



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΑΝΤΑΕ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

April 23, 2021



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210

Peachtree City, Georgia 30269

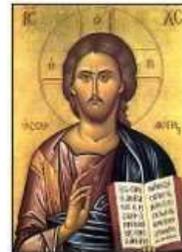
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: www.saintchristopherhoc.org

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council

Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



Pastoral Message from Fr. George for April 23, 2021

Praise be to God for guiding our parish family during Great Lent and leading us to Holy Week this Sunday. I commend your hard work with your prayers, fasting, and almsgiving. During our worship and fellowship, I have witnessed many sacrificial acts of love and support that our parishioners offer in faithful service to our Crucified Lord, even when it may not be popular or accepted... *“they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, ‘It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.’”* (Acts of the Apostles 14:22)

As we examine our consciences and seek forgiveness from God and one another for our shortcomings, I encourage us to pray the Great Canon of St Andrew, Bishop of Crete. He wrote this sacred hymn for his personal reflections and drew from both the Old and New Testaments in a spirit of somber humility, hope in God, and hymns of praise to Him.

Simply put, the Great Canon is a dialogue between St. Andrew and his soul, and its theme is a call to change his life by acknowledging his sinfulness. Likewise, we can pray and reflect on it as we seek to repent and receive God's mercy during the final week of Great Lent and even next week as we follow Holy Week. The Great Canon portrays the Biblical images in a personal way to every penitent, thereby helping the faithful identify themselves with people and events found in the Bible and transform them in the image and likeness of God which we will celebrate at Great and Holy Pascha.

[Click here for the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete](#)

Our Parish Weekly E-Bulletin is sent out every Monday – check it out!

Visit our parish website for latest ministry and schedule updates.

Read Sunday Bulletin in person or download from website if traveling.

Jackie Sarantis maintains office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays and can assist you, our Parish Council, Ministry Leaders, & Fr. George.

Email/call Fr. George to schedule/discuss Sacramental Needs and Pastoral Counseling. (Please call or email Fr. George today for confessions this Friday.)

My Orthodox Confession Guide

To help prepare for confession, use a dry erase marker to write your sins here or place a check mark next to questions to the right.

When your confession is finished, you are brand new! Wipe your sins off of this paper, just as God has wiped them from your soul! Go in peace and do your best not to repeat your sins.



- Do I believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- Do I brag when I am good at something or do I give the credit to God?
- Do I act like I don't believe in God in order to fit in with my friends?
- Do I fast before Holy Communion?
- Am I respectful during church and toward Holy People and Holy Objects?
- Do I pray regularly, at least each morning and night and before meals?
- Have I respected my parents, grandparents, Godparents, church leaders, and other adults?
- Have I hurt my brother or sister in body or in spirit?
- Am I patient? Loving? Kind? Generous? Or am I quick to anger? Selfish? Rude? Jealous?
- Have I been lazy or wasted time?
- Have I forgiven everyone for all things?
- Have I teased or bullied someone?
- Have I watched TV or read books that aren't good for my spirit?
- Did I steal something or even want to steal?
- Have I cheated in a game or on a test?
- Have I given to the poor?
- Have I visited a sick person or even prayed for them?
- Have I lied to anyone?
- Did I spread a rumor or forget to keep a secret?
- Do I think I am better than others?
- Do I treat others the way I want to be treated?

Welcome Back to Church (Phase 2)

Below are St. Christopher's current guidelines for coming to church. These fall in line with the next phase of guidelines and procedures for the Metropolis of Atlanta under the guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. We ask for patience and understanding during this time of transition and as we work to accommodate everyone's needs and safety.

Seating Options

1. **"Open"** - for those who are comfortable sitting closer together.
2. **"Socially Distanced"** - for those who want to continue social distancing.

You will be required to select your seating preference when signing up for a church service.

To receive your requested seating preference, you will need to be at church by the beginning of service. If you arrive after the scheduled start time of service, your seating preference may not be available.

- Masks will be required at all times before, during and after church services.
- Hand sanitizer will be available and the church will continue to be sanitized/cleaned after each service.
- Please follow the directions of the ushers for seating.
- When leaving or exiting to the outside, we will use the exit door by the Altar Servers room instead of the hallway exit we are currently using.
- All services will continue to be live streamed.

- If you are sick, please refrain from coming to church.
- Honor is to be shown to Holy Icons and the Holy Cross by doing your cross and bowing only. Please refrain from kissing or touching either of these items.
- Please refrain from hand shaking or embracing.
- Please consider making your Stewardship donations online - no trays will be passed during the service.
- Older adults and people who have underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes are at a higher risk and are given dispensation not to attend services and are asked to refrain from attending.
- Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this reopening phase of our church!



PASCHA PANIGIRI

DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER
SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021

Hierarchical Festal Celebration with
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS
HIS GRACE BISHOP SEVASTIANOS OF ZELA

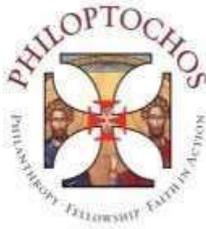
ORTHROS – 7:30 AM . DIVINE LITURGY – 8:45 AM
Campus Procession of the Vimatarissa Icon Following Service



Featuring a
FESTAL MEAL
& FELLOWSHIP
1:00 PM

To be Held
Outdoors & with
Social Distancing

RSVP by April 30 – DiakoniaRetreatOffice@yahoo.com
For Inquiries, Call – (864) 732-1537



Hurry – Tsoureki (Greek Easter Bread) Order Deadline is Monday, April 19th

As Great Lent draws to a close and we approach Holy Week and Pascha, our fasting and isolation will give way to a joyful and blessed Paschal meal with our family and friends. Imagine your Easter table filled with Greek olives, cheese, stuffed grape leaves, tzatziki, avgolemono soup, spit-roasted lamb, grilled lemon chicken, roasted potatoes with lemon, orange, and oregano, spanakopita, salad, red eggs, and more. No table is complete without *Tsoureki* (Easter Bread) which can be eaten with your meal or as a dessert and with thick Greek yogurt.



Our Philoptochos Chapter is hoping one of the highlights and perhaps the centerpiece of your celebration will be a delicious loaf of Greek Easter Bread (*Tsoureki*) baked just for you by Presbytera Marinda and Faye Georgeo!

Tradition has it that *Tsoureki* symbolizes the resurrection of Christ and rebirth since the flour is molded into shape. As it rises it takes on life and is transformed into its final shape. St. Paul observed *“For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”* (1 Cor. 10:17) Throughout the Bible, we read how bread was used to bless others, show hospitality, and symbolize our covenant relationship with God. Abraham not only offered bread, but he instructed his wife to use the finest flour to make the bread when he was visited by the Lord.

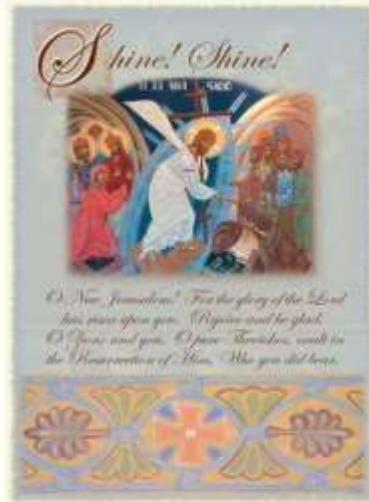
Purchasing a loaf of our Easter Bread gives you the opportunity to bless your family, a friend, or a neighbor by sharing this Greek cuisine reminding us of the joy of the Resurrection of our Risen Lord. Relaxing at our Easter meal with this special bread inspires conversation and reminds us of what is important about our faith. *"When He was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him..."* (Luke 24:30-31)



With the special role that bread symbolizes in our Christian homes, we hope you will consider purchasing one of our loaves for your family or giving one as a gift. Since all ingredients and promotion costs have been donated, the entire purchase price of \$20 will support Philoptochos charities locally and abroad. What better way to celebrate Pascha than by supporting this fundraiser and blessing others in need! As your loaf is being prepared, Presbyteria Marinda and Faye will be praying for you and your family and seeking God's blessings for those in need who will be assisted by your generous support.

As each braid is critical to making every *Tsoureki*, likewise, each of us is critical to the well-being of the Church through our support of its ministries ensuring the love of Christ is shared with our community at large. [Will you consider being an integral part of the Body of Christ by purchasing one loaf for \\$20 by clicking here?](#) To ensure freshness, our Easter bread is being prepared in time for pickup on Palm Sunday morning. *Supplies are limited... order deadline is Monday, April 19th.*

PASCHA CARD 2021



It is time for our Pascha Card 2021. We will be collecting donations for our Philoptochos charities. This is a wonderful way to support the poor in our communities and beyond. We are asking \$25.00 or more per household to have your name/names printed on the card.

The deadline for donations is **Sunday April 25, 2021.**

It is easy to donate to this worthy endeavor.

Just click or copy and paste this link below

[Pascha Card | St. Christopher Philoptochos \(square.site\)](#)

You can make your donation here and also, in comments, add your name/names as you wish them to be on the card.

The more that is collected, the more we can help in our communities.

Thank you for your generous stewardship to our Philoptochos sisterhood.

Sincerely,

Lydia McGee on behalf of Philoptochos

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation

Philoptochos

Let Philoptochos help you with Lenten Soups & Red Eggs for Pascha!!

Philoptochos members will once again be dyeing and selling these beautiful red eggs which are such an important part of our sacred Orthodox Easter traditions.

In addition, Philoptochos is continuing its long history of preparing homemade Lenten soups that are so nurturing during Holy Week.

Advanced orders for these items are required. The eggs are \$10.00 per dozen and carefully packaged in colorful egg cartons. Due to time and space constraints, Philoptochos can only prepare 100 dozen eggs.

There will be two soup options, Lentil and Bean, and these are \$10.00 per quart.

Both the egg and the soup orders will be available for pick-up from the HCC Atrium on Saturday, April 24, 2021 (after the Saturday of Lazarus services) from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

*This will be the only date that orders can be picked up.

*The deadline for ordering both the eggs and the soups is Monday, April 19th.

All orders can be placed online on the Cathedral website, atigoc.org. From the home page, please tap the link "Holy Week Store" and follow the instructions.

Should you wish to place order via mail, please send a written note that includes how many dozen eggs you would like to order and/or how many quarts of each soup. Please include your phone number and check (payable to Philoptochos) and mail to:

Philoptochos Soups and Red Eggs
Annunciation Cathedral
2500 Clairmont Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

The members of Philoptochos are grateful for your support and extend their warmest wishes to all our parishioners for a blessed and glorious Pascha.



[Visit our Website](#)





One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach

All Sundays in April "Hands of Love" will be accepting monetary donations, non-perishable food, and personal hygiene items.

Help is even more needed now, after the devastating tornadoes that tore through the area last Saturday.

"One Roof" helps families in crisis in Coweta County, with food, clothing, financial assistance, and shelter.

It is more
blessed to give
than to
receive.

ACTS 20:35, ESV

How can we help?

Pray for the people afflicted.

Monetary donations are much appreciated since they are vital

to providing temporary financial assistance and afford Management more flexibility to be used where most urgent.

The Food Pantry:

Kid and senior friendly foods are needed-

cereal, macaroni, noodles, and other **non-perishable food items** - breakfast bars, grits, oatmeal, cornbread mix, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, rice, mac & cheese, instant potatoes, instant oatmeal, evaporated milk, juice boxes, tea, sugar, canned vegetables, and fruits.

The Lodge - a 30-day transitional housing for women and children under 14 - personal hygiene items -

hand sanitizer/sanitizing wipes, paper towels, bar soap, toothpaste, shaving cream, disposable razors, lotion, shampoo, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, feminine products, disposable diapers, toilet paper, and trash bags.

The Thrift Store: Donate here and shop here - please take your gently used items **directly to the store** at 251 temple Ave in Newnan, GA: Open Mon, Wed, Fri 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information - <https://oneroofoutreach.org>

"

Just as we stepped up to the plate for "Souper Bowl Sunday" in February with "St. John the Wonderworker" with more than 150 food items offered, and over \$ 450 in monetary donations, we will do it again for "One Roof Outreach" as we journey through Great Lent to Great and Holy Pascha.

We thank you for your faithful and continuous support!

Anna Andreeva Naydenova, "Hands of Love" Ministry Chair



Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

2021 Drawing Competition

Commemorating the Fall of Constantinople

In conjunction with the annual commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople, the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is proud to announce its inaugural Drawing Competition open to children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The annual commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople is not only a remembrance of the fall of the capital of the Roman Empire on May 29, 1453 by the Ottomans who finally took the "Queen of Cities" established by Saint Constantine the Great some eleven centuries earlier; rather, it is also a celebration of Byzantine culture and the Hellenic culture that sprang from this pivotal event in world history.

An enduring symbol of the Imperial Capital and of the Orthodox Church is the "jewel of the city," the magnificent Church of the Holy Wisdom, Hagia Sophia. Built under the Emperor Justinian I in Constantinople in the 6th century, the "Great Church" was the cathedral of the Ecumenical Patriarchate until the Fall of the City about 900 years later when it was forcibly changed to a mosque under the Ottoman conquerors. After the end of the Ottoman Empire, it was converted into a

museum at the beginning of the 20th century, though recently converted back to a mosque under the current leadership of modern Turkey.

Participants will submit drawings of the famous Haghia Sophia, the Church of the Holy Wisdom, still a symbol of the vibrant faith, culture and spirit of the Hellenes and Ecumenical Patriarchate that continue in Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul, Turkey.

ELIGIBILITY:

This competition is open to all children ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. *There are no fees for participation.*

PRIZE:

One grand prize of \$250.00.

DUE DATE:

All submissions must be received at the Saint Photios Nation Shrine NO LATER THAN Friday, May 14, 2021 via email to: Polaxeni Maouris Hillier, Executive Director of St. Photios National Shrine at phillier@stphotios.com. The Winner will be announced on May 29, 2021 during the annual Fall of Constantinople Commemoration (virtual) of the St.

Photios National Shrine. All submissions will become property of the Saint Photios National Shrine.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: One 2-dimensional drawing of *Haghia Sophia*, on 8 ½" by 11" paper (landscape/horizontal view).

1. The following media (or combination of media) may be used: crayon, marker, colored pencil, water color paint.
2. Two high-definition photographs of drawings; one of the drawing itself (alone), and one including the artist holding the original drawing.
3. Contact information including artist's name, age, home address, parish affiliation, and parent or guardian's email address.



As of 3/30/21, we no longer are required to take temperature checks, but of course those who are sick are asked to remain at home to recover and rest. Otherwise, we invite you to join us.

[Click here to "Pre-Register for Services"](#)

[Under Georgia law, there is no liability for an injury or death of an individual entering these premises if such injury or death results from the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. You are assuming this risk by entering these premises.]



[Click Image for Online Giving](#)

For questions, please email communications@saintchristopherhoc.org

or call the church office at (770) 347-7729.

[Click here](#) for Online Giving Instructions



[Click image to view our parish calendar](#)



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