



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

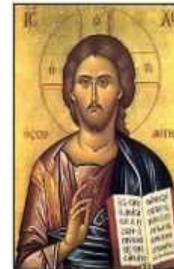
St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

January 14, 2022



St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

313 Dividend Drive, Suite 210
Peachtree City, Georgia 30269
Phone: (770) 347-PRAY (7729)
Website: www.saintchristopheroc.org
Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor
Stephen Sarantis, President, Parish Council
Jackie Sarantis, Office Administrator



Message from Fr. George Tsahakis

January 14, 2022

Thank you for your presence and prayers during our three days of Theophany services last week. We were blessed with great attendance and participation. A special shout-out to the choir, ushers, videographer, altar servers, Prosfora bakers, and those cleaning the church. I also am indebted to those present in the pews who offered to read the hymns the chantors would normally do and sing during worship services. We honor our Almighty God with our collective prayers and participation. Thank you!

Our parish family mourns the falling asleep of Julie Torres' mother, Linda, in Utah and Julie Skouteris' brother, Jim, in Minnesota, along with close friends that have died among our parishioners. We look forward to our upcoming Vasilopita Dinner & Fundraiser for St. Basil's Academy when it is re-scheduled.

Fr. George thanks our teachers, students, and their families for supporting our Religious Education efforts, no matter how many children are present (as the following photos illustrate). Thanks to our Adult Class and our parishioners for putting away the Christmas decorations yesterday.



<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
3 yrs.- Kindergarten	Susan Kleto & Jackie Sarantis
1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Grades	Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis & Jeannie McGee
4 th , 5 th , 6 th Grades	Becky Butler assisted by Angelique Soulakos
7 th , 8 th , High School	Katie Wilson and Charles Costas
Adults Class	Fr. George Tsahakis

Congratulations to our 2022 Parish Council members and new officers (see update below). On Sunday, February 20th, we will gather as a parish family for our General Parish Assembly to finalize our 2022 operating budget, report on the progress of our ministries, and plan for future opportunities. We hope you can mark your calendars and join us to help us grow.



Fr. George gave the Oath of Office to our 2022 Parish Council members following church services on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Afterwards, Fr. George conducted officer elections at the January Parish Council Meeting.

Congratulations to our 2022 Officers:

**Stephen Sarantis, President
Julie Skouteris, Vice-President
Bill Wiley, Treasurer
George Psihountas, Assistant Treasurer
Tom Farmakis, Secretary**

Congratulations to our 2022 Members:

**Maria Cahill
Lydia McGee
Tammy Soulakos
Steve Theodorakis
Fr. George Tsahakis**

Finally, all Scouting families are reminded of our remembrance of Scout Sunday on February 6th. ***We ask for a volunteer family to offer the Five Loaves (Artos) for Thanksgiving Sunday.***

Sunday, February 6, 2022, 10:30 AM

SCOUT SUNDAY

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. Fr. George invites all Scouts and their families to attend the Divine Liturgy on this day and be recognized as Scouts.



CHRIST IS BORN!

"When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving, to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them."



- St John Chrysostom



WON'T YOU JOIN US?

WHAT: Philoptochos Volunteer Day

WHERE: Midwest GA Food Bank

WHEN: January 19th from 4-6PM

.....
WEAR CLOSE-TOED SHOES

MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE:

TEXT OR CALL: 678-570-5083

(CYNTHIA CROMARTIE)

*See you there for an evening of fun
and fellowship!*

**NO HEAVY LIFTING! ALL AGES
WELCOME**



St. Christopher Church



Postponed

Special Update

To ensure a safe and successful event, our Philoptochos Society has postponed our 1/8/22 Community Dinner/Fundraiser until later.

On the Eastern bank of the Hudson River, just north of Garrison, NY, stands the St. Basil Academy – a residential home for Orthodox children. The generosity of many individuals and groups have made its mission possible for more than 70 years. St Basil Academy provides shelter and nurturing in a loving Christian environment to Orthodox youth in distress from across the country.



To learn more about various programs and ways you can help, visit stbasil.goarch.org

Thank you for your generosity,

Anna Andreeva-Naydenova, *Hands of Love *Ministry Chair

Stewardship Drive 2022

As we prepare for the Holy Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to renew your pledge offering of your time, talents, and treasures for 2022. Your 2022 stewardship pledge enables us to build up and nurture each other's spiritual lives.

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church offers many opportunities to grow in our faith with the combined help of one another. As a parish family, we worship God, we learn about His love and mercy, we witness these to each other, and we have opportunities to help those in need.

Looking around our parish, I notice there are many ways to serve God and His Holy Church. Some of us enjoy singing in the choir or with the chantors. How nice to see people we know greet us upon arrival in the narthex and usher guests and visitors. What would we do without those helping in the kitchen as well as those keeping the church tidy after services? Our youth love Religious Education as do the dedicated teachers and helpers. Both parishioners and non-parishioners are committing to our Building Fundraising efforts through Greece on the Go, GreekFest, and our Golf Classic. Our Philoptochos and Parish Council need our help volunteering for ministries, and together with Fr. George, we welcome all parishioners to feel ownership and help out.

Today, I ask you prayerfully to consider the tremendous impact of these activities; please recognize that without your collective support, we achieve much less than God desires. On His behalf, our parishioners

welcome you and your family and ask you to be involved in our parish stewardship, i.e., giving of your time, talents, and financial support.

Our treasures are sometimes the hardest to offer. I can confirm to you my own struggles with this years ago. What a blessing it was to realize that in giving more of myself, God gave me the peace of mind to let go of depending on myself and instead I could rely on Him and His will for my family.

My brothers and sisters, we are transformed every day from our mutual prayers and support. Our parish family benefits from your generous blessings to build up God's Body by us giving freely of our treasures. He has been patient and merciful to me and my husband; many of you have shared the same with me and others in our parish family. For all these blessings, we are most thankful. God is with us now and always.

Don't delay... with prayers and thanksgiving I ask you to consider giving in ALL areas of stewardship... your time, your talents and your financial support.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and faithfulness to our Great God and Savior, Jesus Christ and His Holy Church.

Sincerely,

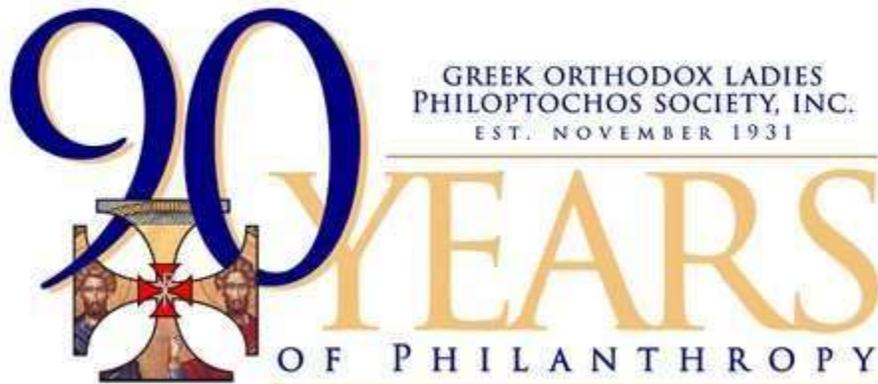
Jeanie/Lydia McGee

Thank you for your 2021 pledge amount of _____.

[Click here to make your 2022 Stewardship Offering.](#) Many thanks!

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Web: www.philoptochos.org

E-mail: contact@philoptochos.org

Philanthropy Witness

As we welcome the new year see a snippet of what some of our chapters were up to, and the positive changes they have been bringing about in their wider communities!

We look forward to another year of philanthropy, giving, and togetherness.



Membership: The Lifeblood of Philoptochos

As we enter a New Year---and celebrate 90 years of service---we recognize and honor our Philoptochos members across the country. It is through the devotion and hard work of our women and men at every level that our beloved organization has grown into a formidable “Army of Agape” dedicated to serving our brothers and sisters in need.

January begins our annual Membership Drive! *The primary enrollment period for Chapter Membership is the first quarter of the calendar year; however, membership is an ongoing process of not only retaining current members but also recruiting new ones. Chapters are encouraged to employ a variety of ideas, activities and resources to help invigorate their membership. Here are several suggestions offered by our National Membership Committee to “Invite, Embrace, Involve” every woman to become a member of Philoptochos:*

- Be a Membership Ambassador! Get actively involved in sharing the mission and ministries of Philoptochos. Don’t assume that everybody knows who Philoptochos is or what we do. Be sure to communicate your work in parish publications, Philoptochos newsletters, flyers, handbooks, etc.
- Personal communication is a key to keeping and increasing membership. Invite women personally to attend a meeting or event and then follow up with a phone call, email or text.

Consider appointing a dynamic Membership Chair and/or Committee to personally contact prospective members.

- Tap into the talents and skills of the women in your parish and chapter. There are many accomplished women of all ages within our parishes who can be engaged to provide their talents to Philoptochos. These ladies may be your future leaders!
- Access to the Internet and social media has changed the dynamics of attracting new members. Utilize Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other options to generate interest in Philoptochos meetings, events and activities.
- Our youth are our future. Approach younger women to find out what types of events and programs they are interested in and ask how they would like to be involved. Be flexible with meeting days and times to accommodate their schedules. Also, give the gift of membership to high school and college graduates, new brides, new mothers, etc.
- Be sure to reach out to lapsed members and members who have not been involved or have not been seen in church for a period of time. Call senior members to inquire how they're doing and just for a friendly chat.
- **Above all, do everything with love and kindness!** In the end, what matters most is that we all feel appreciated, valued and welcome

For more information, utilize the membership resources available (including filing procedures, per capita coupons, and the National Philoptochos Membership Guide) on the National Philoptochos website at <https://www.philoptochos.org/2021-membership/>

We participated in UNICEF's interfaith movement to End the Pandemic and UNICEF Haiti's earthquake response. We were honored to have had [an article written about it by UNICEF](#), and to have been sent photos showing us the difference our collective efforts made.



Above: On October 1st, UNICEF workers load education and hygiene kits.



A grant from National Philoptochos of \$9,500 was presented to Gordon Robertson from the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center—the region’s leading resource to help prevent child abuse, protect traumatized children, and putting them & their families on the path to healing.

Left to Right: Father Aristotle Damaskos, Gordon Robertson, Donor Relations Manager, Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, Irene Politis, President, Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos, Mary Ann Mieke, Chapter President, Alexandra Pittas, Chapter Advisor.

Above: Christmas Brunch in Charleston, SC, December 11, 2021

An article was written about the charitable initiatives of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New England in Boston! "Proceeds from the St. Nicholas reception were used to help launch the St. Basil Experience Fund, which will pay for museum trips, outdoor excursions, trips, and other activities for the youth served by St. Basil."



Seen above from Left to Right: Representative of the Dimock Center in Boston with Kally Badavas, Chapter Advisor and immediate Past President; Elizabeth Torres, Chapter President, and Aleka Ak rivlellis, Chapter Secretary.



Remember to fill in the slip for the monthly commitment fund once you receive it in the mail!

New Financial Systems Take Effect January 2022

The National Philoptochos Executive Board recently authorized the implementation of new financial programs and processes, which will not only greatly increase efficiency, but also save the Society a considerable amount of money. Like our chapters, the national office constantly strives to find ways to save precious dollars to free more funds for our philanthropic causes. We will be instituting three new integrated financial programs:

- QuickBooks Online for NonProfits (QBO), which has been specifically designed for nonprofit organizations with fund accounting
- Beanworks, which will scan our payable invoices, automatically send them to our president, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, and our treasurer, Barbara Pasis, for the required 2-party authorization; once the approvals are received, the program will order the payment from the bank
- ChurchStaq, our new customer relationship management program, which will be used to develop a donor database, automatically send out receipts, and handle the many aspects of events and fundraisers

These programs will save precious time for our employees. In addition, we have switched our banking platform at **TD Bank** from a small business platform to an **eCommerce Treasury platform**. This will enable us to handle receipts from our chapters more efficiently.

You will no longer be sending your **checks** to the national office. Instead, they **will be mailed to a Lockbox** at the bank. Checks will be scanned in and deposited to the appropriate account, and then a spreadsheet will be generated indicating the chapter number, dollar amount, and fund to be credited. Our CPA will use this spreadsheet to automatically transfer the information into QBO.

Training sessions were held throughout December for chapter presidents and treasurers. All chapters should have received a packet at their church at the end of December with coupons and return envelopes. Please use these coupons and envelopes to submit your 2022 commitment contributions. (If you still have 2021 contributions to submit, these should be mailed to the National Office as in past years.)

PLEASE NOTE: You must only submit one coupon and one check in a return envelope; you cannot combine contributions in one envelope.

We look forward to the implementation of these programs, which will become effective this month, as well as the improvements they will bring in efficiency.

And before we bid you adieu for now, a friendly reminder to renew your memberships for 2022. New Membership forms and cards available online mid-month.

We could not be more proud and honored by your support and membership. Here at Philoprochos we believe in the strengths that come from community and from moving ahead together as one! We look forward to another year ahead with you all together as we move happily towards this year's goals and emboldening our mission.

And let us not forget that this is also the year we aim to celebrate our latest \$90 for 90 Years Campaign!

\$90 for 90 Years!

Your contributions will allow us to expand our reach, to help more people, in more ways. Our goal is \$90,000.

Together we can make this possible!

Donate Now!

\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

\$20,000 awarded to Music and Arts Majors

\$200,000

20 Awards of \$10,000 each
based on academic merit and financial need

\$50,000

20 Awards of \$2,500 each
based solely on academic merit



2021/2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Now Available - Apply Online!

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2022**.
The application and qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available
at www.panhellenicsf.org.

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to
apply for the scholarship awards!

For any questions or inquiries:

Please email vpanos@panhellenicsf.org or call (312) 357-6432



scan to apply



**PANHELLENIC
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432
☎ 312.872.0090
🌐 panhellenicsf.org
✉ info@panhellenicsf.org

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



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



We welcome you to join us in person for church services.

Parishioners and visitors who are sick are asked to remain at home to recover and rest. We strongly encourage all parishioners who visit to resume wearing masks to slow the spread of the Delta variant in response to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios' request to our Clergy and Parish Councils to do so.

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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