

Holy Unction: The Sacrament of Healing

Join St. Christopher's parish family to pray for healing of the souls and bodies of our faithful on the 1st day of Great Lent, Monday, February 23, 7:30 a.m.



Holy Unction is a sacramental act whereby the Church seeks wholeness and well-being for its members, especially the sick and the suffering. It provides both physical and spiritual healing with holy oil blessed by the Holy Spirit.

(cont. on back cover)

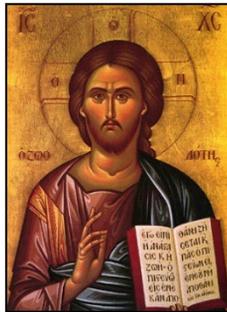
Sunday, February 22, 2026 - Sunday of Forgiveness



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website: www.goarch.org
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website: www.atlmetropolis.org
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org*

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church



313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, *Chancellor*

Liturgical Guide for Sunday, February 22, 2026

ON THIS DAY, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, WHICH WE REFER TO AS CHEESEFARE SUNDAY AND THE SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS, WE CALL TO MIND the banishment of Adam and Eve, the first created from the joys of Paradise. WE ALSO COMMEMORATE the Finding of the Precious Relics of the Holy Martyrs in the Quarter of Eugenius; Our Righteous Fathers Thalassius and Baradatus; & Anthousa the Martyr & her 12 Servants. *O Christ our God, through Your ineffable compassion, deem us worthy of the joys of Paradise, and have mercy on us, as the only Loving One. Amen. Through their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Welcome, Visitors and Newcomers, to our Parish!

We invite you to enter your name, mail/email addresses, in our Guest Register (near the entrance) if you are interested in joining and assisting with our mission's development. We want to keep you informed of our schedule and location of services. *You and your family are welcome; we look forward to knowing you. We invite you and your family to join and assist us often!*

Please consider that only baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians in canonical good standing may approach for Holy Communion. All are invited to partake of the Antidoron ("instead of the gifts") distributed at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy.



Reminder for Next Sunday

Each parishioner is encouraged to bring an icon to church next week for the Sunday of Orthodoxy and join us in the procession at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY's Spiritual Theme From the Triodion:

The fall of our first parents, *Adam and Eve*, and their banishment from Paradise are commemorated on this day. Today is also the SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS as emphasized in the Gospel reading. *We are reminded, before we enter the Lenten fast, that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.*

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./2. Resurrectional Hymn (Fourth Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.110-113):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: The joyful news of Your resurrection was proclaimed by the angel to the women disciples. Having thrown off the curse that fell on Adam, they ran elatedly to tell the apostles: Death has been vanquished; Christ our God is risen from the dead, blessing all the world with His great mercy.

3. Hymn Commemorating St. Christopher – (see music distributed):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: Made comely with garments woven from your venerable blood, you stand before the Lord, the King of Heaven and earth, O famed Martyr Christopher. With the choirs of Angels and the Martyrs you chant, singing the thrice-holy hymn and most awesome praises. Thus, by your intercessions with God, save us, your servants.

4. Kontakion sung for Cheese Fare Sunday – (Hymnal-pp. 264-267):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: O You Who are the source of all wisdom and discernment, instructor of the ignorant and champion of the poor; strengthen my heart, O Master, and grant me understanding. O Word of the Father, bring words to my lips, that nothing would keep me from crying out to You: In Your compassion have mercy on me, for I have fallen.

SCRIPTURAL PASSAGES FROM TODAY'S ORTHROS & DIVINE LITURGY

The Scriptures were not given us for this only, that we might have them in books, but that we might engrave them on our hearts. – St. John Chrysostom
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Gospel Reading During Orthros Service (Luke 24:1-12)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered His words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (Romans 13:11-14:4)

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. ¹⁴Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Matthew 6:14-21)

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

On this the 1090th Sunday of our St. Christopher's parish community, we continue to thank each of you for your presence and support. Although it may seem like we are just a handful of men, women, and children, if we commit ourselves to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we will experience the miracle of growth as the Holy Spirit brings others into His service to help us build His new church in the Peachtree City, Georgia, area for the glory of God! On behalf of our parish, we thank you. *Your continued support and mutual encouragement are essential and appreciated!*

MEMORY VERSE *(TRY TO COMMIT TO MEMORY):*

“How great is the mercy of the Lord, and His forgiveness for those who return to Him.” *(Sirach 17:29)*

Blessed Lent - Καλη Τεσσαρακοστη!

May God grant you a blessed lenten journey!

PASTORAL UPDATE FROM FR. GEORGE:

Let Us Pray for Orthodox Missions and Missionaries!

In years past, the last day before Great and Holy Lent begins, we commemorated **Mission Sunday**. As we begin our journey toward Christ's glorious Resurrection, the salvation He made possible is to be shared with the world. Let us pray for the workers of Orthodox missions and for those who hunger and thirst for Christ and those who have answered the call to carry the truth of the Orthodox Faith to the world.

Prayer for Missions

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear our prayer for those who do not know You. that they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them

*the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile. Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church and raise up new **missionaries** who will follow You to the ends of the world. Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith, for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Through the prayers of all the missionary saints, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

Our Support for Former Metropolitan Alexios Continues

Beloved in Christ,

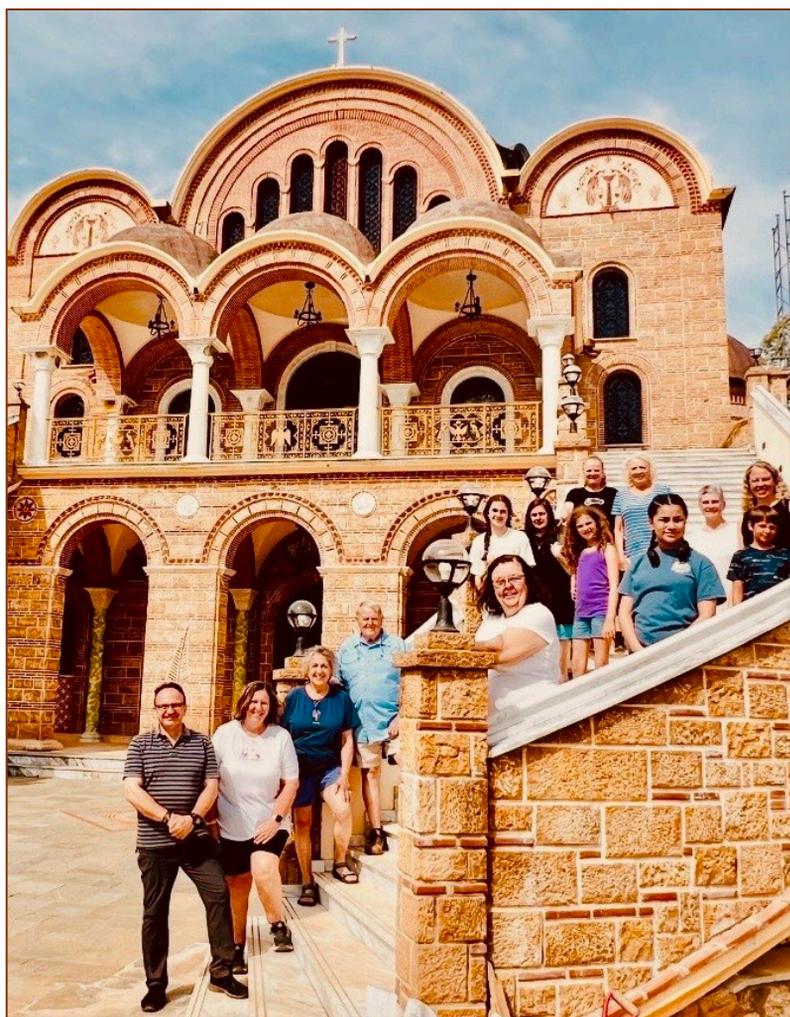
I am seeking your support in honoring His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios because the very existence of our parish is inseparably tied to His faith, His courage, and His unwavering belief in our



community. *As the first Bishop of our St. Christopher parish, He guided us through our earliest and most vulnerable years.* In a remarkable act of trust and pastoral care, He permitted me as Chancellor to share my ministry so that I could serve in Peachtree City and help nurture our mission from its infancy. For twenty-two years we have worshipped in leased facilities, and now, by God's grace, we are preparing to construct our permanent church. This long-awaited

milestone is the direct fruit of Metropolitan Alexios' vision and personal investment in our future.

Upon His retirement, Metropolitan Alexios did not request a banquet, a program, or any formal expression of honor. Instead, under the guidance of our current Bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos, our parishes have been invited to honor Him in a manner consistent with His life of humility and service—by helping to



complete the Panagia Chapel at the Alexios Retreat Center. This sacred chapel represents decades of personal sacrifice and dedication by Metropolitan Alexios. It already serves as a place of formation and prayer at Summer Camp, clergy retreats, parish retreats, Philoptochos retreats, and

Lenten retreats. It will continue to strengthen generations of faithful throughout our Metropolis.

Because the initial fundraising goal was not met, this project now requires renewed assistance to avoid further delay. As a parish that Metropolitan Alexios Himself helped shepherd and sustain, we bear a particular responsibility to respond. Supporting this effort is not merely a financial obligation; it is an expression of gratitude, respect, and continuity—an act of honoring the Hierarch who believed in us, encouraged us, and helped make our present growth possible.

Keep the Flame Strong

As this blessed Lenten season invites us to renew our faith and deepen our devotion, I ask you to join our 74 sister parishes in keeping the flame of our Panagia Chapel burning brightly.

Just as a fire is strengthened when many logs are placed together, so too does our shared offering—each gift, each family, each parish—kindle the light of Christ's love in our midst.

Across the lake, the Panagia Chapel stands as a beacon of hope and prayer. Dedicated to the Mother of God, it is

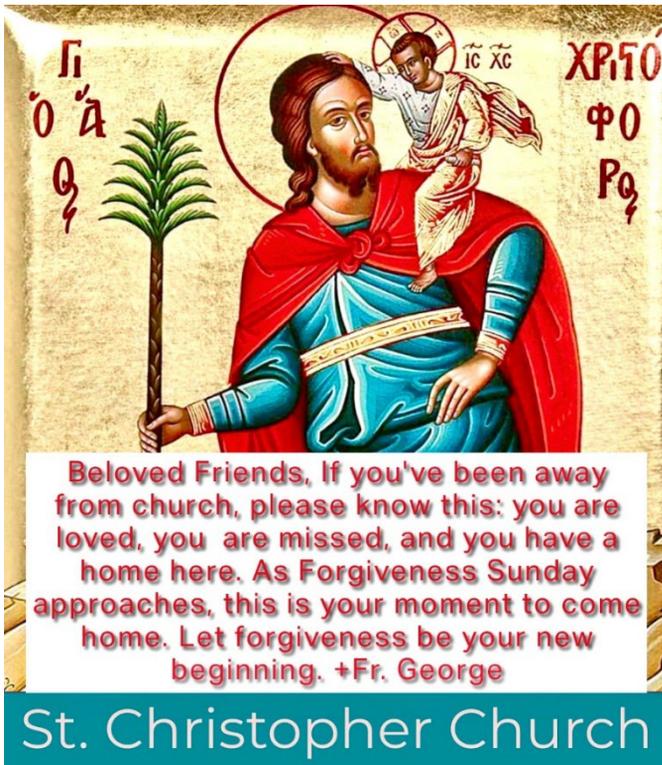


being built in honor of Metropolitan Alexios' faithful and transformative ministry. We thank our families that have pledged their support, helping this sacred vision rise with beauty and purpose.

I hope all of us will follow their example and help keep our flame strong by supporting the completion of the Panagia Chapel.

Please join our collective effort [by clicking here](#).

May the warmth of your generosity radiate outward and kindle our parish's spirit of gratitude for the love and devotion of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios.



If you are carrying burdens, wounds, or any lingering hesitation, bring them with you and place them before God. The Service of Forgiveness is a simple, grace-filled path to healing.

"Forgive me, and God forgives us."

No pressure, no expectations—only welcome.

**With love in the Lord,
+Fr. George**



Bringing the Light of Christ to those Imprisoned at Pascha

Please join us Sunday, March 1, 2026

(Immediately after the St. John Chrystotom Oratorical Festival)

**** EVERYONE YOUNG, OLD & INBETWEEN ARE WELCOME****

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We will have a fun "draw by numbers" card of the Paschal icon, that can be colored and then each of us are going to create an Pascha/Easter card with a short handwritten message to mail to a person in prison.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

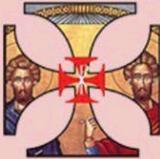
Imagine being confined to a prison cell--the isolation and sense of being cut off from the outside world. Imagine also what that is like at Pascha and having no way to mark a special and holy day. A heartfelt message on Pascha breaks through the sense of isolation and loneliness. Your card may well be the only one they receive. Your card lets our brothers and sisters in prison know that the Church remembers them, cares about them, and that they, too, are part of the Body of Christ.





Love in Bloom

**New shoes and undies drive
for Bloom Our Youth**



**February 15-March 1
All youth sizes ages 6-12**

Love in Bloom

Volunteer Opportunity!

Sat, March 7, 9am-noon

Must pre-register with Bloom

[Bloomerang](#)

See directions to sign up

**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.

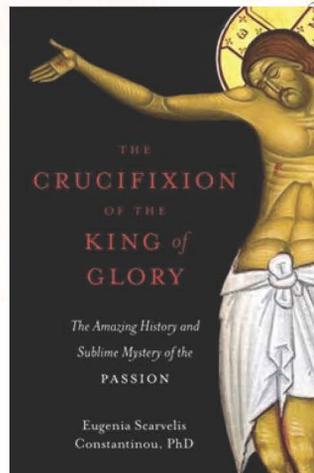
To register go to:

<https://forms.gle/nd81gGH14wChNRxs6>

Or Scan the QR Code:



Contact: StChristopher.Retreat@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.



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

MARCH 1, 2026

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

VESPERS AT 5:00 PM

"PASCHA IS COMING: ARE WE (CLERGY AND LAITY) READY?"

2500 CLAIRMONT ROAD, N.E., ATLANTA, GA

GUEST SPEAKER: METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA

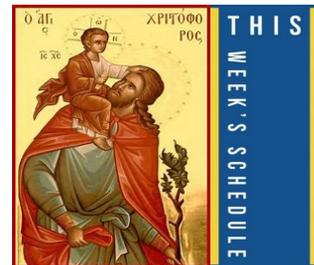
Metropolitan Gregory was ordained a Deacon at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC on November 4, 2006 by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta. He was tonsured a Monk at Agia Lavra Monastery in Kalavryta, Greece on January 17, 2007, receiving the name Grigorios with St. Gregory Palamas as his Patron Saint. He was ordained a priest at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta, GA on January 28, 2007 also by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on the same day. On February 1, 2007, he was appointed as the Ierokyrix (Itinerant Preacher) of the Metropolis of Atlanta. On September 14, 2007, he received the offikion (rank) of Confessor at the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Chapel in Atlanta, GA.

In July of 2013, in recognition of Metropolitan Gregory's experience in youth and young adult ministries, he was appointed by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA as Episcopal Liason to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) Pan-Orthodox College Ministry. In 2016 he was elected Secretary of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA.

On August 29, 2018, Metropolitan Gregory was elevated to the rank of Titular Metropolitan of Nyssa by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.



Join Us Often with Your Family



Sunday, February 22, Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

7:45 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy, followed by Service of Forgiveness

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

12:30 Let's EAT! at Broadway Diner

Clean Monday, February 23, First Day of Great Lent

7:30 a.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction – Join us before work

Wednesday, February 25, First Wednesday of Great Lent

8:00 a.m. Service of the 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy

Sunday, March 1, Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Procession of Icons, followed by Parish
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

11:00 Philoptochos Membership Drive & Orthodox Christian
Prison Ministry Community Project (*all invited to join us*)

5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at
Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

Great & Holy Lent begins Monday, February 23rd; Great & Holy Pascha is Sunday, April 12th

In Greek, the mystery is called Εὐχέλαιον (*Euchelaion*, from εὐχή, ‘prayer’, and ἔλαιον, ‘oil’). The oil carries God's grace both to renew the body and to cleanse the spirit. The service follows the apostolic tradition mentioned in the New Testament: *“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.”* (James 5:14-15).

Holy Unction is a mystery of great comfort to the faithful. It provides uplifting and asks for patience to accept the will of God whatever the physical outcome.

The service of Holy Unction is always celebrated on Wednesday of Holy Week prior to Pascha. Traditionally, it also is celebrated on Clean Monday at the beginning of Great Lent. *This coming Monday, March 3, at 7:30 a.m., Fr. George will offer it to our parish family as we begin our journey to Great & Holy Pascha (Easter).*

The common term for the first day of Great Lent – “Clean Monday”, refers to the leaving behind of sinful attitudes and non-fasting foods. Liturgically, Clean Monday—and thus Lent itself—begins on the preceding (Sunday) night, at a special service called Forgiveness Vespers, which culminates with the Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness, at which all present will bow down before one another and ask forgiveness. For practical and pastoral reasons, Fr. George will offer this service immediately following Sunday’s Divine Liturgy with special instructions to ensure safety.

In this way, the faithful begin Lent with a clean conscience... *with forgiveness*. The theme of Clean Monday is set by the Old Testament reading appointed to be read at the Sixth Hour on this day (Isaiah 1:1–20), which says, in part:

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before My eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:16–18).

Clean Monday is a day of strict fasting. Christians are encouraged if medically permitted to have no meat at all. Christians are also expected to spend extra time praying during the day reading from the Bible.

If possible, join us for the Sacrament of Holy Unction on “Clean Monday” at 7:30 a.m. and receive God’s wholeness and well-being together with our parish family. +Fr. George Tsahakis