



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Great and Holy PASCHA

+ Sts. Agape, Irene, and Chionia

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

Mode of the Week: Festal/Της Εορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Saturday night, April 15</i>	11:00pm Resurrection Service for Great and Holy PASCHA (until approx. 1:30-2:00am) - followed by communal meal to break the fast in the Parish House
<i>Sunday, April 16</i>	12:00pm Agape Vespers on Great and Holy PASCHA 1:00pm Pascha Picnic/Easter Egg Hunt
<i>Friday, April 21</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos 12:00pm Orthodox Book Study
<i>Saturday, April 22</i>	11:00am Greek Spring Fling (until 8:00pm)
<i>Sunday, April 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Thomas Sunday/Feast of St. George Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, April 25</i>	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, April 26</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Sunday, April 30</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Not So Young Adult Outing (Mercer Baseball Game)
<i>Wednesday, May 3</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Friday, May 5</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study
<i>Saturday, May 6</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 7</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Paralytic Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (4/23) Pete Tsamolias, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (5/7) George Saratsiotis, Diana Cazacu

Upcoming Ushers: (4/21) TBD; (4/23) Cristina+Jim L.; (4/30) John A., Charles G.; (5/3) TBD; (5/6) TBD

Upcoming Video Operators: (4/21) Joanna P.; (4/23) Cristina L.; (4/30) Gray Y./David N.; (5/7) David Z.

Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (4/23) Maria Mahoney; (4/30) Danaï Esquivel; (5/7) Maria and Joanna Patronis

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

Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος·
ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν
αὐτῇ.

Στίχ. Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι
ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος
αὐτοῦ.

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποιησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν ἄχρι ἥς ἡμέρας ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὐδὲ ἐξελέξατο ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς ἦν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐν πνεύματι βαπτισθήσεσθε ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἠρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ; εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὐδὲ ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ· ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσεσθέ μου μάρτυρες ἐν τῇ Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117)

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The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

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In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:1-17) Great and Holy Pascha

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσιν δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον, ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἱ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγεν λέγων· Οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, Ὁ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.' ") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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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 April 16, 2023

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Charles Glotzbach, David Zoumberis

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Richard Stewart (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Aleca H./Maria McCluskey/David Z.



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Great and Holy PASCHA

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): "... for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is our taste, in this age, of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. Something of this new and unending day is conveyed to us in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Together they comprise the symbol of the new time in which the Church lives and toward which she ever draws the faithful, from one degree of glory to another.

+ The Holy Martyrs Agape, Irene, and Chionia in Thessaloniki (+304)

+ Our Devout Fathers Felix the Bishop, Januarius the Presbyter, Fortunatus, and Septiminius (+294)

+ The Holy Martyrs Irene of Corinth (+250)

+ The Holy New Martyr Michael of Vourlae (+1772)

+ The Holy Monastic Martyr Christopher in Adrianapolis (+1818)

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):

- Hymn of the Resurrection (Χριστός ανέστη, Plagal 1st Mode):

Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Special Entrance Hymn (Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις, 2nd Mode):

Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

- Hypakoe of Pascha (Προλαβούσαι τον ὄρθρον, 4th Mode):

When the women with Mary had come before dawn, and they found that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel, "Why do you seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One who exists in everlasting light? See the grave clothes in the sepulcher. Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has risen and put death to death; for He is the Son of God who saves the human race."

- The Hymn of the Holy Cross is not sung today due to the feast.

- The Kontakion of Pascha (Ἐὶ καὶ ἐν τᾷ φῶ, Plagal 4th Mode):

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

PASCHA (4/16—No Fasting): Mark 16:1-8;

Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17

Bright Monday (4/17—No Fasting): Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; John 1:18-28

Bright Tuesday (4/18—No Fasting): Acts 2:14-21; Luke 24:12-35

Bright Wednesday (4/19—No Fasting): Acts 2:22-38; John 1:35-51

Bright Thursday (4/20—No Fasting): Acts 2:38-43; John 3:1-15

Bright Friday (4/21—Life-Giving Font—No Fasting): Acts 3:1-8; John 2:12-22

Bright Saturday (4/22—No Fasting): Acts 3:11-16; John 3:22-33

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, Alexi, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Alexie (+March 5), Jane (+March 17), Tasos (+March 21)

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. Gregory the Theologian on the Feast of Feasts (Pascha): "Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us— you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer ourselves, the possession most

precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honour our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—*Chronia Polla, Many Years!*

Pascha: Tassie Cantrell, Chloe Goss, Stacey Anne Goss

Birthdays—*Happy Birthday!*

April 16: Mary Monika Robinson

April 17: Tim Murphy

April 18: Cornelius Chiorescu

April 19: Georgia Karras

April 21: Sofia Danforth, Christine Sprouse, Mina Stewart

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.

* **Greek Spring Fling** this coming Saturday, 11am to 8pm! Please come assist—especially Youth, Young Adult, and Not So Young Adults!

* **YOUTH: Egg Hunt** on Pascha after Agape Vespers! Spring Fling gyro sale is counting on the GOYAns for their help! Sign up link is in the email from the office.

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

* **Pascha/Easter:** Easter Egg Hunt and Pascha Luncheon later today after the Agape Vespers. Please plan on attending so that we can celebrate the greatest day of the Church year together as a Church Family!

* **Philoptochos Elections** will be taking place next month in May. There are also still some Tsourekia available by donation.

* **Fr. Theodore** will be out of town this coming week from Monday to Wednesday.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!