

*“Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy
has begotten us again
to a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead.”
1 Peter 1:3*

May 11, 2009

Rev. Fr. George & Presb. Marinda Tsahakis
Mrs. Tammy Soulakos, President & esteemed Parish Council members
Mrs. Julie Scouteris & esteemed Ladies of Philoptochos
And the Faithful of St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church, Peachtree City, GA

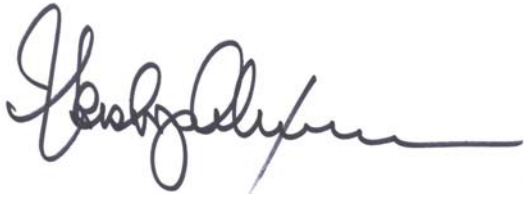
My dearly beloved in the Lord,

I greet you today in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, with love and joy, with the beautiful words, **“Χριστός ἠνέστη! Christ Is Risen!”** I was delighted to have the opportunity of seeing all of you again, especially on such a special occasion, as we gathered together in prayer and worship. I enjoyed the beautiful luncheon and the wonderful spirit of enthusiasm and friendship that I saw in your Parish community, and I commend all of you and especially the dedicated Ladies of Philoptochos, for your wonderful hospitality and warm welcome. Please accept my personal gratitude for the gift of your time, energy and resources that resulted in not only an enjoyable but more importantly a spiritually uplifting occasion. I wanted to congratulate you and to let you know how proud I am of you and all that you have accomplished. I cherish your friendship and support both personally and to our Metropolis, and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve people like you!

This occasion is important not only to the life of the Parish but also in our own personal lives, because in honoring St. Christopher, the patron saint of your church, we are also celebrating his love and devotion for Christ our Savior. Most importantly we receive a blessing by gathering together in a celebration that honors your patron saint in a special manner. In this way, we also gather with the angels and archangels, and with all the Saints, with our Lord in heaven, celebrating and proclaiming our salvation, through the grace and mercy of Almighty God, and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we lift up our hearts together in prayer to St. Christopher, I congratulate you on this blessed day in the life of your beautiful Parish community. May the blessings of this holy day fill you with joy and surround you with love, so that all your lives and hearts are illumined by the grace of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I remain

With paternal love in our Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexios", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta