times of sorrow and uncertainty. It reminds us that in the face of tragedy—whether the devastation of 9/11 or the heartbreaking loss of Iryna Zarutska—God remains our guiding light. His love calls us to hope, His peace urges us to act, and His image in every person beckons us to unity.

Today, we solemnly mark the anniversary of September 11th—a day of unimaginable loss and heroic sacrifice. We remember the thousands who perished, the families forever changed, and the unity that emerged from the ashes. In the face of terror, Americans stood together, transcending divisions to affirm our shared humanity.

We especially honor the emergency responders—firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and countless volunteers—who ran





toward danger while others fled. Their courage, selflessness, and unwavering commitment to saving lives became a beacon of hope in our darkest hour. In the days and months that followed, their sacrifices helped us begin the long journey of healing and

rebuilding. Their legacy is one of valor and compassion—a legacy we must never forget.

Yet today, we are also confronted with another tragedy—one that pierces the heart and demands our attention. Just weeks ago, Iryna Zarutskya, a 23-year-old Ukrainian refugee who fled the horrors of war, boarded a light rail train in Charlotte seeking peace and safety. Moments later, she was brutally attacked by a man with a long history of violence and mental illness. Surveillance footage shows her sitting quietly, unaware of the danger behind her. Her attacker rose, pulled out a knife, and struck her fatally in the neck. Passengers screamed and scattered. No one intervened. No one tried to save her.

This image—of a young woman facing her killer alone, surrounded by witnesses frozen in fear or indifference—is a haunting

indictment of our moral condition. It compels us to ask: *What has become of our sacred duty to protect the vulnerable? Where is the compassion that once defined our national character?*

As Greek Orthodox Christians, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. We are not strangers to one another—we are one nation under God. Our faith calls us to be vigilant in love, courageous in mercy, and unwavering in justice. We must not allow fear or apathy to silence our conscience.

The legacy of this nation—built on liberty and justice for all—is far better than what Iryna experienced. Her death must not be in vain. It must awaken us to the sacred responsibility we bear: *to lift up the downtrodden, to speak for the voiceless, and to ensure that no one seeking refuge in our land is met with violence or neglect.*

Let us honor the memory of those lost on 9/11 and the innocent life of Iryna Zarutskya by recommitting ourselves to the Gospel of Christ. Let us teach our children to respect others, to defend the weak, and to build a society where love triumphs over hate.

And let us act—not tomorrow, but today. Reach out to someone in need. Offer a word of kindness, a helping hand, a prayer of support. Let your love share God's light that breaks through someone's darkness. In doing so, we honor the heroes of our past and become the hope of our future.

*May the memory of the 9/11 victims and Iryna be eternal. May the sacrifices of our brave heroes inspire us to live with courage and compassion. And may our communities reflect the Kingdom of*



*God—where peace reigns, justice flows, and every soul is cherished. Amen!*



**Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**This Sunday, we gather in sacred assembly to commemorate the *Elevation of the Holy Cross*, a feast that calls us to behold the life-giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ—an enduring symbol of victory, hope, and divine love.**

**I warmly invite you and your families to join us in worship as we venerate the Holy Cross and reflect on its power to transform suffering into salvation. Let us come together in prayer and thanksgiving, lifting high the Cross that unites heaven and earth.**

*"Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world."*

**Let us rejoice in this truth and renew our commitment to follow Christ, Who gave Himself for our sake.**

**The service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy.**

**May the Cross of Christ be our strength and our peace.**

**With love in Christ,**

**Fr. George Tsahakis**

## **Join Us Often with Your Family**

### **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> – The Elevation of the Venerable & Life-Giving Cross**

*(Wine & oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, & eggs)*

8:15 Orthros (note starting time)

9:00 Service of the Elevation of the Holy Cross & Divine Liturgy

11:00 Religious Education Classes

12:00 Parish Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, & Love**

9:00 Divine Liturgy

### **Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday After Holy Cross**

8:00 Orthros

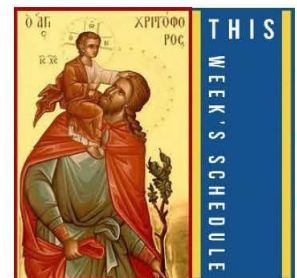
9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes

12:15 Philoptochos Board Meeting

### **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 20<sup>th</sup> Children's Medical Luncheon (Philoptochos)







## 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, [sbketo@gmail.com](mailto:sbketo@gmail.com) or (678) 877-9115.





## Social Media Accounts:



### Giveaway time!

We've just announced an exciting giveaway for new golf team registrations, and the details are being shared exclusively on our social media pages! Check out our latest posts on **Facebook** and **Instagram** to see how your team could win **PGA Tour Superstore gift cards**. Gift Cards are limited, so don't miss your chance to claim this special offer!

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT THE ATLANTA AIR SHOW IN PEACHTREE CITY – OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 12**

**THIS IS A WIN-WIN: A CHANCE TO SEE THE AIR SHOW AND A FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. CHRISTOPHER**

The Atlanta Air Show returns this year to Falcon Field hosting military and civilian aircraft flyovers and static displays. Highlighting the schedule will be the US Air Force Thunderbirds Aerial Demonstration Team.

Volunteering for this event on any or multiple of the four options detailed below will allow an up-close look at the aircraft and demonstrations, especially if volunteering on Thursday and Friday for setup when the airport is closed to the public. (Patrons of the show during the weekend pay anywhere from \$34.50 to \$194.00 to attend.) The cost of our entry, of course, will be free, and does include a T-shirt and lunch each day.

By providing the show organizers with two of the four days, a total of 20 SCHOC volunteers per day, we will receive a total payment of \$5000.00.

Please consider your ability to support this worthy community event, build continued comradery with fellow volunteers from our parish, and to expand upon our fundraising efforts.

Click the link below to view the sign-up opportunities and to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA4A62FA4FE3-58307616-atlanta>

If you sign up for multiple events...please prioritize. Example: Event 1 Priority #1; Event 4 Priority #2, Event 3 Priority #3.

Please contact Manny Haldopoulos at [hplustens@comcast.net](mailto:hplustens@comcast.net) or (478) 957-7132 with any questions or for further information.

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## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210, Peachtree City, GA 30269 • Tel: (770) 347-PRAY • (770) 347-7729

Web: [www.SaintChristopherHOC.org](http://www.SaintChristopherHOC.org) • E-mail: [info@SaintChristopherHOC.org](mailto:info@SaintChristopherHOC.org)

### 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





## **Philoptochos Save the Dates!**



- 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



*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>

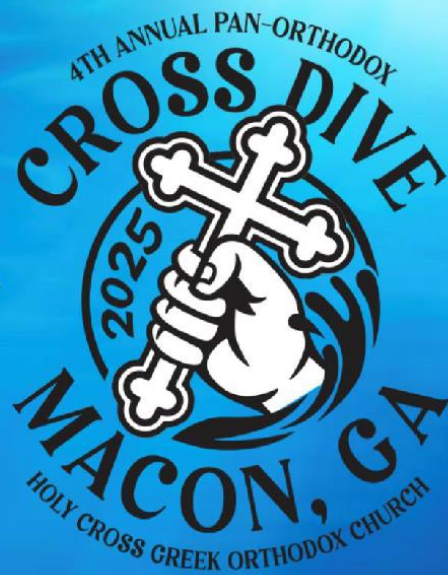
Thank you for your generosity,

*Anna Andreeva-Naydenova*, "Hands of Love" Philoptochos Ministry Chair



*Come and*  
**DIVE**  
*Back In!*

**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 13TH**



**HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,**  
along with the AIOPA  
(Atlanta Inter-Orthodox Parish Association),  
invites you to our **NAME DAY** celebration and  
**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX CROSS DIVE!**

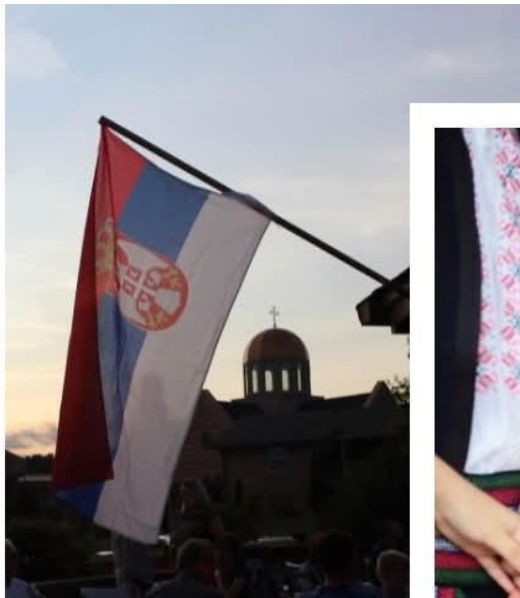
**\$15 PER PERSON  
(FREE FOR CLERGY,  
DIVERS & CHILDREN  
8 AND UNDER)**

**FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS:  
[WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG/  
CROSS-DIVE](http://WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG/CROSS-DIVE)**

**SCAN  
HERE TO  
REGISTER!**







# SERB FEST ATLANTA

SAT, OCT.  
4TH  
(11AM - 10PM)



SUN, OCT.  
5TH  
(12PM - 6PM)

STS. PETER AND PAUL SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1558 HEWATT ROAD SOUTHWEST LILBURN, GA 30047

## 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, [St Christopher Capital Campaign Pledge Card Link](#), 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**
- \$100 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**
- \$200 to Operations

Total Giving Increase = 33%

Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis



[CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES](#)



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SERVICES](#)





[Click Image for Online Giving](#)

For questions, please email [communications@saintchristopherhoc.org](mailto:communications@saintchristopherhoc.org)

or call the church office at (770) 347-7729.

**[Click here](#) for Online Giving Instructions**



[Click image to view our parish calendar](#)



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**Our mailing address is:**

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Dr.

Ste. 210

Peachtree City, GA 30269

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