



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΤΑΝΤΑΣ

St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

February 2016

## St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

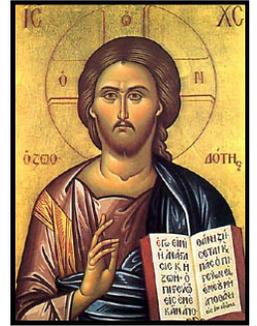
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Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis, Pastor

Julie Skouteris, President, Parish Council



*[Fr. George has joined the Metropolis of Atlanta Family Life Ministry team. He will be writing a regular blog called "Sunday Lunch" and you can find his articles at <http://www.familylifeministry.atlanta.goarch.org/>. Below is the first of the series.]*

## Sunday Lunch: What's In A Name...

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." These words, uttered by Juliet Capulet to Romeo Montague capture the struggle and tragedy of Shakespeare's play, Romeo and Juliet. Having fallen in love, the couple recognizes they are doomed as members of two warring families. Yet with these words, Juliet tries to convince Romeo that a *name* is an artificial and hollow bond, and that she loves the person who is called "Montague", not his family nor its name. Romeo, out of his desire for Juliet, rejects his family name and vows, as Juliet asks, to deny his father.

The *name* of this new blog for Family Life Ministry is "Sunday Lunch." My parents of blessed memory, John and Charlotte Catherine Tsahakis, inspired the name years ago. They taught me and my two

brothers that Sunday belonged to the Lord.

"Sunday" in Greek means "Day of the Lord."

Whatever we did that day should be a worthy offering to Christ Jesus. Coming home from church, we ate lunch together as a family of God. We learned to share His bounty, exchange fellowship, and hear about His teachings, and consider how we could live them. It was a time when our friends could be invited to join us, but we were never permitted to visit others' homes and miss our family's "Sunday Lunch." That is, unless there was a



church luncheon, which we would stay for and enjoy.

## **Pastoral Remarks From Fr. George: Sunday Lunch: What's in A Name ...**

Lunch entrees on a rotating basis included fried chicken, pork chops, roast beef, oven-baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, and fresh garden vegetables. We passed the food our mother prepared and learned to share with one another. Our mother excelled in making homemade cream pies, and our father emphasized the Mediterranean diet by offering us lots of fresh fruit. We always sat in fixed places; our parents at the ends of the table, and my brothers and I in between them.

Sundays began with worshipping in church and attending Sunday School. Then, we went home and shared "Sunday Lunch." Its *name* always rekindles in me unforgettable and beloved stories imparted to us by our parents. Each lunch was a new adventure into the origin of our family in Greece and the United States. One week we felt sad after learning of the loss of a family member. Another occasion we would lose ourselves in laughter as my brothers and I chuckled at the old-fashioned ways of life in the villages and farms of our ancestors. Indeed, we discovered the successes and failures of our family. Our parents considered these lessons essential for us to learn. They encouraged us to share them, treasure them, and pass them on to our children. We listened more than we spoke. After all, my father reminded us that the youth always should listen more and talk less so we could learn from the elders who were wisest. When we "got older" and had more wisdom, we would be called upon to share our experiences and insights with those who were younger and less informed. With this new blog, I pray I can offer some semblance of assistance and always for the glory of God. I welcome your comments for this and future installments.

One story from "Sunday Lunch" that I treasure is the reason I was named "George." My father, born in 1898, was born outside of Rethymnon, Crete. His family attended a church dedicated to St. George. When he was 15 years of age, his parents sent him to the United States via an ocean vessel from Piraeus, Greece to Ellis Island in New York. The first day he "set foot" in America was April 23, 1914. My father told me he previously had promised God and his father that if he were blessed to be married and have a son, they would name him Nicholas, in honor of my Dad's father. That April 23<sup>rd</sup>, after touching U.S. soil for the very first time, he knelt on the ground and thanked God for his safe voyage. In thanksgiving, he pledged that if he had a second son, he would name him in honor of his village church of St. George. There he was baptized and there he felt safe as he grew in Christ with his beloved family. My father kept this promise when he and my mother named me George. Knowing this makes me feel grateful and honored.

Through my childhood years, both my parents emphasized the importance of dedicating the time right after church to their family and to share and teach their children. I well remember their prayers and hopes that we would make the same offering to our families if we were so blessed. Presbyteria Marinda and I faithfully offered the tradition of "Sunday Lunch" to our

## Pastoral Remarks From Fr. George: Sunday Lunch: What's in A Name ...

three children, and now that they're grown, we continue to practice it in our homes as an essential part of each "Day of the Lord." It enables us to connect with our family and our faith. It is in this spirit, that I dedicate this blog in memory of all our parents who had the foresight, strength, and determination to focus their families on God and one another through the connection we call "Sunday lunch." As I grew up in the '50s and '60s, "Sunday Lunch" was commonly practiced. I never felt we were "different" because the families of my friends were joined similarly. What an opportunity for every family to share and enjoy!

As we grew older, my parents entrusted my brothers and I to set the Sunday lunch table, to learn to cook, and to wash the dishes and pots and put everything in order. We were then free to play, call our friends, do homework, and enjoy the rest of Sunday. Simply put, we learned to integrate and "live out" the lessons we were taught and reminded.

Unlike Romeo and Juliet, who in the quote above mistook one's *family name* as arbitrary and easily discarded to gain one's desires, we were reminded that our *name* was the only legacy we truly possessed. It would survive even after our death. The names of our patron saints date back centuries and will survive until the Second and Glorious Coming of Christ. St. George is a real mighty hero to me. I bear his *name*, and through stories I learned of his life in Christ, I became aware and confident how I could respond when challenged with temptation and hardship. Our ancestors had fought and sacrificed amidst religious and ethnic persecution both in Greece and as immigrants to the U.S. They were the reason our family *names* were respected and honored.

As children, my brothers and I came to understand the importance of honoring and preserving our Christian *name* and especially the *name* of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Our parents taught us the ultimate praise of our Lord's Name: "*Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the Name that is above every name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" (Phil. 2:9-11)

During many years of "Sunday Lunches", I learned I would never want to deny my family name, my saint's name, nor my Lord Jesus Christ's name. They connect me with my family, my heritage, my religious faith, and with God Himself. They reassure me of a sense of belonging and being loved by God. They unite me to all those in His Holy Body, the Church. I'm grateful to my parents for teaching me in the school they lovingly called "Sunday Lunch."

In the installments ahead, my aim is to help others understand the importance of *confronting* and *balancing* the needs of our life amidst our daily struggles and temptations. Within the

## Pastoral Remarks From Fr. George: Sunday Lunch: What's in A Name ...

backdrop of the world we find ourselves, and by sharing notable lessons from countless others to me, I pray readers will find these insights worthy of sharing with your family and friends at your "Sunday Lunch."

*Fr. George J. Tsahakis*

Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis  
Chancellor, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta  
Pastor, St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church

### Parish Council News

Our new parish council was blessed to be sworn in on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios who was visiting our parish. This year's Parish Council consists of Father George Tsahakis, Julie Skouteris (President), Tom Farmakis (Vice President), George Psihountas (Treasurer), Dina Kearns (Asst. Treasurer), Tony Vlachakis (Secretary), Steve Sarantis, Tammy Soulakos, Kirk Panayis, and Steve Theodorakis. We welcome back Tom Farmakis who was re-elected and welcome Tammy Soulakos and Steve Theodorakis! We look forward to working with them this year. We would also like to thank Maria Cahill and Danielle Dawkins for the offering of their time, talents, and treasures for the past three years.

I would like to invite all of you to attend the *General Assembly* that will be held on Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, immediately following the Divine Liturgy to hear about what is happening in our parish. The GOYA will host a Gyro luncheon afterwards, so please plan on staying and supporting them!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask anyone on the Parish Council. Thank you!

Faithfully,  
Julie  
Skouteris  
Parish Council  
President





## Hands of Love: February 2016

*"For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore, I command you to do this word which says, You shall surely open your hands to your brother, to your poor and needy in your land." (Deut. 15:11)*



## Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>: Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring works to mobilize those looking to **fight hunger and poverty** in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, we take up a collection, **asking for at least one dollar per family member and one item of canned food per family member** for people in need. 100% of our donation will go directly to **Fayette Samaritans**.

**Started by a youth group in 1990**, Souper Bowl of Caring has since grown all over the world, collecting more than \$100 million donated back into their own community.

Kim Haldopoulos, Hands of Love Coordinator



Visit the St. Christopher's Online Parish Calendar at [www.saintchristopherhoc.org/Calendar.php](http://www.saintchristopherhoc.org/Calendar.php) for up-to-the-minute details about upcoming events and services!



# February Prosfora Baking Schedule



The following families are scheduled to prepare Prosfora this month:

- Monday, February 1 (due Sun., Jan. 31 by 9:00 am) Pat MacDougall/Stella Christodouloupoulos
- Sunday, February 7 (due Fri., Feb. 5 by 4:00 pm) Georgia Lungaro/Claudia Sliwinski
- Sunday, February 14 (due Fri., Feb. 12 by 4:00 pm) Zenais Bassett/Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis
- Sunday, February 21 (due Fri., Feb. 19 by 4:00 pm) Costas and Tammy Soulakos/DeDee Panayis
- Sunday, February 28 (due Fri., Feb. 26 by 4:00 pm) Effie Sakkas/Susan Kleto

### PROSFORA BAKERS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Presbytera Marinda appreciates everyone's help and if needs arise, please contact her at [mtsahakis@comcast.net](mailto:mtsahakis@comcast.net) or (770) 381-1842.

## Schedule for Sunday Open/Greet and Close Teams – February



2/7	Danielle Dawkins Dina Tagalos Kearns Christ Vagotis
2/14	Tammy Soulakos Gail Ericsson Becky Butler
2/21	Kim Haldopoulos Georgia Lungaro Julie Skouteris
2/28	Steve Sarantis Claudia Sliwinski Sheryl Vasiliadis



**A big Thank You to all our volunteers, who help keep our Church clean and tidy!  
Your work is greatly appreciated!**

If you need to be scheduled on a certain Sunday of the month, please advise Claudia or Tammy of your preference no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. For example, for March, you will need to let us know your schedule by February 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

Please call or e-mail Claudia Sliwinski (678) 633-9916, [claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com](mailto:claudia.sliwinski@yahoo.com) or Tammy Soulakos (404) 625-4663, [Tammy@peachcity.com](mailto:Tammy@peachcity.com).

**Please join us for the  
Gyro Luncheon offered by our GOYA**

**(Good Will Offering)**

**Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, following the General Parish Assembly**

**GOYA News**

Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: GOYA Meeting, 10:30 am

Sheryl Vasiliadis and Anna Pelky, GOYA Advisors

**Don't want to cook? Let's EAT™**

**Tired of doing the dishes? Let's EAT™**

**Been meaning to eat out with your Family? Let's EAT™**

**Have you been putting off catching up with old friends? Let's EAT™**

**Wishing you had the opportunity to meet new friends? Let's EAT™**

**Join Us at Broadway Diner, 535 S Glynn St., Ste. 1009, Fayetteville**

**Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 am**

**Pascha Blessing**

Our next blessing of the prayer shawls will be in conjunction with Pascha and the shawls will be blessed on Sunday, May 15th. We will be sending the shawls to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) to be shared with the 2016 Mission Team going to Old Harbor in Alaska. Please make sure to use wool or wool blend yarn for all shawls.

It's cold in Alaska! Please contact Susan Kleto at (770) 253-8469 or [sbkleto@gmail.com](mailto:sbkleto@gmail.com) to either become a participant in this ministry, to receive yarn, to receive sew-in labels, to receive a Prayer Guide, or if you have any questions or suggestions.



# **STEWARDSHIP 2016: What About Giving? Stay the Course!**

Dear St. Christopher Faithful,

I am encouraged by this year's Stewardship efforts which have been in "full speed ahead" mode. To date, I can tell you I believe we are a Parish that sets the example others could point to and ask - what are they doing that drives their success? If I told you that an average church family gives approximately \$1,400 annually but that our parish family gives on an average of nearly \$2,000 annually, would you find that surprising? You shouldn't - we do! If you read the article I wrote in our December newsletter, you may recall that this year our Operational expenses were budgeted for an approximate 6% increase over last year. So far we have received a great response from our Parish family and we expect the trend will continue, allowing us to meet our goal to fund the projected budget increase! Although the Stewardship drive has concluded, my prayer is that if you haven't done so you will be encouraged to submit a pledge to our Parish.

This is such an important and exciting time for all of us. In addition to our Stewardship efforts, we are committed to changing gears now to our building fundraising efforts. It's time to go "full speed ahead". How do we make that happen? You've heard the phrase many times - "TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More"! It's true.

"But what can I do?" you ask. I used to ask myself the same question and after a fleeting thought and a half-hearted moment, I told myself it didn't matter if I did anything because someone else would do it. Besides, I convinced myself I didn't have time, I'm really not that important, no one would notice, and my contribution, either in Time, Talent, or Treasure wouldn't really make a difference anyway. One could conclude with that attitude I would never do anything to help the cause! Sound familiar? Not anymore for me because the Tom I just described above is no longer. Today's Tom is a new Tom, a different Tom, a committed Tom, a "Stay the Course" Tom who realizes that even the smallest effort matters. So my brothers and sisters, if you believe that what you may do or are considering doing to help is not important, nothing could be further from the truth!

There are many ways to say it, but I believe President John F. Kennedy said it perfectly in his famous speech "ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country". Let's take President Kennedy's words and apply them to our collective St. Christopher efforts.

In the coming days and weeks we will continue our building fundraising efforts. I will be asking for everyone to become a part of the cause. So now that you know what you do matters, this is a time to commit or recommit to something greater than yourself - helping to build our church! We will be calling a meeting for all to participate and that will be your opportunity to get involved. Remember - because we are family, we will share the burden, sometimes financially; sometimes with encouragement, but always with one common goal - through faith we are working for something greater than ourselves. After all, we are a TEAM.

Yours Faithfully,  
Tom Farmakis, Stewardship Chairman

# Peachtree City GreekFest 2016

Saturday, September 17, 2016

We need you!!

We have broken down the committees by managing chair, and then each committee will have a committee chair with their volunteers as follows:

	COMMITTEE CHAIRS	VOLUNTEERS		COMMITTEE CHAIRS	VOLUNTEERS
<b>MANAGING CHAIR:</b>			<b>MANAGING CHAIR:</b>		
<b>JULIE SKOUTERIS</b>			<b>KIRK PANAYIS</b>		
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT			SOUND / BAND / ANTHEM	KIRK PANAYIS	
GRILLS			MASTER CEREMONIES/ FLOW	KIRK PANAYIS	
APPETIZERS PREP/SET UP			PHOTOGRAPHY	KIRK PANAYIS	
DESSERTS PREP/ SETUP			GREEK DANCE	KATIE WILSON	
SERVICE LINE			SANITATION		
FOOD PREP/ SET UP			ST. CHRISTOPHER TABLE	FR. GEORGE TSAHAKIS	
CHURCH COOKING			PASTRIES TABLE	DEDEE PANAYIS	
GYROS PREP/ SET UP			WELCOME WINE TABLE	DEDEE PANAYIS	
<b>MANAGING CHAIR:</b>			<b>MANAGING CHAIR:</b>		
<b>TAMMY SOULAKOS</b>			<b>GEORGE PSIHOUNTAS</b>		
PROGRAM/TICKETS DESIGN			SET UP/ TAKE DOWN		
PUBLICITY/PROMOTION			DECORATIONS		
SPONSORS/ DONATIONS	GEORGIA LUNGARO		BAR		
PATRON SPONSHORSHIP			GREEK STORE		
SILENT /LIVE AUCTION			GOLF CARTS/ PARKING		
TICKETS/ CHECK IN			TOILETS		
HOSTESS			PHILOPTOCHOS TABLE		
VOLUNTEERS/ FLOATERS			DIRECTIONAL SIGNS		
			FIRST AID KIT		

If you are interested in volunteering to be a committee chair, please contact the managing chair. You will also have an opportunity to sign up on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the General Parish Assembly!

**!!! We need everyone's help!!!**



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. George Tsahakis, Protopresbyter (770) 381-1842

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Fr. George Tsahakis, Protopresbyter (770) 381-1842  
Julie Skouteris, President (770) 253-2722  
Tom Farmakis, Vice President (404) 428-7006  
George Psihountas, Treasurer (770) 298-4496  
Dina Tagalos Kearns, Assistant Treasurer (770) 527-4171  
Tony Vlachakis, Secretary (678) 379-9005  
Tammy Soulakos (404) 625-4663  
Kirk Panayis (347) 203-9324  
Stephen Sarantis (770) 719-1133  
Steve Theodorakis (414) 717-5887

**MINISTRY LEADERS:**

Altar Boys and Myrrh Bearers: Fr. George Tsahakis (770) 381-1842  
Building Committee Chairman: George Zavlanos (770) 253-6767  
Building Fundraising Committee: Tom Farmakis (404) 428-7006  
Chantors: George Skouteris (770) 253-2722  
Choir: Jeanie Ellinas (770) 487-5740  
Church Clean-up: Steven Wilson (678) 563-7250  
Church Maintenance/Repair: Stephen Butler (770) 461-1800  
Church Supplies Ordering: Pat MacDougall (770) 486-0580  
Education, Culture, & Youth Diakonia Committee: Tammy Soulakos (404) 625-4663  
Facebook: Katie Wilson (678) 563-7250  
Finance Committee: George Psihountas (770) 298-4496  
Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA): Anna Pelky (770) 463-2423 and  
Sheryl Vasiliadis (770) 252-7881  
Greet and Close Teams: Claudia Sliwinski (678) 633-9916  
Hellenic Dance: Katie Wilson (678) 563-7250  
Hellenic Language: (No teacher available at this time)  
H.O.P.E./J.O.Y.: Alexandra Vlachakis (678) 228-6280  
Newsletter: Susan Kleto (678) 877-9115  
Outreach Committee: Jeanie McGee (770) 252-7805  
Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): Helen Psihountas (770) 298-4493  
Peachtree City GreekFest 2016: Kirk Panayis (347) 203-9324, George Psihountas (770)  
298-4496, Julie Skouteris (770) 253-2722, and Tammy Soulakos (404) 625-4663  
Personnel: Tammy Soulakos (404) 625-4663  
Philoptochos: Katie Wilson (678) 563-7250  
Prosfora/Kolyva/Artoklasia: Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis (770) 381-1842  
Publicity and Real Estate Committee: Cynthia Cromartie (770) 487-7384  
Religious Education Program: Becky Butler (770) 461-1800  
St. Christopher Bookstore: Becky Butler (770) 461-1800 and Emilia Moraitis (678) 423-7951  
St. Christopher Library: Presbytera Marinda Tsahakis (770) 381-1842  
Stewardship Committee: Tom Farmakis (404) 428-7006

# Community Calendar February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Eve of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 5:00 pm Great Vespers 5:45 pm Divine Liturgy/ Community Dinner (non-fasting) 7:30 pm Outreach & Evangelism Mtg	<b>2</b> The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple (services offered on the Eve of the Feast)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 16th Sunday of St Matthew 7:45 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:45 am Rel Ed Classes 11:30 am Choir Meeting for ALL Choir Members Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Choir Practice  7:00 pm Parish Council Fellowship Dinner (Broadway Diner)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Presidents Workshop at Atlanta Cathedral for all Parish Council Members
<b>14</b> Sunday of the Canaanite 7:45 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:45 am Rel Ed Classes 11:45 am Parish Council Meeting	<b>15</b> Presidents Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee (Triodion Begins Today) 7:45 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:15 am Parish St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 10:30 GOYA Meeting 11:30 am Hellenic Dance Practice  <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>22</b>       <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>23</b>       <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>24</b>       <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>25</b>  6:30 pm Choir Practice      <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>26</b>       <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>27</b>       <b>Fast Free</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday of the Prodigal Son 7:45 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:45 am Rel Ed Classes 11:45 am Let's Eat, Broadway Diner, Fayetteville	<b>29</b>					