



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday

+ St. Photini the Samartian Woman

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fourth (Luke 24:1-12)

Mode of the Week: Fourth/Τέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, February 26

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

Καλή Σαρακοστή—A Good and Blessed 40 Days (Lent) to all!

Monday, February 27

6:00pm Great Compline on the First Day of Great and Holy Lent

Tuesday, February 28

6:00pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 1

5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House

Thursday, March 2

3-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House
 6:00pm Great Compline

Friday, March 3

6:00pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)

Saturday, March 4

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy for the 3rd Saturday of the Souls/the Miracle of St. Theodore and the Kollyva, followed by the Memorial Service

Sunday, March 5

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 Procession of the Icons at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Innocent Church in Bolingbroke

Tuesday, March 7

6:00pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 8

5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House

Friday, March 10

6:00pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)

Sunday, March 12

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy

Wednesday, March 15

5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/5) George Saratsiotis, Rene Esquivel; (3/12) Pete Tsamolias, Beth Zoumberis

Upcoming Ushers: (2/27) Charles; (2/28) Eleni+Norm; (3/1) Tassie; (3/2) Sarah; (3/3) Tassie; (3/4) Cleo

Upcoming Video Operators: (2/27) Natalia S.; (3/1) David N.; (3/3) Cristina L.; (3/4) Joanna P.; (3/5) David Z.

Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (3/5) Maria B., Joanna P.; (3/12) Aleca Hortman; (3/19) Philoptochos Luncheon

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

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ
Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός,
ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

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Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἢ
σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ
προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν.
Ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ
σκότους καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα
τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ
εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ
κόμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ
ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ, ἀλλ'
ἐνδύσασθε τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν
Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν
μὴ ποιῆσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίας. Τὸν δὲ
ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει
προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις
διαλογισμῶν. Ὃς μὲν πιστεύει
φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα
ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα
μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων
τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ Θεὸς
γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ
κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; τῷ ἰδίῳ
Κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει, σταθήσεται
δὲ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς
στῆσαι αὐτόν.

Pray and return to the Lord Your
God.

Verse: In Judah God is known; His
name is great in Israel. (Ps. 75)

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The reading is from Paul's Letter
to the Romans. (13:11-14, 14:1-4)

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Brethren, salvation is nearer to us
now than when we first believed;
the night is far gone, the day is at
hand. Let us then cast off the works
of darkness and put on the armor
of light; let us conduct ourselves
becomingly as in the day, not in
reveling and drunkenness, not in
debauchery and licentiousness, not
in quarreling and jealousy. But put
on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make
no provision for the flesh, to gratify
its desires. As for the man who is
weak in faith, welcome him, but not
for disputes over opinions. One
believes he may eat anything, while
the weak man eats only vegetables.
Let not him who eats despise him
who abstains, and let not him who
abstains pass judgment on him
who eats; for God has welcomed
him. Who are you to pass judgment
on the servant of another? It is
before his own master that he
stands or falls. And he will be
upheld, for God is able to make him
stand.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (6:14-21)

Cheesefare Sunday

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἐὰν ἀφήτε τοῖς
ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα
αὐτῶν, ἀφήσει καὶ ὑμῖν ὁ πατὴρ
ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος· ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀφήτε
τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τὰ παραπτώματα
αὐτῶν, οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἀφήσει
τὰ παραπτώματα ὑμῶν. Ὅταν δὲ
νηστεύητε, μὴ γίνεσθε ὥσπερ οἱ
ὑποκριταὶ σκυθρωποί, ἀφανίζουσι
γὰρ τὰ πρόσωπα αὐτῶν ὅπως
φανῶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις
νηστεύοντες· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ὅτι
ἀπέχουσιν τὸν μισθὸν αὐτῶν. σὺ
δὲ νηστεύων ἄλειψαί σου τὴν
κεφαλὴν καὶ τὸ πρόσωπόν σου
νίψαι, ὅπως μὴ φανῆς τοῖς
ἀνθρώποις νηστεύων ἀλλὰ τῷ
πατρί σου τῷ ἐν τῷ κρυπτῷ· καὶ ὁ
πατὴρ σου ὁ βλέπων ἐν τῷ
κρυπτῷ ἀποδώσει σοι ἐν τῷ
φανερῷ. Μὴ θησαυρίζετε ὑμῖν
θησαυροὺς ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ὅπου σῆς
καὶ βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ ὅπου
κλέπται διορύσσουσιν καὶ
κλέπτουσιν· θησαυρίζετε δὲ ὑμῖν
θησαυροὺς ἐν οὐρανῷ, ὅπου οὔτε
σῆς οὔτε βρῶσις ἀφανίζει, καὶ
ὅπου κλέπται οὐ διορύσσουσιν
οὐδὲ κλέπτουσιν· ὅπου γὰρ ἐστὶν
ὁ θησαυρὸς ὑμῶν, ἐκεῖ ἔσται καὶ ἡ
καρδία ὑμῶν.

The Lord said, "If you forgive
men their trespasses, your
heavenly Father also will
forgive you; but if you do not
forgive men their trespasses,
neither will your Father forgive
your trespasses. And when you
fast, do not look dismal, like the
hypocrites, for they disfigure
their faces that their fasting
may be seen by men. Truly, I
say to you, they have received
their reward. But when you
fast, anoint your head and wash
your face, that your fasting may
not be seen by men but by your
Father who is in secret; and
your Father who sees in secret
will reward you. Do not lay up
for yourselves treasures on
earth, where moth and rust
consume and where thieves
break in and steal, but lay up
for yourselves treasures in
heaven, where neither moth
nor rust consumes and where
thieves do not break in and
steal. For where your treasure
is, there will your heart be
also."

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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 26, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cristina and Jim Lekas

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek), Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Cheryl Schwartzkopf



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday (The Expulsion of the First-Formed Adam from the Garden of Eden)

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.

- + The Holy Martyr Photini the Samaritan Woman (+66)
- + Our Devout Father Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza (+420)
- + The Holy Martyrs Photo, Photis, Paraskevi, Kyriaki sisters of St. Photini (+66)
- + The Holy martyrs Joses and Photinos, sons of St. Photini (+66)
- + The Holy Martyr Sebastian the Duke (+66)
- + The Holy New Martyr John of Constantinople (+1575)

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 (Το φαιδρόν, 4th Mode):

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world. (sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st 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 Forgiveness Sunday (Της σοφίας οδηγέ, Plagal 2nd Mode):

O guide to wisdom, provider of prudence, disciplinarian of fools, and defender of the poor, fortify and discipline my heart, O Master; You, give me a word, O Word of the Father. For behold, I will not hinder my lips from crying to You: O merciful Lord, have mercy on me who have fallen.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

- Sunday (2/26—Dairy+Eggs+Fish+Oil+Wine):** Luke 24:1-12; Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4; Matthew 6:14-21
- Monday (2/27—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 1:1-20; Genesis 1:1-13; Proverbs 1:1-20
- Tuesday (2/28—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 1:19-2:3; Genesis 1:14-23; Proverbs 1:20-33
- Wednesday (3/1—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 2:3-11; Genesis 1:24-2:3; Proverbs 2:1-22
- Thursday (3/2—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 2:11-21; Genesis 2:4-19; Proverbs 3:1-18
- Friday (3/3—Strict Fast):** Isaiah 3:1-14; Genesis 2:20-3:20; Proverbs 3:19-34
- Saturday (3/4—Wine+Oil):** II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-5

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, Austin, Kiley, Garrett

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Louis (+January 16), Kay (+January 23), Michael (+February 7)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

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

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

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

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Macarios of Optina on the importance of not letting our bad feelings towards another to fester: "Do not allow the spark of discord and enmity to smolder. The longer you wait, the more the enemy tries to cause confusion among you. Be watchful, so that he does not mock you. Humility destroys all of his schemes."

St. Mark the Ascetic: "The sign of sincere love is to forgive wrongs done to us. It was with such love that the Lord loved the world."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 26: Fotini (Tammi) Cantrell

February 29 (28): Kassiani Andros

March 2: Eve McElrath

1st Sat. of Lent: Theo Drakopoulos

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 26: Carter Zoumberis

February 27: Jessica Holland

February 29: Marie-Louise Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 27: Georgia and George Saratsiotis

(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.

* **Blood Drive:** Our next blood drive is this Thursday, March 2. If you have not scheduled your appointment, please do so today! Thanks to Melanie Moye who has volunteered to open the doors for the American Red Cross. We are still looking for volunteers for the following two drives: May 24 and July 19.

* **Great Lent & Holy Week Preparations:** An email has been sent out giving parishioners the opportunity to participate in many different ways during Great Lent & Holy Week. Many have volunteered. Thank you! There are still some items available. If interested, please let Natalia know or send an email to office@holycrossga.org.

* **YOUTH:** Today after Sunday School: Altar Boy and St. Photini Handmaiden (for our female youth) meeting! Please bring an icon next Sunday for the Icon Procession for the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

* As there are still **coffee fellowship** spots available (for example, March 26), 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.

*Next Sunday, March 5th, there will be a **Pan-Orthodox Vespers** that will take place to commemorate the Sunday of Orthodoxy. This will be at St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Bolingbroke at 5:00pm. Fr. Theodore will concelebrate with the clergy there and some of our choir will be participating, as well. All are welcome!

* **Coin Boxes** to support the work of OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) will be available for pick up in coffee hour. These will be collected after Pascha.

* Philoptochos begins a **Lenten Food Drive** today—collection will take place in the Narthex and the Parish House.