



Let us listen to the Scriptures, as our Savior teaches us each day in His own words, about the prodigal son who returned to his senses. Let us imitate his genuine repentance with faith, and with a humble heart cry out to the Lord who sees all our secrets. "We have sinned against You, compassionate Father, and we are no longer worthy as before to be called Your children. But I implore You, who are by nature benevolent, welcome me back, and treat me as one of Your hired hands."

[from Oikos for Sunday of the Prodigal Son]

Sunday, February 8, 2026



SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

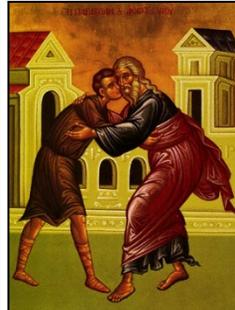
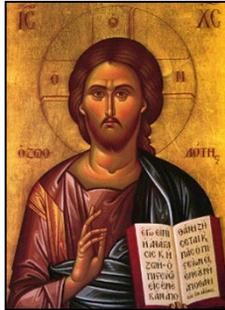
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: www.patriarchate.org

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 8, 2026

ON THIS DAY, THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION PERIOD, THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE, WE REMEMBER OUR LORD'S PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON, TAKEN FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE. ON THIS DAY, WE ALSO COMMEMORATE Pamphilus the Martyr and his Companions; Flavianos, Patriarch of Constantinople; & Romanos the Younger. *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.

SPECIAL HYMNS SUNG BEFORE/AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE

1./3. Resurrectional Hymn (Second Tone) – (Hymnal-pp.102-105):

It is sung *before* and *after* the Small Entrance: When You descended into death, Life immortal, You vanquished the power of hell by your resplendent divinity, and when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out triumphantly: O giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

2. Hymn for the Feast of the Presentation – (Hymnal-pp.212-215):

It is sung before and after the Small Entrance: Rejoice, O woman full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for there rose from you the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who enlightens those in darkness. You too exult and be glad, just and aged Simeon, for you carried in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who bestows on us the grace of resurrection.

4. 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.

5. Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord – (Hymnal-pp.250-253):

It is sung after the Small Entrance: For our salvation You took flesh and You sanctified the Virgin's womb; You blessed the aged Simeon as You lay resting in his arms; and having come to save us all, O Christ our God, to these troubled times, bring Your lasting peace. Give strong and undaunted faith to all Your people, O only lover of mankind.

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 (Mark 16:1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; He is not here. Look, there is the place they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Epistle Reading During Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 6:12-20)

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a

prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

Gospel Reading During Divine Liturgy (Luke 15:11-32)

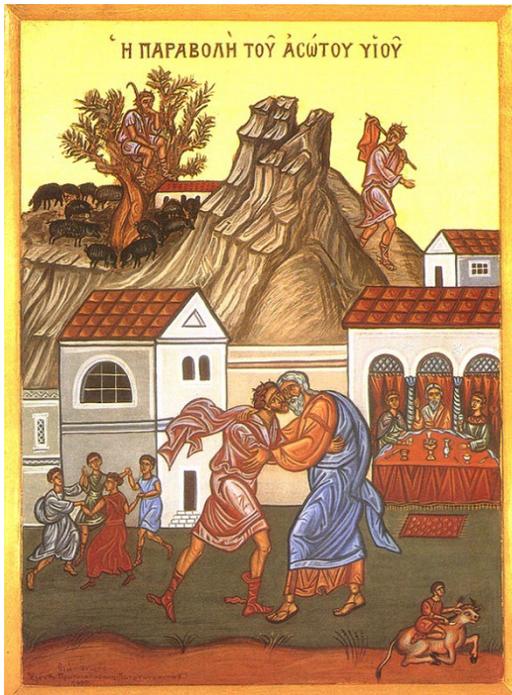
Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began

to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.” *(1 Chronicles 16.23-24)*

PASTORAL REFLECTION FROM FR. GEORGE:



I prepared **four family applications** drawn directly from today's Gospel, written so they can be discussed across ages (children, teens, and adults) during this week. Because we needed to schedule a special one-item General Parish Assembly today, Religious Education classes are not being held. In their place, I offer these family applications so that our households may reflect together on the Gospel and

continue growing in faith. Each application includes a *theme*, *discussion questions*, and a *simple practice*.

1. Recognizing Our “Far Countries”

Theme: False freedom always leads us away from home.

Discuss together:

- What are some “far countries” today that promise happiness but leave people empty?
(Examples: constant screen time, popularity, money, comfort, independence from God.)
- In what small ways do we drift from God during a normal week?
- What helps us stay spiritually “close to home”?

Practice this week:

- As a family, name **one habit** that pulls you away from prayer, peace, or kindness—and choose **one small step** to resist it this week (less screen time, more patience, more prayer).
-

2. Remembering That Everything Is a Gift

Theme: We are stewards, not owners.

Discuss together:

- What gifts has God given our family? (Health, work, talents, home, faith, time.)

- How do we sometimes treat these gifts as if they belong only to us?
- What would it look like to use our gifts *for God* instead of just ourselves?

Practice this week:

- Choose **one concrete act of stewardship** as a family:
 - give to someone in need,
 - help a neighbor,
 - volunteer time,
 - or pray intentionally for someone outside the family.
-

3. Learning Where True Joy Comes From

Theme: Pleasure and success cannot replace communion with God.

Discuss together:

- What things make us feel happy for a moment but don't last?
- What things bring deeper peace and joy, even when they require effort?
- How does prayer, Church, forgiveness, or gratitude change how we feel inside?

Practice this week:

- Set aside **one shared spiritual moment:**
 - pray together before bed,
 - read a short Gospel passage,

- or light a candle and say the Lord's Prayer together.
 - Afterwards, ask: *How did this make us feel differently than entertainment or distractions?*
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4. Trusting the Father Who Is Always Waiting

Theme: God's mercy is greater than our failures.

Discuss together:

- Why do people sometimes hesitate to return to God when they've made mistakes?
- What does the father in the parable teach us about forgiveness?
- How can our family reflect that same patience and mercy with one another?

Practice this week:

- Encourage **reconciliation**:
 - apologize where needed,
 - forgive quickly,
 - and remind one another that no one is ever "too far gone" to come home.
 - If possible, talk about preparing for **confession or repentance** together.
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A Closing Family Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your patience and love.
Help us recognize when we wander,
give us courage to return,
and teach us to live as Your children—
together, in faith, love, and joy. Amen.*

On this the 1088th 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!*



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

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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.

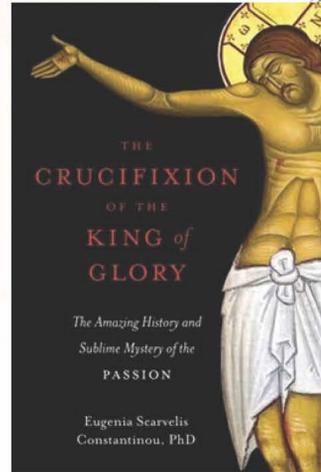
To register go to:

<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.

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://atmetropolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2026> sarah.e.kalans@gmail.com

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

With deep sorrow, yet with hope in the Resurrection, let us offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of our beloved brother in Christ, Nick Panos, who fell asleep in the Lord Thursday night surrounded by his loving family. I have known Nick since the mid-1990s, and he and his devoted wife, Teddie, were committed and faithful to one another, loving and supportive to their family, and kind, considerate, and ardent pillars of St. Nicholas, Irene and Raphael Church in Cumming, Georgia.



I also knew Nick and his family during my years of ministry in his native Charleston, South Carolina, and it is a particular joy to see his legacy of faith continued through his son Perry, daughter-in-law Aimee, and their children, who are active members of St. Christopher Church. We were blessed that Nick lived near us during the final years of his life.

We now pray that God grants strength, comfort, and encouragement to his beloved wife Teddie, their sons Perry and James, and to all who mourn his repose. I also am thankful that Nick's sister served faithfully as my chanter at Holy Trinity Church in Charleston during the five years I served that parish.

May Nick's memory be eternal.

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced next week.

With love in the Lord, +Fr. George

Join Us Often with Your Family

Sunday, February 8, Sunday of The Prodigal Son



8:00 Orthros

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

10:30 General Parish Assembly (one item only) & Souper Bowl
of Caring Tailgate

Saturday, February 14, Saturday of the Souls

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service (You are invited to bring
Kolyva to share)

Sunday, February 15, Meatfare Sunday (Sunday of Judgment)

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy

10:45 Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

Noon YAL Book Club Meeting