



## **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, 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](http://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.

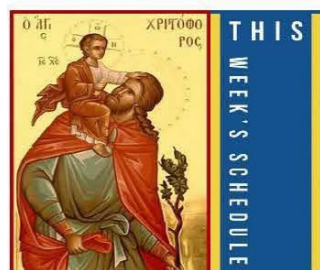
And just as You guard us from physical danger, guard our souls from the storms of temptation, confusion, and fear. Melt the icy places of our hearts, warm us with Your love, and guide us on the path that leads to life in You.

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

[Saturday night and Sunday morning, visit our website for the status of Sunday services:

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



### **Sunday, January 25, 15<sup>th</sup> 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)



## CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY

St. Nicholas inspired our Prayer shawl makers to create **15** beautiful shawls that were blessed by Fr. George on December 14, 2025. A special thanks go to Faye Georgeo, Helen Psihontas, Barbara McGourik, Julie Skouteris, and Susan Kleto for the amazing shawls they created, and to Angelique Soulakis and Aimee Panos for the handmade cards they created. Many of these shawls were donated to Promise Place to be Christmas presents for the women and men they are helping to escape from a life dominated by domestic violence. We hope the prayers, prayed over the shawls, as they were made will provide a spiritual hugs to the recipient as the shawls themselves provide a physical hug uplifting the recipients as they struggle to create a new future for themselves. Promise Place Executive Director, Ashley Williams, joined us and provided her annual update. She explained their plans to move confidently forward, despite the unexpected and devastating loss of federal and state funding for organizations such as Promise Place. We were so pleased to provide them with 12 Prayer Shawls and a check for \$500.00 from our Philoptochos. To learn more about Promise Place, their activities in the community, and their shelter needs, see their website <https://www.promiseplace.org>.





## Hands of Love 2026

### These are hands on events

 <p><b>Jan- March</b> <b>Youth Services</b> <b>Chairs: Aimee Panos</b> 1. Vasilopita 2. Bloom Our Youth Event</p>	 <p><b>April- June</b> <b>Backpack Buddies Of Newnan</b> <b>Chair: Dedee Panayis</b> <b>Event Coming Soon</b></p>
 <p><b>July-Sept</b> <b>North Carolina Assistance</b> <b>Chairs: Pres. Marinda</b> <b>Event Coming Soon</b></p>	 <p><b>Oct-Dec</b> <b>Soldiers Angels</b> <b>Chair: Paula Price</b> <b>Event Coming Soon</b></p>



## **Go Red For Women**

**Join The Ladies and Men of Philoptochos and wear **RED** on Sunday, February 1.**

**Learn more about heart disease in women:**

**<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/>**



tacklehunger.org



**Souper Bowl of Caring Tailgate!**  
**Sunday, February 8**

**Bring your favorite tailgate  
Apps, side dishes and desserts!**

**Please donate: Canned foods, canned  
meats, baby products, etc. will be  
collected to benefit  
Fayette Samaritans.**

**And donate [online](#) to benefit IOCC**



## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH LENTEN RETREAT

Saint Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church  
Presents

### Lenten Retreat The Sublime Mystery of Christ's Passion

All Christians in our community are warmly invited to join us for this Lenten Retreat as we reflect together on the mystery of Christ's Passion.

Speaker:

**Dr. Eugenia Constantinou**

Professor, Author, Speaker, Podcaster

Saturday March 28, 2026

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Venue: All Saints Anglican Church

149 Ebenezer Road

Fayetteville, GA 30215

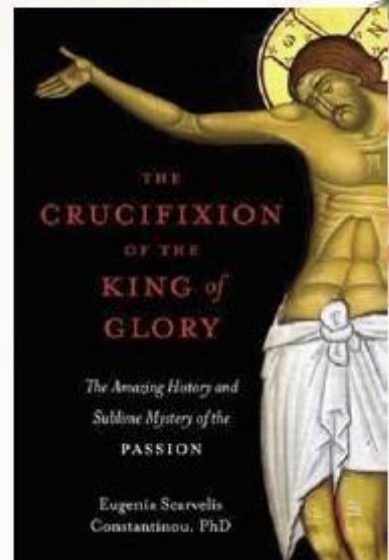
We are inviting our sister Christian parishes in Fayette and Coweta Counties as an opportunity for shared prayer, learning, and fellowship during the Lenten season.

To register go to:

<https://forms.gle/nd81gGH14wChNRxs6>

Or Scan the QR Code:

Contact: [StChristopherRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:StChristopherRetreat@gmail.com)  
or 770-347-7729.



Price/person \$25  
Lenten Breakfast and  
Lunch Included



Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D. will lead us through a first century exploration of the historical and religious context in which the Crucifixion of Christ took place.

Dr. Constantinou taught biblical studies and early Christianity extensively at Orthodox and non-Orthodox universities and graduate schools of theology, including Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

She is the host of Search the Scriptures LIVE on Ancient Faith Radio.

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/>

We are grateful to All Saints Anglican Church for hosting and to our sister Christian parishes for joining us in this journey of faith.

*Together in Christ's love and sacrifice.*

## 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:

<b>GIVING SCENARIO 1:</b> Currently giving \$100/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$40 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$60 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$80</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$60 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 40%</div>	<b>GIVING SCENARIO 2:</b> Currently giving \$200/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$100 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$100 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$200</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$100 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 30%</div>	<b>GIVING SCENARIO 3:</b> Currently giving \$300/month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$100 to Building Fund</li><li>• \$200 to Operations</li></ul> <i>During the Building Fund Campaign</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$200</b> to Building Fund</li><li>• \$200 to Operations</li></ul> <div>Total Giving Increase = 33%</div>
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Please consider giving with your heart.

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





## METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA PHILOPTOCHOS SPIRITUAL RETREAT

# Bearing Myrrh

Extending the beauty, compassion,  
and steadfastness of our faith into  
our daily lives



**METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA  
PHILOPTOCHOS**

# SPIRITUAL RETREAT

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Friday Night Salutations
- Excellent Sessions by our Speaker
- Lake Side exercise class
- Arts and Crafts
- Time for quiet reflection
- Opportunities for Confession
- Chapter Sharing
- Time by the fire pit in the evening

**MARCH  
20-22  
2026**

**ALEXIOS RETREAT CENTER**  
Salem, SC

GUEST SPEAKER

**EDNA KING**

*Family Life Ministry of Atlanta  
Orthodox Author*



REGISTRATION  
LINK AVAILABLE AT  
THIS QR CODE

TOTAL COST FOR  
RETREAT \$250

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 🌐 <https://atlmopolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2026> ✉ [sarah.e.kalaris@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.kalaris@gmail.com)

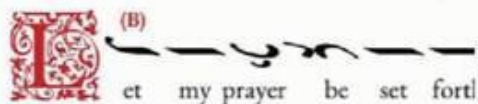


## The Liturgical Arts Academy

Winter Academy - for Beginners  
Summer Academy - for Upper Levels  
*at The Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC*

WINTER ACADEMY: FEB 8 - 14, 2026 \* Registration opens 09/23/25  
SUMMER ACADEMY: AUG 23 - 29, 2026 \* Registration opens 03/23/25

### Byzantine Chant



A week of intensive in-person training in Byzantine notation, modal theory, ornamentation and rubrics. Students are accepted into Beginner thru Master Class levels based on their application. Instructors: J.M.Boyer, S. Herron, G.Cremeens, P.D Robinson

### Byzantine Iconography



A week of intensive instruction in line drawing, color theory, gilding, painting, and varnishing. Beginners learn the basics of the Byzantine technique; Summer Academy is for more advanced icon painting. Instructor: Fr. Anthony Salzman



### Foods in Faith

Learn to make and offer Proskafara, Artoklasia, and Koliva for the worship life of the Church. Winter Academy only. Instructor: Presvytera Meredyth Houpos

Visit [TheLiturgicalArts.org](http://TheLiturgicalArts.org)

[info@theliturgicalarts.org](mailto:info@theliturgicalarts.org)





[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**



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