



## 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, May 6, 2026



### Thanksgiving Sunday, May 3, 2026



Just days before our Parish Name Day this Saturday honoring St. Christopher, and on the eve of Metropolitan Sevastianos blessing the sacred ground upon which our new church complex is being constructed, our parishioners gathered as one family to lift hearts and voices in thanksgiving to God. With gratitude and joy, we reflected on 23 blessed years of being united as a parish family and on the abundant gifts God continues to pour out upon us during this season—birthdays, wedding anniversaries, name days, and so many personal milestones lovingly held within the life of our community.

What made this gathering especially moving was a simple yet profound act of faith. A nine-year-old boy, encouraged by his Sunday School teacher to offer a service project, turned to his Yiayia for help. Together, with prayerful hands and joyful hearts, they baked the five



loaves of bread, offered in thanksgiving to God for the blessings we share as a parish. *In that quiet act of love, we witnessed the Gospel lived, passed lovingly from one generation to the next.*



This week, as we prepare for our upcoming celebration, we also give thanks to God for His steadfast guidance. The response to our event exceeded our capacity to safely host all who wished to attend the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, joined by clergy and guests from across Atlanta. Even so, God opened the way for us to gather for worship and fellowship, extending our celebration through our luncheon hosted at All Saints Anglican Church—a testament to the many partnerships and friendships nurtured along our journey.

We give special thanks to God as our parish, newly formed yet deeply rooted, celebrated its 2,000th Sunday Divine Liturgy on May 3rd—a sacred milestone that speaks not to numbers alone, but to enduring faithfulness, perseverance, and trust in God’s providence.

On behalf of our parish family, I offer heartfelt thanks to those who now rejoice in God's eternal Kingdom, whose faith and sacrifices remain a living foundation beneath us. I thank all who have assisted us over the years—those within our parish and those beyond it—whose generosity and goodwill continue to strengthen us. And I give thanks for our many inquirers and catechumens, who, like Nicholas, who lovingly prepared these five loaves with Presbytera Marinda,



were not yet born when our commitment began to establish a permanent Orthodox Christian witness in the southern metropolitan area of Atlanta. May our blessings continue always.

With humility and awe, we recognize that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God.

Glory and thanks be to God always.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† Fr. George Tsahakis

[Click to View Parish Online Calendar  
for Latest Updates](#)



## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

Our Patronal Feast Day Celebration, Community Luncheon,  
& Groundbreaking/Blessing of the Foundation Ceremony  
for our New Church by

His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Thank you to those who have responded - We have officially reached our maximum capacity for our event and can no longer accept new RSVPs. Due to this, we will be unable to accommodate walk-ins on the day of our event. If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to call us at 770-347-7729 or email us at [communications@saintchristopherhoc.org](mailto:communications@saintchristopherhoc.org)"*

*\*\*As a reminder for those attending the Blessing of the Foundation/Groundbreaking - our property is currently being cleared/ under construction, so it will be best to have on comfortable walking shoes, preferably sneakers or comfortable flats.*



# 2026 *class of*

*Congratulations  
to our graduates!*

All graduates and their families, please join us on  
May 17 as we recognize you during our Graduate  
Sunday celebration.





## 2026 Greek Fest Baking Dates



June 4- batter day

June 6- fold

June 11- batter day

June 13- fold

July 22- Koulourakia 9am

July 25- Kourembiethes 9am

August 8- Baklava

August 18- Dolmathes 9am



# Backpack Buddies of Newnan Food Drive



Now through May 17th  
Only items on the food  
list will be accepted!



Or donate \$\$\$ to [Philoptochos](#)  
Under General Giving for "Backpack Buddies"



## Food Items Needed

- **Canned Soup / Ravioli**
- **Ramen Noodle Packets (not cups)**
- **Mac-n-Cheese Boxes (not cups)**
- **Granola Bars**
- Individual Grits or Oatmeal Packets
- Small Boxes of Cereal (individual servings)
- **Individual Fruit Cups**
- Snacks – Individual Bags of Chips, Cookies, or Peanut Butter Crackers

*(Items in red bold are what we need most each week.)*

Each weekend bag includes **2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 fruit cups, and a variety of snacks**. Please avoid sending Little Debbie-type snacks as they get crushed in the bags.

## 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:

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

With gratitude and hope,

Tom Farmakis





36TH ANNUAL  
*Marietta*  
**GREEK  
FESTIVAL**

RAIN OR  
SHINE!

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FRIDAY MAY 15 ..... 4:00pm - 10:30pm

SATURDAY MAY 16 ..... 11:00am - 10:30pm

SUNDAY MAY 17 ..... 11:00am - 4:00pm

**\*FREE ADMISSION FRIDAY 4:00 - 5:30PM**

Greek Food & Pastries • Church Tours • Live Music  
Children's Activities • Greek Dancing  
Vendor Marketplace



**PRESALE TICKET  
OPTIONS NOW  
AVAILABLE**

[WWW.MARIETTAGREEKFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.MARIETTAGREEKFESTIVAL.COM)

@MARIETTAGREEKFESTIVAL  

**FREE PARKING & SHUTTLES ALL WEEKEND!**

**OUR FESTIVAL IS NOW CARD ONLY**



VISA



THE METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA  
PRESENTS OUR 5TH ANNUAL

# Festival of Faith Retreat

**MATTHEW 5:43-48**  
**SERVING ONE**  
**ANOTHER**

*"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"*



## Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Philip Mamalakis**  
Associate Professor Pastoral Care  
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology



**Georgia Mamalakis**  
Social Service Coordinator, St. Theodora's  
Academy/St. Ephraim Home School



**Fr. Gregory Edwards**  
Protopresbyter, Holy Cross  
and Holy Trinity

### REGISTER:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/GreekOrthodoxMetropolisofAtlantaWinterYouthRally?season=3786333>

**May 22-24, 2026**  
**Alexios Diakonia**  
**Center, Salem SC**



## Featured Sessions

### **Navigating a Polarized World... and Dinner Table as Followers of Christ**

*Exploring the challenges of relationships in a world of differing beliefs, and how Christ, the Prince of Peace, guides us toward unity, understanding and stronger connections.*

### **The Hospitality of the Heart**

*Exploring the peace of God through prayer, grace, mercy, and the beauty of becoming who God created us to be.*

### **Core Teaching: The Four Chambers of the Heart**

1. *Having a Hospitable Heart Toward God*
2. *Having a Hospitable HEart Toward Self*
3. *Having a Hospitable Heart Toward Others*
4. *Living the Out in Daily Life*

### **"Love Your Enemies": The Command That Offends Our Instincts**

### **"Bless and Do Good": The Ascetic Practice of Non-Retaliation**

### **"Pray for Those Who Persecute You": The Line Between Christianity and Everything Else**

**For more information, contact  
Gerry Clonaris: 704-574-6179 or  
gbcmtline@gmail.com**



Festival of Faith  
May 22, 23 & 24 2026

**Theme:**

**Theme: Love and serve one another... and pray for those who persecute you... Mt 5:43-48**

**Speakers: Dr. Philip Mamalakis... Georgia Mamalakis... Fr. Gregory Edwards**

**Friday, May 22**

12:00 PM to 12:30

Opening Prayer/Agiasmo  
Welcome and general announcements.

12:30-1:45  
Cafeteria

Registration & light lunch

2:00-4:00 PM

Love your enemies ... The command that offends our instincts  
Fr. Gregory Edwards

Cafeteria

4:00 PM – 4:45  
Cafeteria

Break out session

4:45-5:30  
Dinner 5:30 -6:30 PM  
Cafeteria

Free Time

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Part 1: Navigating a polarized world...and Dinner Table as followers  
Christ  
Dr. Philip Mamalakis, PHD

Cafeteria

8:30-9:30 PM  
Fire side chat

Break out discussion (fire side chat) with all speakers

**Saturday, May 23**

7:45 AM -9:30 Am Divine Liturgy

9:30 – 10:30  
Cafeteria

Breakfast

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# 48th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

JOIN US ON

JUNE 30-July 2, 2026

at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, OH

## Rise & Build

The theme of the Congress, "Rise and Build" (Neh. 2:18), emphasizes the growth and development of the parish — its ministries, its people, and its witness in the world.



## CLERGY-LAITY REGISTRATION & HOTEL RESERVATIONS



### PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Participant registration is now open! Come connect, learn, and build with us as we gather in Cleveland for the 48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.



### RESERVE YOUR HOTEL

Choose to stay in one of our hotels located in the downtown Cleveland area, just minutes from the Huntington Convention Center.



## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

Bringing a Congress of this magnitude to life requires thoughtful planning, committed volunteers, and the full participation of our faithful.

### VOLUNTEER

As guests participate in the Clergy-Laity Congress, we welcome volunteers to assist us in supporting the many activities throughout the event.



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our ability to offer a meaningful, uplifting, and well-resourced experience for all depends on securing the financial support needed at this early stage.



DONATE

SPONSOR

Together, we will rise & build

~ John & Effie Trihas  
48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Co-Chairs

**AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1  
Educational Fund, LLC**

*Cordially invites you to join us as we celebrate our*

*40th Anniversary  
1986 - 2026*

*Celebration of Education*

*2026 Third Annual Fundraiser*

**Saturday - June 6, 2026**

**6:00 pm Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres**

**7:00 pm Dinner**

**Kartos Ballroom  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
2500 Clairmont Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30329**

*To purchase tickets,  
click on the link below or scan the QR code*

<https://www.ahepaatl scholarship.com/coe>

**For more information, contact Mary Tena Melissas  
[mtmelissas@comcast.net](mailto:mtmelissas@comcast.net)  
(404) 403-1428**





# SUMMER 2026

WEEK 1: SOLD OUT

WEEK 2: JUNE 28 - JULY 4

WEEK 3: JULY 5 - JULY 11

WEEK 4: SOLD OUT

WEEK 5: JULY 19 - JULY 25



Cost: \$555  
Deposit: \$250

## Register Today!

Grades  
Rising 6-12

[www.atlmetropolis.org/summer-2026](http://www.atlmetropolis.org/summer-2026)

@ststephenscamp



# The Liturgical Arts Academy

at The Alexios Retreat Center in Salem, SC

## WINTER ACADEMY

for BEGINNERS & ADVANCED BEGINNERS

FEB 8 - 14, 2026

## SUMMER ACADEMY for UPPER LEVELS

AUG 23 - 29, 2026 Registration opens 03/23/26

### Byzantine Chant



(B)



et my prayer be set forth

*A week of intensive in-person training in Byzantine notation, modal theory, ornamentation and rubrics. Students are accepted into Beginner through Master Class levels based on their application. Instructors: John Michael Boyer, Samuel Herron, Photini Downie Robinson*

### Byzantine Iconography



*A week of intensive instruction in iconography, 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 Prosphora, Artoklasia, and Koliva for the worship life of the Church. Winter Academy only. Instructor: Presvytera Meredyth Houpos*

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

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

The Orthodox Academy of Atlanta [ocaaatl.org](http://ocaaatl.org)



[CLICK TO VIEW LIVESTREAMING OF SCHEDULED SERVICES](#)



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SERVICES](#)



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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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