

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

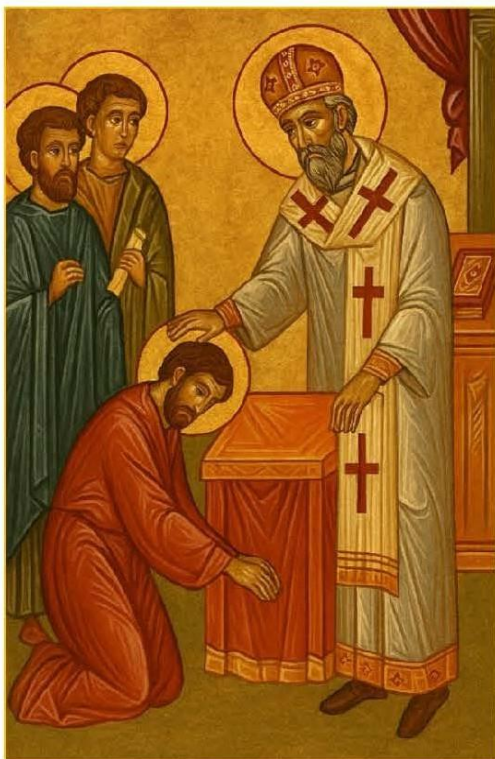
Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

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

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.

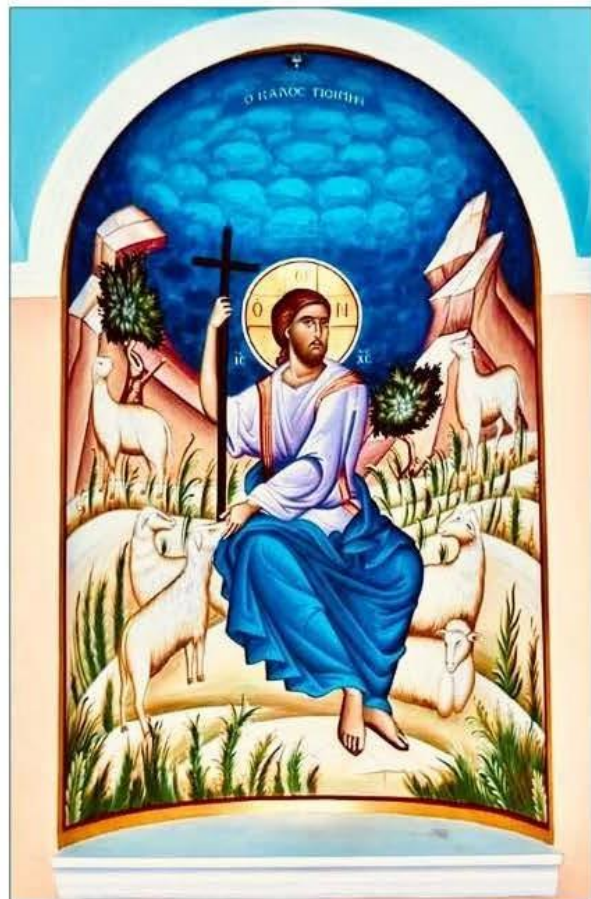
On this sacred day, September 3rd, I bow my heart in gratitude to our

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, Presbyteria 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



9.3.25



**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!

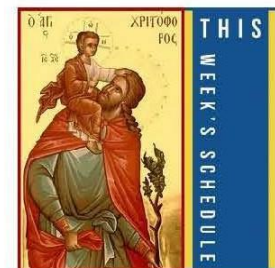
Bake Sale and Auction

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)

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 or (478) 957-7132 with any questions or for further information.



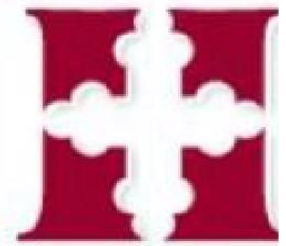
Philoptochos Save the Dates!



- Sept 7 Fanaroupita Event and **Board Meeting**
- 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-Maydenova, "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
4TH 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$40 to Building Fund• \$60 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$80 to Building Fund• \$60 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 40%</div>	GIVING SCENARIO 2: Currently giving \$200/month <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 to Building Fund• \$100 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200 to Building Fund• \$100 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 30%</div>	GIVING SCENARIO 3: Currently giving \$300/month <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$100 to Building Fund• \$200 to Operations <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$200 to Building Fund• \$200 to Operations <div>Total Giving Increase = 33%</div>
--	--	--

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

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

[Click here](#) for Online Giving Instructions



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



Copyright © 2025 St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a Parishioner or Friend of St. Christopher

Our mailing address is:

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Dr.

Ste. 210

Peachtree City, GA 30269

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

