



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Circumcision of our Lord
 + St. Basil the Great

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)

Mode of the Week: Fourth/Τέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, January 1, 2023</i>	9:45am Orthros 11:00am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great Cutting of the Vasilopita at the end of the Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship following the Liturgy in the Parish House
<i>Wednesday, January 4</i>	3–7pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Church Library
<i>Thursday, January 5</i>	9:30am Royal (Great) Hours of Theophany/Epiphany 6:00pm Vespers Liturgy on the Eve of Theophany, followed by the Blessing of the Waters
<i>Friday, January 6</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Theophany, followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters
<i>Saturday, January 7</i>	9:00am Divine Liturgy on the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
<i>Sunday, January 8</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Blessing of the 2023 Parish Council at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm GOYA Meeting in the Parish House 1:00pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, January 11</i>	6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Parish House
<i>Friday, January 13</i>	10:00am Book Study (Place TBD)
<i>Saturday, January 14</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, January 15</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 12 th Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
<i>Sunday, January 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 15 th Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (1/8) Pete Tsamolias, Erick Schwartzkopf; (1/15) Aleca Hortman, Panos Drakopoulos
Upcoming Ushers: (1/8) Cristina and Jim Lekas; (1/15) Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf; (1/22) Charles G., David Z.
Upcoming Video Operators: (1/5PM) TBD; (1/6) Joanna Patronis; (1/8) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/15) Gray, David N.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (1/8) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/15) Despina Passias; (1/22) Demetri and Hannah K.

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

Τὸ στόμα μου λαλήσει σοφίαν καὶ ἡ μελέτη τῆς καρδίας μου σύνεσιν.

Στίχ. Ἀκούσατε ταῦτα, πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, ἐνωτίσασθε πάντες οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν οἰκουμένην.

+++

Πρὸς Κολασσαεῖς Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, βλέπετε μή τις ὑμᾶς ἔσται ὁ συλαγωγῶν διὰ τῆς φιλοσοφίας καὶ κενῆς ἀπάτης, κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου καὶ οὐ κατὰ Χριστόν· ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ κατοικεῖ πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς Θεότητος σωματικῶς, καὶ ἐστὲ ἐν αὐτῷ πεπληρωμένοι, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ πάσης ἀρχῆς καὶ ἐξουσίας, ἐν ᾧ καὶ περιετμήθητε περιτομῇ ἀχειροποιήτῳ ἐν τῇ ἀπεκδύσει τοῦ σώματος τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν τῆς σαρκός, ἐν τῇ περιτομῇ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, συνταφέντες αὐτῷ ἐν τῷ βαπτίσματι, ἐν ᾧ καὶ συνηγέρθητε διὰ τῆς πίστεως τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἐγεύραντος αὐτὸν ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν.

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart, understanding.

Verse: Hear this, all you nations; give ear, all you inhabitants of the world.

(Ps. 48)

+++

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Colossians.

(2:8-12)

+++

Brethren, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (2:20-21, 40-52)

The Circumcision of the Lord

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ὑπέστρεψαν οἱ ποιμένες δοξάζοντες καὶ αἰνοῦντες τὸν Θεὸν ἐπὶ πᾶσιν οἷς ἤκουσαν καὶ εἶδον καθὼς ἐλαλήθη πρὸς αὐτούς. Καὶ ὅτε ἐπλήσθησαν ἡμέραι ὀκτῶ τοῦ περιτεμεῖν αὐτόν, καὶ ἐκλήθη τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦς, τὸ κληθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀγγέλου πρὸ τοῦ συλληφθῆναι αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ. Τὸ δὲ παιδίον ἠῤῥξανε καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο πληρούμενον σοφία, καὶ χάρις Θεοῦ ἦν ἐπ' αὐτό. Καὶ ἐπορεύοντο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ κατ' ἔτος εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ τῇ ἑορτῇ τοῦ πάσχα. Καὶ ὅτε ἐγένετο ἐτῶν δώδεκα, ἀναβαινόντων αὐτῶν κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἑορτῆς καὶ τελειωσάντων τὰς ἡμέρας, ἐν τῷ ὑποστρέφειν αὐτούς ὑπέμεινεν Ἰησοῦς ὁ παῖς ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ, καὶ οὐκ ἔγνωσαν οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ. Νομίσαντες δὲ αὐτὸν εἶναι ἐν τῇ συνοδίᾳ ἤλθον ἡμέρας ὁδὸν καὶ ἀνεζήτησαν αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς συγγενεῦσιν καὶ τοῖς γνωστοῖς, καὶ μὴ εὐρόντες ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ ἀναζητοῦντες αὐτόν. Καὶ ἐγένετο μετὰ ἡμέρας τρεῖς εὗρον αὐτὸν ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ καθεζόμενον ἐν μέσῳ τῶν διδασκάλων καὶ ἀκούοντα αὐτῶν καὶ ἐπερωτῶντα αὐτούς· ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες οἱ ἀκούοντες αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῇ συνέσει καὶ ταῖς ἀποκρίσεσιν αὐτοῦ. Καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν ἐξεπλάγησαν, καὶ πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν· Τέκνον, τί ἐποίησας ἡμῖν οὕτως; ἰδοὺ ὁ πατήρ σου κἀγὼ ὀδυνώμενοι ἐζητοῦμέν σε. Καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς· Τί ὅτι ἐζητεῖτέ με; οὐκ ἤδειτε ὅτι ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρός μου δεῖ εἶναί με; καὶ αὐτοὶ οὐ ἤ συνῆκαν τὸ ῥῆμα ὃ ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς. Καὶ κατέβη μετ' αὐτῶν καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς Ναζαρέτ, καὶ ἦν ὑποτασσόμενος αὐτοῖς. Ἡ δὲ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ διετήρει πάντα τὰ ῥήματα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς. Καὶ Ἰησοῦς προέκοπτεν σοφία καὶ ἡλικία καὶ χάριτι παρὰ Θεῶ καὶ ἀνθρώπων.

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

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 January 1, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

Video: David Z. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Diana Cazacu (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ The Circumcision in the flesh of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Since the Mosaic Law commands that if a woman give birth to a male child, he should be circumcised in the foreskin of his flesh on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-3), on this, the eighth day from His Nativity, our Saviour accepted the circumcision commanded by the Law. According to the command of the Angel, He received the Name which is above every name: JESUS, which means "Saviour" (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31, 2:21).

+ Our Father among the Saints, Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (+379)

He was a bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). He was an influential theologian who supported the Nicene Creed and opposed the heresies of the early Christian church, fighting against both Arianism and the followers of Apollinaris of Laodicea. His ability to balance his theological convictions with his political connections made Basil a powerful advocate for the Nicene position. In addition to his work as a theologian, Basil was known for his care of the poor and underprivileged. Basil established guidelines for monastic life which focus on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual labor. Together with St. Pachomius, he is remembered as a father of communal monasticism in Eastern Christianity. He is considered a saint by the traditions of both Eastern and Western Christianity. St. Basil, together with his brother St. Gregory of Nyssa and his friend St. Gregory of Nazianzus, are collectively referred to as the Cappadocian Fathers. Our Church has given him, together with St. Gregory of Nazianzus and John Chrysostom, the title of Great Hierarch. In our Orthodox Christian tradition, he is referred to by the epithet Ouranophantos (Οὐρανοφάντωρ), "revealer of heavenly mysteries".

+ The Holy Martyr Theodotos

+ Our Devout Father Gregory, father of St. Gregory the Theologian (+374)

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. Basil the Great (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Hymn of the Circumcision of Christ (Μορφήν αναλωϊώτως, 1st Mode):

In essence being God, most-compassionate Master, * You assumed human nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling the Law, of Your own will * You accepted circumcision in the flesh, * to bring an end to the shadow, and to remove the passions that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to Your inexpressible condescension, O Word. (sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn)

- 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 after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of St. Basil (Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν, 1st Mode):

Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

- 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. (Greek+English)

- The Kontakion of the Circumcision (Ο των όλων Κύριος, 3rd Mode):

As the Master over all * has undergone circumcision, * so He cuts away the sins * of humankind in His goodness. * On this day, upon the world He bestows salvation. * And on high * does the Creator's hierarch Basil * now rejoice, for he is known as * a most divine and light-bearing mystic of Christ.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (1/1—St. Basil the Great—No Fasting):
John 20:1-10; Colossians 2:8-12; Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Monday (1/2—No Fasting): Hebrews 5:4-10; John 3:1-15

Tuesday (1/3—No Fasting): II Timothy 4:5-8; Mark 1:1-8

Wednesday (1/4—No Fasting): I Corinthians 4:9-16; John 1:18-28

Thursday (1/5—Eve of Theophany—Strict Fast):
I Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18

Friday (1/6—Theophany—No Fasting): Mark 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17

Saturday (1/7—St. John the Baptist—No Fasting): Acts 19:1-8; John 1:29-34

Prayer Requests:

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

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Nicholas (+November 9), John (+November 13), Janice (+December 12), Cynthia (+December 25), Sharon (+December 28)

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. Nikola Velimirovic (Sebrian Orthodox Bishop) (+1956) on Christ's Theophany/Baptism in the Jordan: "The Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. When John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of

the world" (John 1:29), and when John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation was shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them [immersion] and became alive again [the coming out of the water]; and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

January 1: Bessie Andros, Basil Ehmer, Betty Maxwell, Carter Vasili Zoumberis

January 3: Jennifer Kangas

January 7: John Apostolou, John Cacavias, Bryan John Gordy, Sean Morris, John Santon, John Staurulakis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday

January 2: Demetri Kostakis

January 3: Lukas Esquivel, Cristina Lekas

January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

January 3: Fr. Theodore and Pres. Stacey Ehmer

(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.

* Thank you to those who prepared **Vasilopites** for today and to the Philoptochos for taking up a collection to benefit the St. Basil Academy in New York.

* There is a Red Cross **Blood Drive** taking place in the Parish House this Wednesday, January 4 from 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Parish House. Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church to schedule an appointment. Thank you!

* The Feast of **Theophany** is on the horizon (January 6.) As is tradition, Fr. Theodore will be celebrating House Blessings with the Holy Water from the feast. An email has been sent with sign-up information. You can also contact Presvytera Stacey at 770-827-7145 for assistance in signing up.

Wishing you all a good and blessed new year of 2023. Καλή Χρονιά! Happy New Year!