



**May 9, 2026:** *This pictorial collage captures, in sacred images and lived history, the unfolding story of St. Christopher Church in Peachtree City, GA. At its heart stands Christ the Sower, depicted on the epigonation that His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos is wearing today. It displays Christ casting seeds with quiet confidence that will take root in God's time. This image illumines this day, as we break ground for our new church home, because this moment is*

not an isolated achievement—it is a harvest from seeds first planted in faith many years ago by many faithful supporters whom only God can truly remember.



*Worship at Fayette YMCA in 2004*



*Blessing at Church Property in 2007*



*Divine Liturgy at Property 2017*

Those seeds began to be sown before our first Divine Liturgy on October 26, 2003, when Metropolitan Alexios blessed Fr. George Tsahakis to establish our mission and begin worship services using the Fayette Family YMCA. What began humbly, with prayer, sacrifice, and hope, has grown into the vibrant parish we celebrate today with the parish owning ten acres of property whose clearing is underway. The *image of Saint Christopher, our patron, bearing Christ with strength and devotion*, reminds us that the Church is always called to carry Christ to the world—often across uncertain terrain, yet always sustained by grace. **As Saint Christopher said, “As you see me carry Christ, so must you carry Him—not only on your shoulders, but in your heart.”**

Today, May 9, our parish Name Day, that mission stands visibly before us. During today’s hierarchical Divine Liturgy, we gather with our Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta, our Presiding Bishop representing the fullness of the Orthodox Church, with warm pastoral greetings from Former Metropolitan Alexios, assisted by Fr.



George Tsahakis, their Chancellor serving St. Christopher Church from its beginning, Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Dean of Annunciation Cathedral, Fr. Christos Mars,

Ephemerios of Annunciation Cathedral, Fr. Efstratios (Ken) Anthony of Annunciation Cathedral, Fr. Anthony Salzman, Proistamenos of St. Philothea Church in Athens, Fr. Christopher Zaferes, Ephemerios of Transfiguration Church in Marietta, Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos of Ss. Nicholas, Raphael, & Irene Church in Cumming, Fr. Gabriel Aldridge, Proistamenos of St. John the Wonderworker Church in Atlanta, Dn. Christopher Burdette, assisting Annunciation Church in Winston-Salem, NC, & Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis, assisting St. John the Divine Church in Jacksonville, FL. They are assisted by our chantors, Grigorios Karakostas, Charles Costas, Parish Choir, Altar Servers, and Greeters.

His Eminence and Clergy, surrounded by you our faithful parishioners, supporters, and guests represent mature seeds now bearing fruit within the Body of Christ as we serve together in southern metro Atlanta. The Church is revealed not simply as a building, but as the Body of Christ—hierarchy, clergy, and faithful united in worship and purpose. *For Orthodox Christians, the Bishop gathers the local church together in the same way Christ gathers His disciples. When the faithful come together with their Bishop to celebrate the Eucharist, the Church is fully present. This shared unity with the Bishop reflects our shared unity with Christ Himself. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios says it best: "Today, you are part of the Body of Christ and can rejoice and be glad!"*



The *image of our new church complex grounds this spiritual vision in real time and place.* The physical foundation His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos will bless this afternoon rises from years of prayer, generosity, and perseverance.



*As Christ continues to sow, His hand is extended for us to join Him. Likewise, Saint Christopher continues to guide us and step forward with gratitude for all those who planted with us and continue to trust in God, Who alone gives lasting growth. To Him be glory for what has been, what is, and what is yet to come. Amen!*



**Thanksgiving Sunday, May 3, 2026**



This past Sunday, a few days before our Parish Name Day and 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. *Glory and thanks be to God always!*



**St. Christopher  
Hellenic Orthodox Church**

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210  
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269  
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)

Website: [www.saintchristopherhos.org](http://www.saintchristopherhos.org)

Very Rev. Fr. George Tsahakis, Pastor  
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council  
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator

**Pastoral Message from Fr. George, April 24, 2026**



### Invitation to Share a Cherished Memory

As we reflect with gratitude on **23 years of life at Saint Christopher Church**, I invite each of you to pause prayerfully and remember **one moment**—not a list of many—a **single experience that touched your heart** and helped strengthen your relationship with **God and His Holy Body, the Church**.

Perhaps it was a quiet prayer, a liturgy, a sacramental moment, a word spoken at the right time, an act of love received or offered, or a season of trial met with grace. We are asking not for chronology or accomplishments, but for **that one moment when God felt near**, when your life in Christ was deepened through our parish family.

If you are willing, please share this cherished memory as a testimony of thanksgiving. Your reflection may be brief, but its witness may help another see how God continues to work among us at Saint Christopher Church.

With gratitude to God for all He has done—and continues to do—  
*in and through His people. Faithfully yours, +Fr. George Tsahakis*

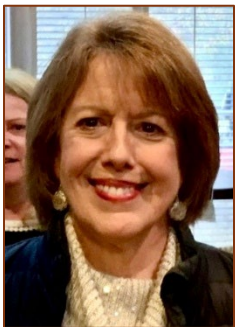
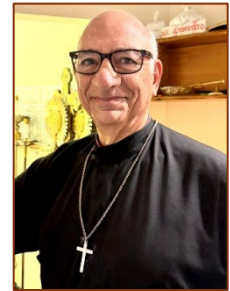
## Sharing Your Cherished Memories

Fr. George feels extremely blessed to have received the following heartfelt memories from parishioners in response to his invitation (at left). Those featured gave permission for their memories to be shared... *Thank you!*



"A cherished memory I have is during Holy Week when we read through the Gospel when Jesus was crucified and we had the opportunity to venerate the cross and sit in silence re-living what our Lord Jesus Christ had done for us." - Judah Dabbs

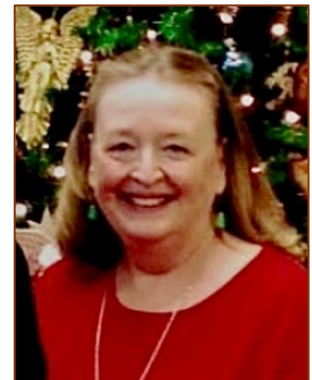
"I felt a special blessing the first time I heard the Lord's Prayer in different languages. (Go and make disciples of all nations...)" - Myke Jacobs



"My most memorable moment came during our first Divine Liturgy at the YMCA as Fr. George chanted the opening words to the liturgy. It was a thrill to know that our dream of a southside church had become a reality." - Cynthia Cromartie

"My memory occurred on May 20, 2012, the day of my entrance into the Orthodox Church. When I had the Lord's Body and Blood given to me, (for the first time as Orthodox), I was overwhelmed with awe and the mystical feeling I had. I will never forget this day in my walk with the Lord."

- Lydia (Jeanie) McGee





“Σήμερα Κρεμάτε Επί Εύλου... This time every year I cry at this point. I also like to make a "komboskini" for every Gospel read on Holy Thursday. I was fortunate enough to be with my son and daughter-in-law and all my friends at St Christopher Church. Thank you, Fr. George and everyone, for making it special. I'm sorry I will miss you today and will not be here during your ground breaking date and service. My heart is with St.

Christopher Church and no matter where I am., I will always be close to you. I will miss you all. Until next time.”- Maria Panayi

“St. Christopher's has been there for us during a unique time, when we needed to be further away from the City of Atlanta instead of deeper into it to attend Church. The St. Christopher community has welcomed us with open arms and provided support by simply being there and welcoming us, for which we are truly grateful. I have a unique fondness for Peachtree City having grown up there, and I am proud this loving and vibrant parish is there as a beacon of God's love and His Holy Church.” - Reese Martin





"The recovery of my only child Demi from the autistic spectrum in 2014-2015 is the Miracle which has happened, thanks to the fervent prayer of our parish family at St. Christopher

Church. I felt like the "Widow of Nain" whose only son was resurrected by Christ! We departed for the Czech Republic, but our hearts remained forever in Peachtree City, and we hope to return there one day. Glory be to God for everything!" - Galina Koleva

(Note: Photo from Holy Pascha Zoom encounter where Galina and Demi shared the "Holy Fire" from the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem that her church in Brno, Czech Republic had received on Pascha ahead of us.)

"I remember worshipping at the Fayette Family YMCA one Sunday when we had so much ice and no heat. We had to put the older parishioners and babies in cars to keep them warm while we worshipped. I never thought we'd see this day, and I give thanks to God for His blessings."  
- Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis





"The outpouring of love upon the death of my parents is the most poignant memory I have. Then later, when Randy had cancer.

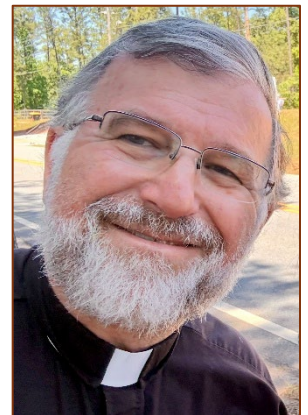
This community has been more than friends and acquaintances. You have all been family. In good times and in hard. We have argued, and disagreed at times but ultimately, when the chips were down, we have loved and forgiven one another, and these 2 aspects of Christ's teachings are the greatest of all lessons!

I have so many more I could share from my time in the choir, to all of the Holy Weeks, planting the vineyard at SCC, along with all of the other community weekends we've shared together.

But I will say this last thing. Never have I ever felt so blessed and closer to God than when I am in confession with Fr George.

Thank you Father George and Presbytera for all you have been to us and done for us! We love you dearly!" - Anna Pelky

"I consider serving this Parish alongside being Chancellor as a priceless gift from God as we labor together to establish our new church that will await Christ's second and glorious coming. We could not have done this without the blessings and support of Metropolitan Alexios, Metropolitan Sevastianos, and all the faithful who refused to give up their commitment to build a church for God's glory. May the memory of our loved ones who are with us in spirit today be eternal. - Fr. George Tsahakis





"It was on Holy Thursday. After the service was over. Lights were out. Just the Candelabra with 12 Candles and the old cross that was retrieved from the trash and was re-used again.

It was that moment that Christ felt right there. Sitting among us. Right next to me. The words of my early year's Sunday School Priest in Athens came to mind.

Για το δικό σου το καλό  
Ανέβηκα εις τον Σταύρο  
Για την αγάπη την δική μου  
Εσύ τι έκανες παιδί μου.

God, please forgive me.  
Forgive me, Father." - Kirk Panayis



Together, with prayerful hands and joyful hearts, Nicholas and his Yiayia baked the five loaves of bread, offered in thanksgiving to God this past Sunday for all these blessings we share as a parish on this Feast Day. *In that quiet act of love, we witnessed the Gospel lived, passed lovingly from one generation to the*

*next. May God bless us to continue this path now and forever. Amen.*

## + In Memory of Charlie Masterpolis



Today we pause to share a special memory of our friend, Charlie Masterpolis, who lived in Savannah, Georgia. Through the grace of God, Charlie approached Fr. George soon after our parish began and shared his fervent desire to become a major benefactor of our parish. He asked our Bishop for the privilege of donating a major gift to assist us in purchasing our ten-acre parcel of land on Ebenezer Road a mile from the city limits of Peachtree City. With the blessings of Metropolitan Alexios, our preferred land site was approved. Likewise, Charlie's gift was accepted and added to our parishioners' substantial contributions to purchase our new property. The parish was named **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church** in honor of Charlie's beloved father, *Christos* of blessed memory. Our parish celebrates its Patronal Feast Day on May 9 - *the Feast of St. Christopher the Martyr of Lycea*. Following his falling asleep, Charlie bequeathed in his final estate plans a matching gift of what he gave initially that is being used for our church construction underway. We are most appreciative to his living relative, Peter Mastopoulos, who is in Sweden and unable to join us today, for representing his cousin and writing the following letter of support and encouragement. *May Charlie's memory be eternal.*

## **Peter N. Mastopoulos, Ed.D.**

May 9, 2026

Dear Fellow Orthodox Christians and Other Distinguished Guests:

Though a prior commitment as a delegate of the Boy Scouts of America finds me in Sweden today, my heart is fully with you as you celebrate St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church and honor the memory of my beloved late cousin, Charles T. “Charlie” Masterpolis. As Charlie’s closest living relative, it is both my privilege and my joy to offer these greetings in his name.

Charlie’s generosity toward St. Christopher was a source of profound joy in his life, and his bequest to the Church stands as a testament to his deepest intentions—to leave a lasting legacy within this community of faith. Unwavering in his Orthodox convictions, Charlie yearned to see the Faith take deep root and flourish across America. To that end, he generously shared the gifts with which he had been blessed, inspiring others to join him in nurturing that vision. He lived by the words of Scripture: “To those to whom much is given, much is expected.”

If Charlie were standing among you today, I have no doubt his face would be radiant with pride. He was a man who delighted in planting spiritual acorns—small seeds of faith sown with care and patience—trusting that in God’s time they would grow into mighty oaks. In the faithful community of St. Christopher, he would see that trust magnificently fulfilled.

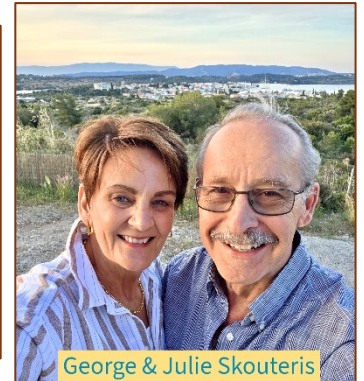
May God abundantly bless St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church, its clergy, and all its faithful parishioners, and may this holy community continue to shine as a beacon of Orthodoxy—not only for Peachtree City, Georgia, but for all who seek the ancient and enduring Truth.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Mastopoulos", written in a cursive style.

Peter N. Mastopoulos

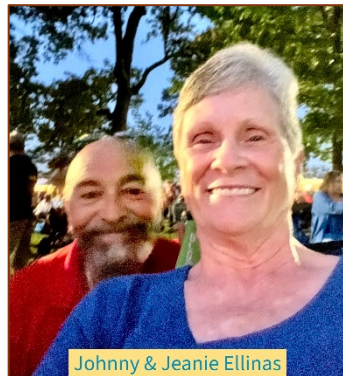
## Thankful and Remembering Our Parishioners Who are in Greece for Weddings...



## Who Live Abroad (Czech Republic & Greece)...



## Who Are Recuperating...



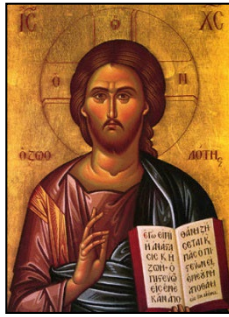


## SAINT CHRISTOPHER HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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*Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople:* [www.patriarchate.org](http://www.patriarchate.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Website:* [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)  
*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta Website:* [www.atlmetropolis.org](http://www.atlmetropolis.org)  
*St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church Website:* [www.saintchristopherhoc.org](http://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 Saturday, May 9, 2026

**ON THIS DAY, WE COMMEMORATE** *the Holy Prophet Isaiah; St. Christopher the Martyr of Lycea, whose name our parish bears; Elder Hieronimos of Simonopetra; Monk-martyr Nicholas who lived in Vuneni, of Larissa in Thessaly; Epimachos the New Martyr of Alexandria; and the New Martyrs of Novo Selo, Bulgaria. 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./2./9. Hymn for the Feast of Pascha (our Lord's passover from death to life):**

*Sung three times after the opening of the Divine Liturgy, before the Small Entrance, and after the distribution of Holy Communion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.*

#### **3. Small Entrance Exclamation of the Clergy:**

*On the occasion of the Paschal period, the Clergy intone the following at the Small Entrance: "In your choirs, bless the Lord, you of Israel's wellspring. Save us, O Son of God, who did rise from the dead, we sing to You: Alleluia!"*

#### **4. Hymn for Mid-Pentecost – (not in Hymnal):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance: O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the living waters of right belief. You, O Savior, proclaimed to everyone, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." You are the fountain of life, O Christ our God. Glory to You!*

#### **5. Hymn for Prophet Isaiah– (not in Hymnal):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance: As we celebrate the memory of Your Prophet Isaiah through him we importune You, O Lord, that You save our souls.*

#### **6. 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.*

### **7. Kontakion for Pascha – (not in Hymnal):**

*Sung after the Small Entrance:* The feast according to the Law at its midpoint, O Christ our God, as the Creator and Master of everything, You said to all those who were present there, “Come that you might draw from Me the water of immortality.” Hence with faith we cry to You as we prostrate before You. Your tender mercies grant to us, we pray. You are the fountain and source of our life, O Lord.

### **8. Communion Hymn – (not in Hymnal):**

*On the occasion of today’s feast, the following hymn is sung instead of “Aineite” or “Praise the Lord”:* Blessed are they whom You have chosen and received, O Lord. Their memorial abides from generation to generation. Alleluia.

## **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*

### **Epistle Reading (Acts 12:1-11)**

*About that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Wrap your mantle around you and follow me.” And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of*

*its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."*

### **Gospel Reading (John 8:31-42)**

*The Lord said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham, and have never been in bondage to any one. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, every one who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house for ever; the son continues for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me, because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do what Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth which I heard from God; this is not what Abraham did. You do what your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God, and now I am here."*

**On this the twenty-third commemoration of the Feast Day of our St. Christopher 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!



## **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Parish Name Day – St. Christopher the Martyr**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy,  
Community Luncheon, &  
Groundbreaking/Blessing of Foundation

Note: At the Groundbreaking, the following order will

be used for those selected to “turn the soil” first after the *Blessing Service of Laying of the Foundations of a Church is completed. They include:*

His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos; Fr. George & Presbyteria Marinda Tsahakis; Fayetteville Mayor, Ed Johnson; Former Vice Chair of Metropolis Council, Nick Moraitakis; Metropolis Philoptochos President, Effie Moraitakis; Parish Council President, Steve Sarantis; Philoptochos Chapter President, Helen Psihountas; Jefferson Brown Architect, Huntington Brown, Architect; Tomco Construction, Tom Crymes, Owner; & Renasant Bank, Chris Thompson, Vice President. *Afterwards, parishioners will be directed to step in front of the tent for the aerial group photos to be taken by drones. Before departure, parishioners will be invited to take photos of their families “turning the soil” as commemorative photos if they choose.*

## **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of Samaritan Woman/Mother’s Day**

8:00 Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Mother’s Day Reception