

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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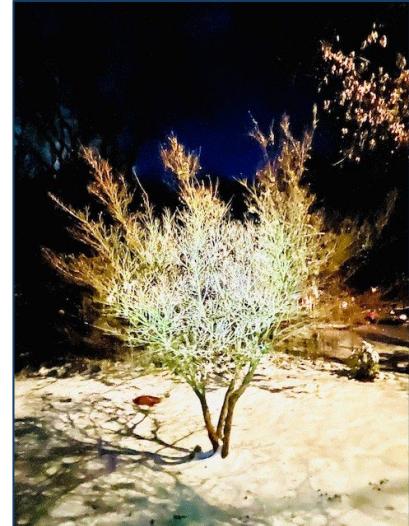
Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator

Pastoral Message from Fr. George, January 23, 2026

Weekend Winter Weather: Guidance and a Message of Faith

Beloved Parish Family,

I pray this message finds you safe and well. As many of you have already seen, the latest forecasts for our area indicate the potential for significant winter weather this weekend. Depending on where the freeze line ultimately settles, parts of our Metropolis—including areas around Atlanta—may experience freezing rain, sleet, or ice beginning Saturday night and continuing into Sunday. These conditions could lead to slick roads, power outages, tree damage, and dangerous travel.



Because of this uncertainty, **we will continue to monitor the situation carefully.** A decision regarding our Sunday services will be made as soon as we have clearer information. Your safety is always our first priority. [Saturday night and Sunday morning, visit our website for the status of Sunday services: www.saintchristopherhoc.org]

As I look at these weather maps and warnings, I could not help but reflect on the storms that also arise in our spiritual lives. Just as ice can quietly build up—coating branches, freezing roads, and causing unseen risks—so too can spiritual challenges accumulate in our hearts. Temptations, anxieties, and burdens can settle on us without warning, making our footing unsteady and our path unclear.

The weather team reminds us: “*Do not let your guard down.*”

This is also the counsel of our Orthodox Church. We are called to remain watchful, prayerful, and attentive, guarding our hearts with the same seriousness that we prepare our homes for a storm.

Ice on the roads can cause us to slip; ice on the soul—unconfessed sin, resentment, neglect of prayer—can do the same.

So as we prepare for this potential winter storm:

- **Check your physical supplies**, but also check the condition of your heart.
- **Stay connected with family and neighbors**, but also stay connected with Christ through prayer.
- **Watch the updates from local authorities**, but also watch over your thoughts, actions, and choices.

May this be a gentle reminder that our Lord is with us in every storm—weather-related or spiritual. He is our refuge and our strength, *“a very present help in trouble”* (Psalm 46:1).

A Closing Prayer

O Lord our God,

In Your mercy look upon all Your children who may be in harm’s way during this approaching winter storm. Protect the vulnerable, shelter the weary, and grant safety to all who must travel.

We give You heartfelt thanks for our emergency responders—those who serve, repair, rescue, and keep watch while others seek shelter. Strengthen them, guard them, and reward their labors with Your peace.

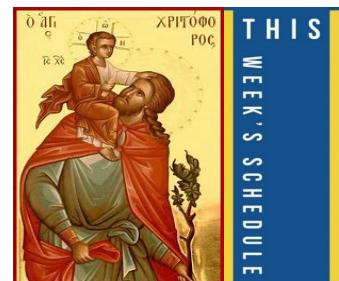
And just as You guard us from physical danger, guard our souls from the storms of temptation, confusion, and fear. Melt the icy places of our hearts, warm us with Your love, and guide us on the path that leads to life in You.

For You are our refuge and our strong tower, and to You we offer glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Join Us Often with Your Family

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www.saintchristopherhoc.org]



Sunday, January 25, 15th Sunday of St. Luke

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Sacrament of Chrismation - Dele Tuboku-Metzger and Divine Liturgy

11:00 Religious Education Classes

12:00 Let's EAT! at Broadway Diner

Wednesday, January 28, St. Ephraim the Syrian

8:00 Orthros & Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel (Metropolis Office)