



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, March 5, 2023

1st Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
 + St. Conon of Isauria

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fifth (Luke 24:12-35)

Mode of the Week: Plagal First/Πλ. του Πρώτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 5</i>	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
<i>Tuesday, March 7</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, March 8</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House
<i>Friday, March 10</i>	6:00pm 2 nd Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)
<i>Sunday, March 12</i>	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
<i>Wednesday, March 15</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House
<i>Friday, March 17</i>	4:30pm Orthodox Book Study in the Parish House 6:00pm 3 rd Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί)
<i>Saturday, March 18</i>	4:00pm Chant Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross Procession of the Holy Cross at the end of the Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival after the Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Lenten Luncheon after the Oratorical Festival 1:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, March 22</i>	5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Adult Study Class and Light Lenten Meal in the Parish House
<i>Friday, March 24</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers for the Annunciation with the 4 th Salutations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, March 25</i>	Lenten "Field Trip" to the Annunciation Cathedral for their Parish Name Day

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/12) Pete Tsamolias, Beth Zoumberis; (3/19) Aleca Hortman, Isabelle Sarasiotis
Upcoming Ushers: (3/7) Norm+Eleni A.; (3/8) Melanie M.; (3/10) Maria S.; (3/12) John A., Cleo B., Charles G.
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/8) Natalia S.; (3/10) Christina D.; (3/12) Gray Y., David N.; (3/15) Cristina L.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (3/12) Aleca Hortman; (3/19) Philoptochos Luncheon; (3/26) Presvytera Stacey

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

*Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν,
καὶ αἰνετὸν καὶ δεδοξασμένον τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς
τοὺς αἰῶνας.*

*Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας
ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν πόλιν τὴν ἁγίαν τὴν τῶν
Πατέρων ἡμῶν Ἱερουσαλήμ.*

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*Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, πιστεῖ Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραῶ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκακουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἁμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν· μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὀνειδισμόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπε γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεῶν, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψῶν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν Προφητῶν· οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκκλιναν ἄλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμpanίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

*Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
for You are praiseworthy and exalted
beyond measure unto the ages.*

*Verse: For You are righteous in all You did
for us, all You brought on us and on
Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers.
(Prayer of Azariah)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to the
Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)*

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Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:43-51)

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἠθέλησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ εὕρισκει Φίλιππον καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· Ἀκολουθεῖ μοι. ἦν δὲ ὁ Φίλιππος ἀπὸ Βηθσαϊδά, ἐκ τῆς πόλεως Ἀνδρέου καὶ Πέτρου. εὕρισκει Φίλιππος τὸν Ναθαναὴλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· Ὅν ἔγραψε Μωϋσῆς ἐν τῷ νόμῳ καὶ οἱ προφῆται, εὕρήκαμεν, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἀπὸ Ναζαρέτ. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ναθαναὴλ· Ἐκ Ναζαρέτ δύναται τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι; λέγει αὐτῷ Φίλιππος· Ἐρχου καὶ ἴδε. εἶδεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Ναθαναὴλ ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει περὶ αὐτοῦ· Ἴδε ἀληθῶς Ἰσραηλίτης ἐν ᾧ δόλος οὐκ ἔστι. λέγει αὐτῷ Ναθαναὴλ· Πόθεν με γινώσκεις; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Πρὸ τοῦ σε Φίλιππον φωνῆσαι, ὄντα ὑπὸ τὴν συκῆν εἶδόν σε. ἀπεκρίθη Ναθαναὴλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· Ραββί, σὺ εἶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, σὺ εἶ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὅτι εἶπόν σοι, εἶδόν σε ὑποκάτω τῆς συκῆς, πιστεύεις; μείζω τούτων ὄψη. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· Ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἀπ' ἄρτι ὄψεσθε τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεωγῶτα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ καταβαίνοντας ἐπὶ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of March 5, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Bill and Kiki Vasilopoulos

Video: David Z.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria and Joanna Patronis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

+ The Holy Martyr Conon of Isauria (+1st Century)

+ The Holy Martyr Conon the Gardener (+251)

+ Our Devout Father Mark the Monk and Wonder-worker (+5th Century)

+ The Holy Martyr Evlogios of Palestine

+ The Holy Martyr Evlampios

+ The Holy Martyr Archelaos and the 142 Martyrs with him (+308)

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 Sunday of Orthodoxy (Την ἀκραντων Εικόνα σου, 2nd Mode):*

We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offences, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn)

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον, Plagal 1st Mode):*

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate * with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born * for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. * For in His goodness He was pleased * to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, * and to raise up those who had died, * by His glorious Resurrection. (sung 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 the Annunciation (Τη υπερμάχω, Plagal 4th Mode):*

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (3/5—Wine+Oil): Luke 24:13-35; Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40; John 1:43-51

Monday (3/6—Strict Fast): Isaiah 4:2-5:7; Genesis 3:21-4:7; Proverbs 3:34-4:22

Tuesday (3/7—Strict Fast): Isaiah 5:7-16; Genesis 4:8-15; Proverbs 5:1-15

Wednesday (3/8—Strict Fast): Isaiah 5:16-25; Genesis 4:16-26; Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Thursday (3/9—40 Martyrs of Sebastia—Wine+Oil): Luke 21:12-19; Hebrews 12:1-10; Matthew 20:1-16

Friday (3/10—Strict Fast): Isaiah 7:1-14; Genesis 5:32-6:8; Proverbs 6:20-7:1

Saturday (3/11—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 3:12-16; Mark 1:35-44

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, Andy, Heather

Prayers for those recently reposed:

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. John of Damascus and his classic words regarding the veneration of the Holy Icons: "In times past, God, without body and form, could in no way be represented. But now, since God has appeared in flesh and lived among men, I can depict that which is visible of God. I do not venerate the matter, but I venerate the Creator of matter, who became matter for me, who condescended to live in matter, and who, through matter accomplished my salvation; and I do not cease to respect the matter through which my salvation is accomplished."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

March 10: Andrew Adams

March 11: Steve Douglas

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

None in the Records

(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.

* **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:** NOW is the time to register for the Oratorical Festival if you haven't already. See Presv. Stacey if you need assistance! It's just two weeks away, on March 19. The GOYA Lenten Retreat at the Diakonia Center March 31-April 2. Once again, Fr. Theodore is leading this retreat. Let Fr. Theodore or Pres. Stacey know if you are interested in attending!

* 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.

*This evening, 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. There will also be a light Lenten meal provided after the service. All are welcome!

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

* **Philoptochos** has begun a Lenten Food Drive: non-perishable food is being collected in the Narthex and in the Parish House. ALSO—All are welcome to join Philoptochos for the baking of Tsourekia (a traditional Greek sweet bread made for Pascha) on Saturday, March 11th beginning at 8:30 am. We hope to see you there!