



## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor  
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### Pastoral Message from Fr. George, January 28, 2026

#### Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who joined our online Zoom worship this past Sunday. Though icy roads kept us from gathering in person, your presence—prayerful, patient, and joyful—reminded me once again of the strength and warmth of our community in Christ.



Our inability to travel did not diminish our desire to worship. In fact, it revealed something beautiful: *faith that adapts, love that connects beyond distance, and a shared commitment to lift our hearts to God no matter the circumstances.* Even through screens and across neighborhoods blanketed in ice, we prayed together as one Body, united by the Holy Spirit.

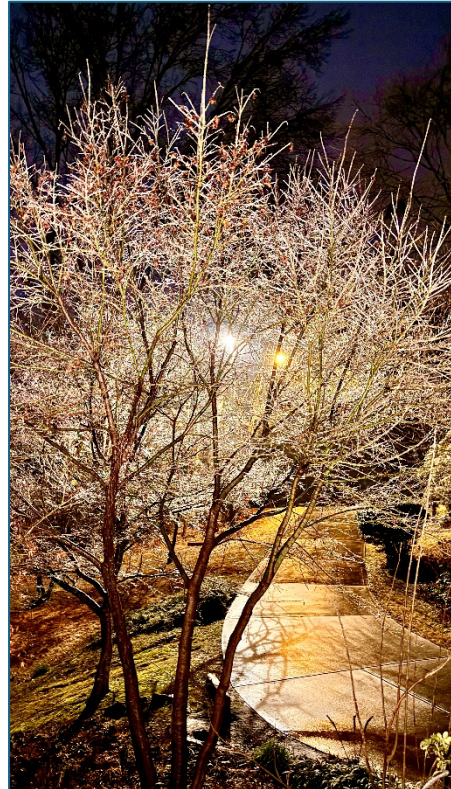
Thank you for making the effort to log in, to sing, to listen, to pray, and to encourage one another. Thank you for keeping our parish family safe by staying off dangerous roads. And thank you for demonstrating, yet again, that our unity in Christ is not limited to our building—*it lives in our hearts and in our willingness to gather however we can.*

May God bless you for your faithfulness and protect you in the days ahead. May He warm our homes, soften the ice around us, and prepare us soon for the joy of worshiping together in person once more.

During the inclement weather, I wrote several reflections and I am sharing the following that was inspired by the ice that accumulated not only on the roads, but also the trees, even causing several large branches to fall near our house. We are thankful that our power remained on despite the high probability that ice storms can topple trees and branches,



disrupt power and even harm those underneath them. My reflection follows:



Sunday night's icy beauty reminded me how life can look peaceful on the surface, even while heavy burdens quietly accumulate. The same ice that sparkles in the light is also the weight that may cause branches to snap and even bring down power lines.

So it is with us.

Sometimes the responsibilities and worries we carry begin to bend us more than others can see. Yet even in these

moments, Christ's light still shines—gently illuminating the places where our strength feels thin.

My prayer Sunday night:

*Lord, when life feels heavy, strengthen what is weak within us. Keep us rooted in Your peace until the warmth of Your mercy melts every frozen place.*

*Stay safe, stay warm, and may God's grace help all of us weather this storm.*

The days ahead will feature record cold temperatures so take precautions to keep warm and shelter safely.

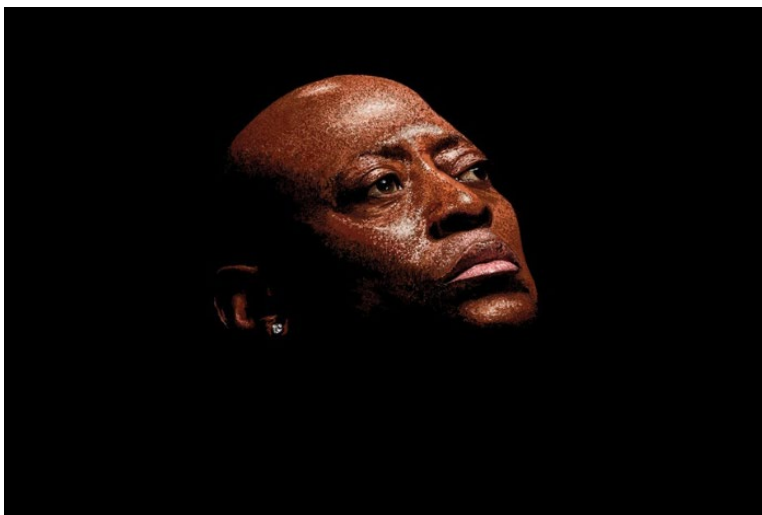
With love in the Lord,

Fr. George

## **Re-Scheduled Sacrament of Chrismation**

With no in-person church services this past Sunday, we re-scheduled the Sacrament of Chrismation for Dele Tuboku-Metzger to Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate Dele's and his family's patience and that of his Godparents, Perry and Aimee Panos. Dele has selected St. Moses the Black as his patron saint, so I am sharing a newly-released and timely update from the *Orthodox Observer News* (1.27.26):

## Yelena Popovich's 'Moses the Black' Knows Redemption Is No Fairy-Tale



*Photo courtesy of Simeon Entertainment*

The upcoming film *Moses the Black* adapts the story of St. Moses the Black, a former gang leader in 4th-century Egypt who repented and became a revered Desert Father and martyr. The filmmaker, Yelena Popovich, emphasizes in this interview the film's gritty realism and refusal to offer a simplistic view of redemption. [Read our interview.](#)

**Presbyteria Marinda and I plan to see this new movie.**

*Reserve tickets for *Moses the Black*, starring Omar Epps, Wiz Khalifa and Quavo [here](#). The movie is scheduled for release to theaters nationwide January 30.*

## Join Us Often with Your Family

### **Wednesday, January 28, St. Ephraim the Syrian**

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



### **Sunday, February 1, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of The Publican & The Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Five Loaves & February Commemorations (Thanks to Dedee & Kirk Panayis & Maria Panayi for offering the five loaves today.)

11:00 Religious Education Classes (*for all ages*)

### **Sunday – Saturday, 2/1-7/26 – Fast Free Week**

### **Monday, February 2, The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**

8:00 Divine Liturgy (Note early start time) & Blessing of the Candles