



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)  
[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org) | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

### Sunday, February 12, 2023

Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
 + St. Meletios the Great

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, February 12</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm GOYA Meeting in the Upstairs of the Parish House
<i>Wednesday, February 15</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, February 16</i>	5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the eve of the Feast of St. Theodore the Recruit
<i>Saturday, February 18</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service (1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Souls)
<i>Sunday, February 19</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Meatfare/Judgement Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House
<i>Monday, February 20</i>	Presidents Day—Office Closed
<i>Wednesday, February 22</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Parish House
<i>Friday, February 24</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study 5:30pm Divine Liturgy for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Souls, followed by the Memorial Service
<i>Saturday, February 25</i>	7:45am Young Adult Outing: Cantrell Center 5K and Brunch Feast
<i>Sunday, February 26</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:15pm Altar Boy/St. Photini Handmaiden Meetings in the Church 1:00pm Forgiveness Vespers for the beginning of Great Lent
<i>Monday, February 27</i>	6:00pm Great Compline on the First Day of Great and Holy Lent
<i>Tuesday, February 28</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, March 1</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (2/19) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis (2/26) Aleca Hortman, Rene Esquivel  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (2/16) Melanie M.; (2/18) Sarah D.; (2/19) Charles G., Jim L.; (2/22) Hazel D.; (2/24) Maria S.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (2/18) Joanna Patronis; (2/19) Cristina Lekas; (2/26) Natalia Saratsiotis  
**Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:** (2/19) Toula Tsamolias; (2/26) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (3/5) Maria B., Joanna P.

### Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

**To our Visitors and Guests:** We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

**Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!**

## Epistle Reading

*Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος,  
καὶ ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.  
Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος,  
καὶ τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ με.*

+++

*Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς  
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἀδελφοί, πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν, ἀλλ' οὐ πάντα συμφέρει· πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγὼ ἐξουσιασθήσομαι ὑπότινος. Τὰ βρώματα τῆς κοιλίας καὶ ἡ κοιλία τοῖς βρώμασιν· ὁ δὲ Θεὸς καὶ ταύτην καὶ ταῦτα καταργήσει. Τὸ δὲ σῶμα οὐ τῆς πορνείας, ἀλλὰ τῷ Κυρίῳ, καὶ ὁ Κύριος τῷ σώματι· ὁ δὲ Θεὸς καὶ τὸν Κύριον ἡγειρε καὶ ἡμᾶς ἐξεγερεῖ διὰ τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ. Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν μέλη Χριστοῦ ἐστίν; Ἄρα οὖν τὰ μέλη τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποιήσω πόρνῆς μέλη; Μὴ γένοιτο. Ἦ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ὁ κολλώμενος τῆς πόρνῆς ἐν σῶμά ἐστιν; Ἔσονται γάρ, φησὶν, οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν· ὁ δὲ κολλώμενος τῷ Κυρίῳ ἐν πνευμά ἐστι. φεύγετε τὴν πορνείαν. Πᾶν ἀμάρτημα ὃ ἐὰν ποιήσῃ ἄνθρωπος ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν· ὁ δὲ πορνεύων εἰς τὸ ἴδιον σῶμα ἀμαρτάνει. Ἦ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὸ σῶμα ὑμῶν ναὸς τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν Ἁγίου Πνεύματός ἐστιν, οὗ ἔχετε ἀπὸ Θεοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἑαυτῶν; ἠγοράσθητε γὰρ τιμῆς· δοξάσατε δὴ τὸν Θεὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν καὶ ἐν τῷ πνεύματι ὑμῶν, ἅτινά ἐστι τοῦ Θεοῦ.

*The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and He became my salvation.*

*Verse: The Lord chastened and  
corrected me, but He did not give me  
up to death. (Ps. 117)*

+++

*The reading is from Paul's First Letter  
to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)*

+++

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (15:11-32) Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις εἶχε δύο υἱούς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ νεώτερος αὐτῶν τῷ πατρὶ· πάτερ, δός μοι τὸ ἐπιβάλλον μέρος τῆς οὐσίας, καὶ διεύλεν αὐτοῖς τὸν βίον. καὶ μετ' οὐ πολλὰς ἡμέρας συναγαγὼν ἅπαντα ὁ νεώτερος υἱὸς ἀπεδήμησεν εἰς χώραν μακρὰν, καὶ ἐκεῖ διεσκόρπισεν τὴν οὐσίαν αὐτοῦ ζῶν ἀσώτως. δαπανήσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ πάντα ἐγένετο λιμὸς ἰσχυρὰ κατὰ τὴν χώραν ἐκείνην, καὶ αὐτὸς ἤρξατο ὑστερεῖσθαι. καὶ πορευθεὶς ἐκολλήθη ἐνὶ τῶν πολιτῶν τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, καὶ ἐπεμψεν αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς ἀγρούς αὐτοῦ βόσκειν χοίρους· καὶ ἐπεθύμει γεμίσει τὴν κοιλίαν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν κερατίων ὧν ἦσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου αὐτῷ. εἰς ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐλθὼν εἶπε· πόσοι μίσθιοι τοῦ πατρός μου περισσεύουσιν ἄρτων, ἐγὼ δὲ λιμῷ ὄδε ἀπόλλυμαι! ἀναστὰς πορεύσομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα μου καὶ ἐρῶ αὐτῷ· πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου· οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱὸς σου· ποιήσόν με ὡς ἓνα τῶν μισθίων σου. καὶ ἀναστὰς ἦλθε πρὸς τὸν πατέρα ἑαυτοῦ. ἐτι δὲ αὐτοῦ μακρὰν ἀπέχοντος εἶδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατήρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, καὶ δραμῶν ἐπέπεσεν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ καὶ κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ υἱός· πάτερ, ἤμαρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱὸς σου. εἶπε δὲ ὁ πατήρ πρὸς τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ· ἐξενέγκατε τὴν στολὴν τὴν πρώτην καὶ ἐνδύσατε αὐτόν, καὶ δότε δακτύλιον εἰς τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ὑποδήματα εἰς τοὺς πόδας, καὶ ἐνέγκαντες τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν θύσατε, καὶ φαγόντες εὐφρανθῶμεν, ὅτι οὗτος ὁ υἱὸς μου νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησεν, καὶ ἀπολωλὸς ἦν καὶ εὗρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο εὐφραίνεσθαι. Ἦν δὲ ὁ υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῷ· καὶ ὡς ἐρχόμενος ἠγγίσε τῆς οἰκίας, ἤκουσε συμφωνίας καὶ χορῶν, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος ἓνα τῶν παιδῶν ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἶη ταῦτα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου ἦκε, καὶ ἔθυσεν ὁ πατήρ σου τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν, ὅτι ὑγιαίνοντα αὐτὸν ἀπέλαβεν. ὠργίσθη δὲ καὶ οὐκ ἠθέλην εἰσελθεῖν. ὁ οὖν πατήρ αὐτοῦ ἐξελθὼν παρεκάλει αὐτόν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπε τῷ πατρὶ· ἰδοὺ τοσαῦτα ἔτη δουλεύω σοι καὶ οὐδέποτε ἐντολήν σου παρήλαον, καὶ ἐμοὶ οὐδέποτε ἔδωκας ἔριπον ἵνα μετὰ τῶν φίλων μου εὐφρανθῶ· ὅτε δὲ ὁ υἱὸς σου οὗτος, ὁ καταφαγὼν σου τὸν βίον μετὰ πορνῶν, ἦλθεν, ἔθυσας αὐτῷ τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτόν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· τέκνον, σὺ πάντοτε μετ' ἐμοῦ εἶ, καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐμὰ σὰ ἐστίν· εὐφρανθῆναι δὲ καὶ χαρῆναι ἔδει, ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου οὗτος νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησε, καὶ ἀπολωλὸς ἦν καὶ εὗρέθη.

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Cell: 770.256.0290

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday: call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

### Bulletin for the week of February 12, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Joanna Patronis

Video: Gray/David N. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek), Nadia Cazacu (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria McCluskey



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Savior has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

+ Our Father among the Saints, Meletios, Archbishop of Antioch (+381)

+ Our Devout Mother Maria of Alexandria (+6<sup>th</sup> Century)

+ Our Devout Father Anthony, Archbishop of Constantinople (+901)

+ The Holy Martyrs Saturninus and Plotinus (+304)

+ The Holy New Martyr Christos the Gardener (+1748)

+ Our Devout Father Aethelwald, Bishop of Lindisfarne (+740)

By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

### Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mode):

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You. (sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1<sup>st</sup> Mode):

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross. (sung in Greek and English)

- The Kontakion of the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (Της πατρῶας, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mode):

I revolted senselessly \* out of Your fatherly glory; \* I have squandered sinfully \* all of the riches You gave me.\* Hence to You, using the Prodigal's words, I cry out,\* I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father.\* O receive me in repentance, \* I pray, and treat me \* as one of Your hired hands.

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

**Sunday (2/12—No Fasting):** Mark 16:1-8; I Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32

**Monday (2/13—No Fasting):** I John 2:18-29, 3:1-8; Mark 11:1-11

**Tuesday (2/14—No Fasting):** I John 3:9-22; Mark 14:10-42

**Wednesday (2/15—Strict Fast):** Philemon 1:1-25; Mark 14:43-72, 15:1

**Thursday (2/16—No Fasting):** I John 4:20-21, 5:1-21; Mark 15:1-15

**Friday (2/17—St. Theodore Tyro—Wine+Oil):** II Timothy 2:1-10; Luke 20:46-47, 21:1-14

**Saturday (2/18—Saturday of Souls—No Fasting):** I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

### Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Angelo, Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Pete, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Marina, Alexi, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Cynthia (+December 25), Sharon (+December 28), Louis (+January 16), Kay (+January 23)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

### Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahotes, Aleksander Zajac

### Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Nate, Chad, Charlotte, Alexander, and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

### Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

**St. Gregory Palamas** on how the Devil influences us: "And not many days after," it says, "the younger son gather all together, and took his journey into a far country" (Luke 15:13). Why did [the Prodigal Son] not set off at once instead of a few days after? The evil prompter, the devil, does not simultaneously suggest to us that we should do what we like and that we should sin. Instead he cunningly beguiles us little by little, whispering, "Even if you live independently without going to God's Church or listening to the Church teacher, you will still be able to see for yourself what your duty is and not depart from what is good." When he separates someone from the divine services and obedience to the holy teachers (i.e. the Church), he also distances him from God's vigilance and surrenders him to evil deeds. God is everywhere present. Only

one thing is far away from His goodness: evil. Being in the power of evil through sin we set off on a journey far away from God. As David says to God, "The evil shall not stand in thy sight" (Ps. 5:5).

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!  
February 17: Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 13: John Staurulakis

February 14: Justin Lane

February 16: Adam Kangas

February 18: Lincoln Wells

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 12: Cheryl and George Stefanis

February 14: Eleni and Norman Adams

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

### Announcements:

\* **Shut-Ins:** If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

\* **Philoptochos News:** Next Philoptochos meeting will be Sunday, February 19 after the Divine Liturgy. Philoptochos is also taking a collection for the "Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Fund." May God bless those who are suffering and may the memory be eternal of those who reposed in the earthquakes.

\* **Blood Drive:** Thank you to those who were able to give blood earlier this month. Please mark your calendar for the next few drives: March 2nd, May 24th and July 19th. Not able to give blood but wish you could help? We are looking for volunteers to help out with the drive (meeting the American Red Cross to open the doors, setting up the main room, etc.), please contact Natalia.

\* **YOUTH:** GOYA meeting this Sunday! NEXT Sunday, GOYAns will be participating in the IOCC's National SOUPER BOWL OF CARING event, collecting monetary donations (to be sent to IOCC) and non-perishables (to be delivered to our food bank) after Liturgy and in Coffee Hour. Please bring donations if you're able! Reminder: St. Photini Handmaidens "Reboot" and Altar Server Workshop is on Sun 2/26!

\* **Congratulations** and God's Blessing to Aleksander Zajac and Sophia Cantrell who were united in Holy Marriage yesterday here at Holy Cross!

\* As there are still coffee fellowship spots available, we are seeking volunteers to host a second time. This is strictly on a volunteer basis. We have established a fund for repeat hosts/hostesses to aid in purchasing light food and beverages. Also, if the high cost of groceries is a deterrent, we invite first-time hosts/hostesses to use this fund. We welcome all contributions. Thank you very much for your consideration!