

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

S P R I N G 2 0 2 3 Q U A R T E R L Y B U L L E T I N



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

859 First Street
Macon, Georgia 31201

Telephone: 478.621.0744

Website: www.holycrossga.org

Email: office@holycrossga.org

Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Instagram: HolyCrossMacon

SUNDAY SERVICES

(For services during the week, please visit our webpage)

Orthros	9:15am
Divine Liturgy	10:30am
Coffee Fellowship	12:00pm/ following Liturgy

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer
frtheodore@holycrossga.org

PARISH COUNCIL

Natalia Saratsiotis, President
Gray Yates, Vice-President
Charles Glotzbach, Secretary
Sarah Drakopoulos, Assistant Secretary
Maria McCluskey, Treasurer
John Apostolou, Assistant Treasurer
Melanie Moye, Member-at-Large

Father Theodore's Message

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Adam chose the treason of the serpent, the originator of evil, in preference to God's commandment and counsel, and broke the decreed fast. Instead of eternal life he received death and instead of the place of unsullied joy he received this sinful place full of passions and misfortunes, or rather, he was sentenced to Hades and nether darkness. Our nature would have stayed in the infernal regions below the lurking places of the serpent who initially beguiled it, had not Christ come. He started off by fasting (cf. Mk. 1:13) and in the end abolished the serpent's tyranny, set us free and brought us back to life."

+St. Gregory Palamas, 14th Century



March is the month where we welcome Spring. March is also the month where, this year, we partake in the spiritual springtime of the Fast – Great and Holy Lent – Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή. This is the time of the year where life begins to come forth, to be renewed again. Many of you know of my affinity for the Dutch language and culture. In Dutch, the word for Spring is *Lente*. It is obvious to see the connection there. In the Greek language, the word for Spring is Άνοιξη (Anoixie). This is a little less obvious to an English speaker, but this word literally translates to “opening.” Nature begins to open up during this season, to be renewed once again. The flowers are blooming, everything is turning bright green, and the birds are singing. At this same time of Lent, this same time of the re-opening of nature, the Church flings open once again the “gates of repentance” for us.

One of the most beloved hymns of this period begins with these words – “Τῆς μετανοίας ἀνοιξὸν μοι πύλας Ζωοδότα - Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life.” We may deceive ourselves into thinking that we can repent (or literally, turn back to the Lord) ourselves. But we cannot do this without the Holy Church that Christ established for us and for our salvation. The early Christians knew this reality – to be a Christian without the Church would have been unthinkable. They understood that we must be partakers of “The Way” in order to be instructed, guided, and molded in the Way and the Truth and the Life of Christ. Meanwhile, we are always tempted, as St. Luke says in His Gospel, for our hearts to be weighed down by the cares of this life (cf. Luke 21:34) and not fully engage in “The Way”. Yet, as St. John Chrysostom points out, “God has set up Churches like harbors along the coast, so that you may take refuge there out of the swirl of earthly cares and find peace and quiet. This is the place of green pasture, the place where the Lenten spring-time bursts forth.

This Lenten period gives us many, many opportunities to walk through the door and into this place of green pasture, Christ's Holy Church. Yet, that is not enough to simply be entering the doors of the Church. Our souls need the holy and spiritual discipline of fasting. As St. Gregory Palamas stated above, the command to Adam and Eve in the Garden was to fast. Yet, we know they disobeyed the commandment. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the New Adam, renews our human nature and begins His public ministry with fasting – showing us its utmost importance. St. John Chrysostom points out that fasting is to the soul what food is to the body. Our souls are nourished and lifted up through fasting. This is why the Church prescribes this most needful medicine for us at this great time of renewal, this time of rebirth and rebeginning. Let us take advantage of this most blessed time of the year, Great and Holy Lent, the Holy Fast, to allow ourselves to be refreshed and renewed in Him by walking through the gates of repentance which the Holy Church flings open for us and for our salvation!

With love in Christ's Service,



Fr. Theodore

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 9th

Orthros at 9:15am | Divine Liturgy at 10:30am
Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon at 12:00pm
Bridegroom Orthros at 1:30pm

Holy Monday, April 10th

Bridegroom Orthros at 7:00pm

Holy Tuesday, April 11th

Bridegroom Orthros at 7:00pm

Holy Wednesday, April 12th

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 9:30am
Holy Unction (Service of Holy Oil for Healing) at 7:00pm

Holy Thursday, April 13th

Vesperal Liturgy at 9:30 am
12 Gospels Service (Passion of Christ) at 7:00pm

Holy Friday, April 14th

Royal Hours at 9:30am (decorate Kouvouklion afterwards)
Great Vespers | Apokathilosis (Taking Christ Down from Cross) at 3:00pm
Orthros • Lamentations at the Tomb • Epitaphios at 7:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 15th

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (Proti-Anastasi) at 9:30am
(Families are asked to bring 1 dozen red eggs for tonight's service)
Resurrection Service at 11:00pm
Traditional Magiritsa soup following services in the Parish House

Great and Holy Pascha, April 16th

Agape Vespers at 12:00pm
Pascha Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 pm



Dying Eggs

In the Orthodox Church, Pascha (Easter) eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, with further symbolism being found in the hard shell of the egg symbolizing the sealed Tomb of Christ—the cracking of which symbolizes His Resurrection from the dead. Red Easter eggs are traditionally dyed on Holy Thursday, also known as Kokkinopempti (Red Thursday), because Holy Thursday is the day we commemorate the institution of Holy Communion. Eggs can also be dyed on Holy Saturday or any other day except Holy Friday, the most intense day of mourning.



A Note from the Parish Council President

Natalia Saratsiotis, president | natalia.saratsiotis@gmail.com

Fr. Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

First and foremost, I would like to thank Fr. Theodore for his spiritual guidance to our Parish Council and the members of Holy Cross. In addition, I would like to thank Holy Cross for entrusting me to be your president. This new endeavor is a humbling experience, and I will strive to do what is best for Holy Cross. Thank you to David Zoumberis and Alex Saratsiotis for the time you served on the parish council. I have learned so much from both of you and hope that with the grace of God, the parish council continues to do good work! I can honestly say that y'all have left me with some big shoes to fill! As sad as it is to see the two of you come off the parish council, I am just as excited to continue to work with those who remain: Sarah Drakopoulos, Charles Glotzbach, Maria McCluskey and Gray Yates. I am thrilled to have John Apostolou and Melanie Moye join the council as first-time members. As someone once told me...*"as long as everything starts with faith, prayer, love for Christ and His Church, and love for His people, everything else will fall in line"*. Keeping that in mind, here's to a successful and wonderful year at Holy Cross!

Many of you know I have been a member of Holy Cross since I was born. This church is my family and my home. I may be biased when I say this, but our parish is one of the best. I continue to be amazed at all our church family is able to accomplish! With that being said, there is a place for you! We have several ministries in our parish, and the parish council would love for you to be a part of one (if not more). Inside the Parish Directory, you will find a list of ministries. Contact the person in charge of that ministry and ask them about it. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact a parish council member or myself, and we will find a place for you!

Great Lent began on February 27th, and there are many preparations needed along with Holy Week. Please refer to the email that was sent out if you would like to volunteer for any of the areas needed. In addition to helping out, please take advantage of the services Father Theodore is offering. We are very fortunate to have a full-time priest who can serve our parish in the spiritual manner we need. A list of the services are in this quarterly bulletin (see previous page) as well as on our webpage (www.holycrossga.org). I pray that Great Lent and Holy Week will be a time of spiritual growth for our community, and that everyone will have a joyous Pascha!

In Christ's love,
Natalia Saratsiotis

Parish Council

The new board was sworn in on January 8th. Board members pictured to the right are (L-R): Maria McCluskey, treasurer; Melanie Moye, member-at-large; Sarah Drakopoulos, assistant secretary; Fr. Theodore, priest; Natalia Saratsiotis, president; Charles Glotzbach, secretary; Gray Yates, vice-president. John Apostolou, assistant treasurer, was sworn in on February 7th.



Pet Blessing

In honor of the feast day of St. Modestos (Dec 16), Bishop of Jerusalem and intercessor for animals, we had a pet blessing in the courtyard. Parishioners also brought donations to benefit the Houston County Humane Society.



Happy New Year!

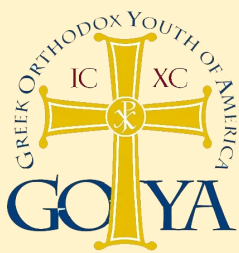
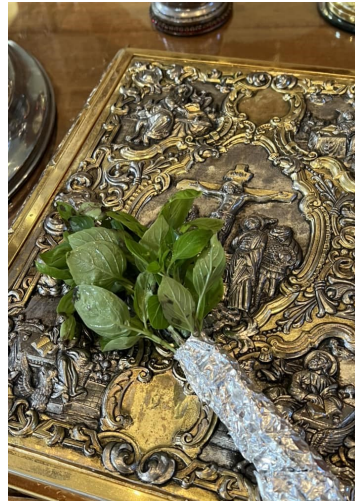
Blessed Feast of St. Basil, blessed Feast of the Circumcision of Christ, and Happy New Year! And extra blessings to the Philoptochos and everyone who received the coin!

May their blessings be multiplied to all they serve!



Epiphany/Theophany

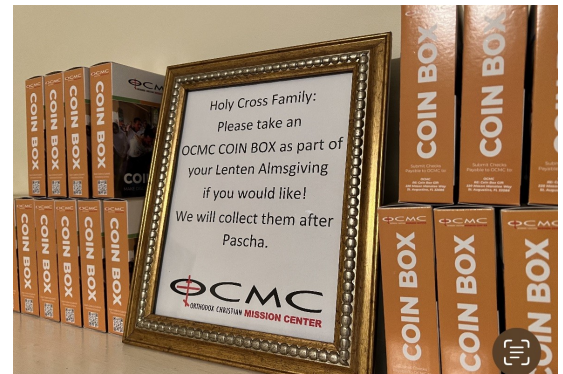
Therefore, O King, the Lover of mankind, be present even now through the descent of Your Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water.



Luke Zoumeris
(president)
Mary Katherine Saratsiotis
(vice-president)
Carter Zoumeris
(secretary)
Dominic Economopoulos
(treasurer)



GOYA Members shop with the funds Philoptochos collected for Toys for Tots



Holy Cross parishioners are encouraged to take home an OCMC Coin Box as part of their Lenten Almsgiving. Please fill the boxes with your loose change and dollars and remember to pray for Orthodox missionaries around the world and the people they serve!



Getting ready for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" Food Drive in support of the International Orthodox Christian Charities



GOYA collected \$315 to be sent to IOCC and these non-perishables will be donated and delivered to our downtown neighbor, the Loaves & Fishes Ministry



Dear Holy Cross Parishioners,

Philoptochos is a Greek word which means "friends of the poor", and as a member of this amazing organization, you have the opportunity to help those less fortunate, such as the poor, hungry, and destitute. The Philoptochos Society has a rich history as the philanthropic arm of The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and one of the largest groups of its kind in the world.

Our local chapter has a rich history from the dedication of our founding members, and the group was originally called SAE (Sophia, Agape and Elpis). This group eventually transitioned into our current Philoptochos Chapter. Their service to the church was immeasurable and their legacy continues.

Thank you returning members! If you have recently joined our chapter, we thank you and welcome you! If you are considering joining, please don't hesitate.

This past December was quite busy with our pastry fundraiser, the Christmas social and community outreach. We were able to deliver gifts to the residents of a Warner Robins nursing home with the help of Amanda Lord, who coordinated the visit. We adopted a local family, with gifts, gift cards and food. We continue

VENMO: @HOLYCROSS-PHILOPTOCHOS

to work with our local Backpack Ministry delivering weekend food bags to Union Elementary students. I am grateful to our faithful volunteers who step up to help us get things done.

Our Philoptochos was fortunate to get the coin on Vasilopita Sunday... which means we will have a blessed year and continue to do good things for our community!

Sarah Drakopoulos



National Wear Red Day

Philoptochos and members of Holy Cross wore red to raise awareness for cardiovascular disease and women's heart health!

Philoptochos Giving Back

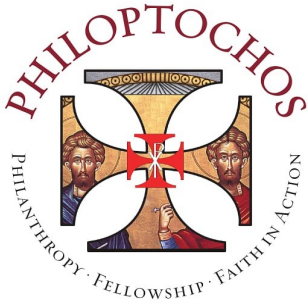
Our community adopted a family and a nursing home for Christmas. Sarah and Michael Drakopoulos were able to deliver the items and see the joy on the faces of many.



Philoptochos Christmas Fellowship

Members met at Kudzu Seafood for dinner and an ornament exchange followed by a lovely stroll through downtown to see the Macon Christmas Light Extravaganza.





Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
 Panagia Prousiotissa Chapter #5055
 2023 Stewardship Form
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
 859 First Street | Macon, GA 31201
 478.621.0744

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CITY/STATE/ZIP
PHONE:
EMAIL:

In gratitude for God’s blessings, I pledge the following for Christ’s work as a Philoptochos member. My donation will be allocated to Local, Metropolis and National Philoptochos as follows:

Chapter (Local Philoptochos Stewardship) PLEASE CIRCLE: \$15 \$20 \$25 Other _____	\$ _____ Local Chapter
National donation per member:	\$15.00 National Philoptochos
Metropolis donation per member:	\$10.00 Metropolis
My total Philoptochos donation (total all three lines)	\$ _____ TOTAL
I would like to become a member of Philoptochos; however, I need assistance with my stewardship. (check box to right)	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK HERE FOR ASSISTANCE

Mail form and check (payable to Philoptochos) to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church | ATTN: PHILOPTOCHOS | 859 First Street | Macon, GA 31201
We accept VENMO: @HolyCross-Philoptochos (Please write Stewardship in memo)

I would like to offer MY TALENTS to assist the following Philoptochos efforts (PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

	Visit homebound / Call those who are sick
	Prepare/Organize meals for sick
	Baking (Please circle all that apply): Koulourakia Kourambiedes Vasilopita Fanouropita
	Cherry Blossom Chairman and/or Co-Chairman
	Holiday Fundraiser Chairman and/or Co-Chairman
	Lenten Luncheon Chairman and/or Co-Chairman
	Social Committee Chairman and/or Co-Chairman
	Backpack Ministry
	Send photographs electronically in to Philoptochos Communications
	Children’s Committee Chairmen (work with Sunday school teachers)
	Food Drives (Middle Georgia Food Bank)
	I would like to sponsor a potential Philoptochos member who needs financial assistance on their Philoptochos stewardship.

Youth

Presvytera Stacey Ehmer
 Youth Ministry Director
pres.stacey@holycrossga.org



Youth Bowling at Pin Strikes Macon

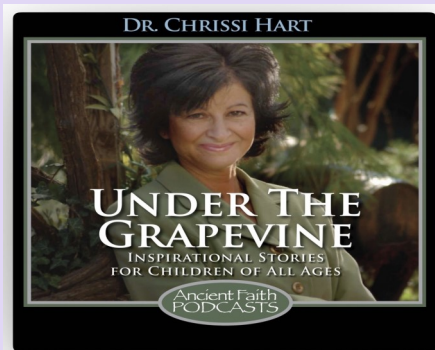
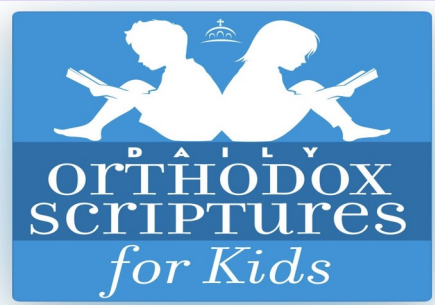
We just started Great Lent on Monday, February 27th. This means we have been gifted the perfect stretch of time to intentionally, carefully, and faithfully prepare for the death and resurrection of Christ our God - the pinnacle of our

entire church calendar! The center of the entire "rhythm" of each year!

Remember that "Love at Lent" activity card set each family with children was gifted last year?! Now is the perfect time to pull them out and utilize them! (Talk to Presvytera Stacey if you didn't receive one).

If you or your kids are like me, you find the "pull" toward cell phone use/social media to seem stronger every day. In an effort to harvest some Fruits of this Lenten season, try adding any of these kid-friendly podcasts into your routine, to perhaps take the place of other social media outlets for a time: "Daily Orthodox Scripture for Kids", "Be The Bee", and "Under the Grapevine". Brothers and sisters in Christ, forgive me the sinner. Blessed Lent to us all!

Love in Christ,
 Presvytera Stacey



★ PLEASE NOTE
 MY NEW EMAIL!
[PRES.STACEY@
 HOLYCROSSGA.ORG](mailto:pres.stacey@holycrossga.org)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARCH

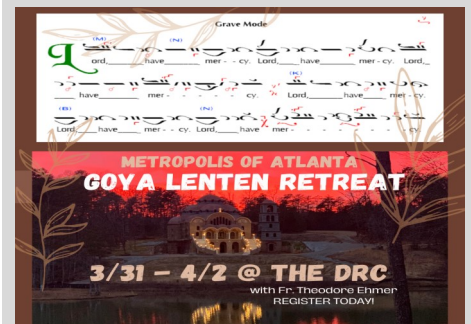
12: 2nd Sunday GOYA meeting

19: Parish Level St. John

Chrysostom Oratorical

Festival (SJCOF)

31-April 2: GOYA Lenten Retreat
at the DRC led by Fr. Theodore!



APRIL

8: Saturday of Lazarus Mini
Retreat

22: Conference Level SJCOF in
Peachtree City

MAY

12-14: Metropolis Level SJCOF in
Charlotte

14: 2nd Sunday GOYA meeting

21: Last day of Sunday School/
Sundaes



The Nativity of Christ

Our youth, as a "living icon" of the story of the Incarnation, bring us hope and joy!



Christmas Caroling

*"We went caroling, caroling, through the *rain*,
Christmas bells were ringing..."*

Members of Holy Cross enjoyed the blessing of being with Eve, Christine, Irene, Pete, Mike, Kassiani, and Tom & Chrissy in their homes singing carols, kalanda, and the apolytikion of the Nativity!

We finished the night at 2 Guys & A Pie since Luke Zoumberis had to work and could not join us!



Godparent Sunday



St. Photini Handmaidens Reboot



Altar Servers Workshop



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Barron (ACHOD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 5th	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 12th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 19th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 26th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 5th	 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32:12-2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 12th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 19th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF-WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14:5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34:9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bowl!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 26th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 2nd	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32:45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY APRIL 9th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4:9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 14th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 16th NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

SPRING FLING

GYROS | GREEK FRIES | TIROPITAS | LOUKOUMADES

APRIL 22, 2023 11AM - 8PM

Calling All

GOYANS | YOUNG ADULTS
& NOT-SO-YOUNG ADULTS

Let's give back to the Holy Oldies and thank them for all they have passed on to us! The Spring Fling is a one-day, easy breezy, fun day! Please plan on coming to help out!

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2023!!!

The graphic features a blue background with white and yellow accents. On the left, there is an illustration of a Greek church with a dome and a cross, a sun with rays, and a bouzouki. The text is arranged on the right side. At the top, it says '16TH ANNUAL' in white. Below that, 'CENTRAL GEORGIA' is written in a stylized, blocky font. The main title 'GREEK FESTIVAL' is in large, white, blocky letters with a blue outline. Below the title, a yellow banner contains the text 'FULL FESTIVAL PLUS DRIVE-THRU PRE-ORDERS'. Underneath that, 'OCTOBER 20-22' is written in white. Below the dates, 'Greek Cuisine • Live Music • Dancing' is written in white. At the bottom, 'PRESENTED BY HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH' is written in white. At the very bottom, the address '859 FIRST STREET • DOWNTOWN MACON • 478.621.0744' is written in white, followed by a Facebook icon.

16TH ANNUAL
CENTRAL GEORGIA
GREEK FESTIVAL
FULL FESTIVAL PLUS DRIVE-THRU PRE-ORDERS
OCTOBER 20-22
Greek Cuisine • Live Music • Dancing
PRESENTED BY HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
859 FIRST STREET • DOWNTOWN MACON • 478.621.0744 



20's/30's

Interested in organizing an outing, contact Fr. Theodore or Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

DECEMBER OUTING

Hockey night at the Macon Mayhem game and open skate



JANUARY OUTING

House Blessing, Potluck and Game Night at the home of Sofia Lekas.



FEBRUARY OUTING

House Blessing and Brunch at the home of Christina Danforth.



40's/50's

Interested in organizing an outing, contact David or Beth Zoumeris

DECEMBER OUTING

Mercer Basketball game...Go Bears!



JANUARY OUTING

Trivia Night at The Society Garden



FEBRUARY OUTING

Mimosas and Pancakes at Cracker Barrel



SOCIAL 60s+ GROUP

We are excited to have started the Social 60+ Group! After the Cantrell 5K, they joined the NSYA group at Cracker Barrel for Mimosas and Pancakes!

Up Next: Kathy Patras will be hosting a game night at her house with light snacks. More information to come!



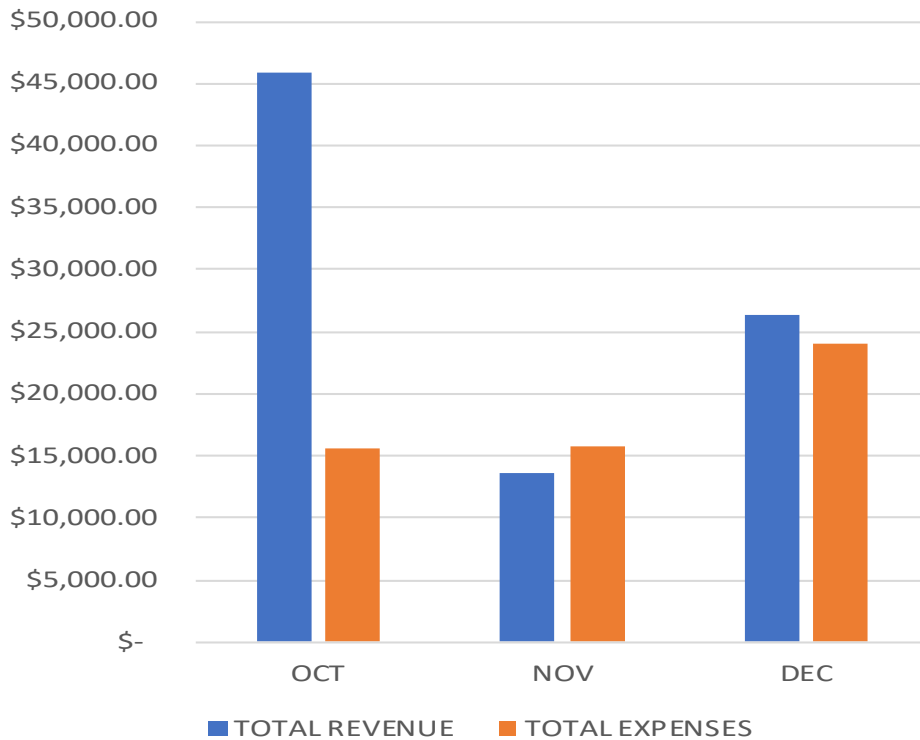
CANTRELL 5K

Holy Cross members supported Tassie Cantrell and the Cantrell 5K. Congratulations to Sofia who finished 2nd in her age group (females 25-29) and to Erick who finished 3rd in his age group (males 50-54)!



QUARTER 4 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE VS EXPENSES



Thank you all for your contributions and continued support toward the growth and future of our Parish!

This has been an amazing year with so much being accomplished for the wonderful improvements made to our beautiful church!

Looking forward to the new year!

To access information about any financial giving, please visit our online giving link:

<http://holycross.ga.org/online-giving>

Maria McCluskey
2023 PC Treasurer

	OCT	NOV	DEC
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 45,933.25	\$ 13,656.92	\$ 26,400.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 15,614.85	\$ 15,851.50	\$ 23,991.61
NET/DEFICIT	\$ 30,318.40	\$ (2,194.58)	\$ 2,408.70

Please note these values do not include reserves from Festival Account



American Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE

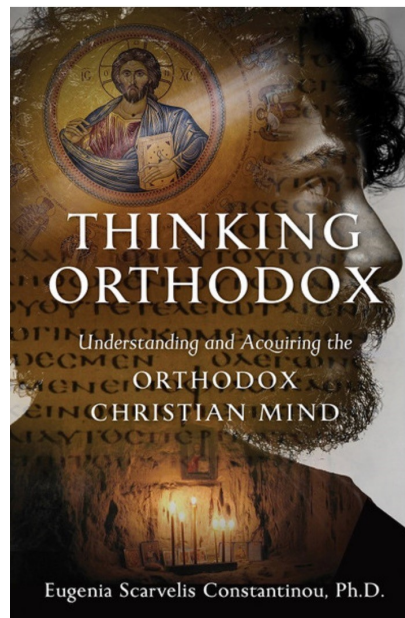
MARCH 2ND | MAY 24TH | JULY 19TH
3PM—7PM | PARISH HOUSE

Give Blood • Give Life



SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT TODAY!
PLEASE CONSIDER
SIGNING UP AND
DONATING BLOOD!

ORTHODOX BOOK STUDY



EVERY OTHER
FRIDAY
@ 10AM

SEE WEEKLY
BULLETIN FOR
LOCATION

IT'S NEVER TOO
LATE TO JOIN!

ORDER YOUR
COPY TODAY!

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLEO BENNETTE, EMILY DERMATAS, ROZA HARRIS, CRISTINA LEKAS, KATHYE PATRAS, CHERYL STEFANIS & KIKI VASILOPOULOS

The planning committee welcomes Kiki Vasilopoulos to the planning committee. She has studied iconography and will be a great asset to our team!

This past December, Iconographer Ari Kovaci visited Holy Cross for final measurements of our Sanctuary. Iconography plans and pricing will be forthcoming once we receive approval from our Parish Council and our Atlanta Metropolis. A special General Assembly will be held to present the iconography proposal. This is a process, but we are excited for this next phase in the beautification of our Holy Cross. All for the Glory of God!



IN THE PAST, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH SEEING A CARDBOARD BOX KNOWN AS THE "BURN BOX" IN THE BACK OF THE CHAPEL. WE NOW HAVE A MORE PERMANENT PLACE IN THE BACK OF THE CHAPEL TO DISPOSE OF HOLY/BLESSED THINGS. IF YOU HAVE ITEMS WITH ICONS ON THEM, THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN BLESSED IN THE CHURCH, ETC., THAT YOU WISH TO DISPOSE OF, PLEASE PLACE THEM INSIDE THIS BOX SO THAT FR. THEODORE CAN DISPOSE OF THEM IN A RESPECTFUL WAY (AS OPPOSED TO JUST THROWING THEM IN THE TRASH). THANK YOU TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR ACQUIRING THIS MUCH IMPROVED OPTION FOR THIS NEED.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

JIM LEKAS, ALEX SARATSIOTIS & DAVID ZOUMBERIS

It's hard to believe that January and February are already gone for the New Year! I'm sure you all have noticed our beautiful Magnolia tree in front of the parish house has disappeared. The parish council hired a tree service, and unfortunately, they informed them that the tree was diseased and needed to come down. We will certainly miss that gorgeous tree. We are already in discussion about filling the void that it has created. We are still looking for estimates and recommendations for the back courtyard.

Now that the outside work is done on the church, we have to shift our focus to the parish house. The house is in need of some wood rot repairs and a good paint job. We will try and get some estimates, and hopefully this can be accomplished by the end of the year.

Thanks so much to the Building Committee, Planning Committee, Parish Council, the leadership of Fr. Theodore and everyone that was instrumental in the beautification of our church! I'm so proud of how amazing it looks as I drive by it on a daily basis! God is Great and continues to bless us!!!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: 4TH QUARTER 2022

TASSIE CANTRELL, SPYROS DERMATAS CHARLES GLOTZBACH & BETH ZOUMBERIS

For the year ending December 31, 2022, our Holy Cross Parish is blessed with 85 Family Units that participated in our financial Stewardship Ministry. We met our goal for the year in terms of Family Units and we surpassed our goal in terms of Stewardship contributions.

Family Units contributing in 2022: **85**
 Stewardship Contributions in 2022: **\$185,921**
 Family Units contributing in 2021: **76**
 Family Units contributing in 2020: **78**

Total Family Units on our Stewardship Ministry contact list: **123**

If you have not completed a stewardship card, there is still time! Extra stewardship cards are located in the Narthex and in the Quarterly Bulletin (see next page). If you need us to mail you a card, you can do so by sending an email to office@holycrossga.org.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Holy Cross.

PARISHIONERS BY LOCATION

Warner Robins (Houston-Peach-Pulaski)	44%
Macon (Bibb-Monroe-Jones-Crawford-Twiggs)	38%
Milledgeville (Baldwin-Putnam-Hancock)	7%
Americus (Sumter-Crisp-Dooley-Macon)	5%
Thomaston (Upson-Lamar-Taylor)	1%
Dublin (Laurens-Dodge-Telfair-Bleckley)	1%
Other	4%

ONLINE GIVING

VENMO: @HOLYCROSSMACON

CASHAPP: \$HOLYCROSSMACON

PAYPAL: @HOLYCROSSMACON

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at Baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments, or mysteries, of the Church and through our faithful offering of our entire selves to Jesus Christ.

Orthodox Christians interested in becoming a member of our Holy Cross parish need only to speak to Fr. Theodore and/or any Parish Council member.

Non-Orthodox who are interested in becoming a member of our Holy Cross parish need only to speak to Fr. Theodore so that their journey to Orthodoxy can be guided thoughtfully as a catechumen and the decision to become Orthodox can be made prayerfully and with peace and spiritual resolve.



What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

Circumstances change from time to time and all you need to do is let us know so we can plan and budget accordingly. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are part of this parish!

Christian Stewardship Is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

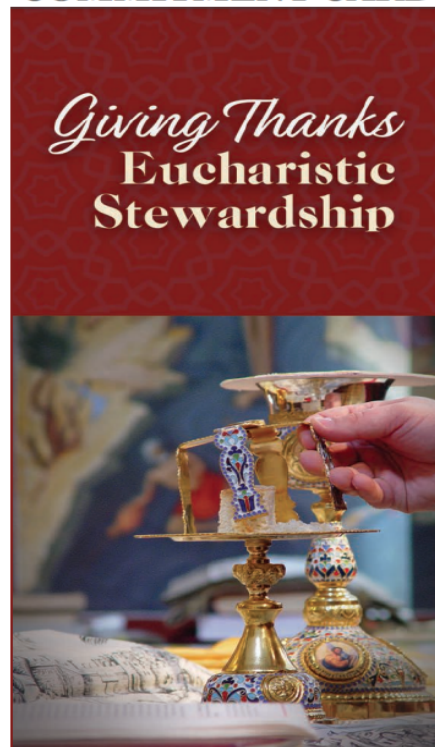
...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
DEPARTMENT OF
STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
Stewardship@goarch.org

COMMITMENT CARD



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
859 First Street | Macon, GA 31201
478.621.0744
www.holycrossga.org
office@holycrossga.org

Information

Name (Όνομα) _____

Date of Birth (Γενέθλια) _____ Name Day (Γιορτή) _____

Name of Spouse (if married) (Σύζυγος) _____

Date of Birth (Γενέθλια) _____ Name Day (Γιορτή) _____

Street Address (Διεύθυνση) _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Home Phone (Τηλέφωνο) _____

Mobile Phone (Κινητό) _____ Spouse Mobile _____

Email _____

Spouse Email _____

Date of Marriage (Ημερομηνία Γάμου) _____

Children's Names	Birthday	Name Day
_____	____/____/____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____	____/____/____
_____	____/____/____	____/____/____

**Family Name _____
Time & Talent _____**

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (). Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife and/or "C" for children.

EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore <input type="checkbox"/> Studies in the Faith <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Teacher	MINISTRIES <input type="checkbox"/> College Ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Missions Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Church Social Media <input type="checkbox"/> Philoptochos
YOUTH <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Program <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Dance Program <input type="checkbox"/> Oratorical Festival <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Family Night <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School	OUTREACH <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation (Shut-ins) <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Driver
LITURGICAL <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Chanter <input type="checkbox"/> Choir <input type="checkbox"/> Epistle Reader <input type="checkbox"/> Kollyva Maker <input type="checkbox"/> Prosforo Baker <input type="checkbox"/> Usher/Greeter	BUILDING AND GROUNDS <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening/Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Janitorial <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing <input type="checkbox"/> Repairs
ADMINISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Technical <input type="checkbox"/> Office Help <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Council <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee	FESTIVAL <input type="checkbox"/> Booth Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Festival Baking <input type="checkbox"/> Festival Worker <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up/Clean-up
COMMUNICATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Committee	SPECIAL EVENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Dive Committee

OTHER: _____

Why should I commit to give a tithe?

Tithing is a command in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Tithing is putting your faith into action. Your tithe provides Holy Cross with the funds needed to fulfill its mission.

What is my tithe used for?
The money you tithe is used to pay the salaries of those who work for the Church and to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings. It is used to provide education of our Orthodox Christian faith to children and adults. Tithe money in our church is used for running of the church and its ministries.

The measure of what you give is more precious in the eyes of the Lord when you give with your heart. **This is why tithing is so personal.** It truly is between you and God.

Always remember and answer two questions when considering the amount you tithe:

1. Is my tithe the Best I can do?
2. Do I have a peace about the amount I have pledged?

When you truthfully answer "yes" to both of these questions, you are fulfilling this important part of God's plan for your life.

Treasure
In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:
(Για τις ευλογίες του Θεού υποσχόμαστε να προσφέρουμε στον Κύριό μας και στην Εκκλησία Του)

Please check **one** of the following 3 options and enter an amount:

Weekly \$ _____
 Monthly \$ _____
 Annually \$ _____

Financial gifts can be fulfilled by:

- weekly envelopes on Sunday
- mail check to office
 Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
 859 First Street | Macon, GA 31201
 Attention: Stewardship

Would you prefer paperless statements?
 yes no If yes, which email address: _____
 Paperless Statements help Holy Cross financially. A written record can be obtained at any time if needed.

~ HOLY SACRAMENTS & SERVICES ~

Baptism

Maggie "Elizabeth"

Barhite

December 17th



Sponsor:

Natalia Saratsiotis

Weddings

Maggie Barhite &

Louis Bennette

February 4th

Sponsors:

Alex & Peter Milios



Sophia Cantrell &

Alek Zajac

February 11th

Sponsors:

Mikey Cantrell &

Betty Maxwell

Congratulations

&

God Grant you

many years!

Memorials

✝ Cynthia Jones

(Funeral) January 4th

October 9, 1944 - December 25, 2022

✝ Sam "Chuck" Ray

(1-year) February 5th

December 25, 1934 - February 2, 2022

May Their Memory Be Eternal!

EPISTLE READERS & FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	GREEK READER	ENGLISH READER	FELLOWSHIP HOST
March 5	George Saratsiotis	René Esquivel	Maria & Joanna Patronis
March 12	Pete Tsamolias	Beth Zoumberis	Aleca Hortman
March 19	Aleca Hortman	Isabelle Saratsiotis	Philoptochos
March 26	George Saratsiotis	Bryan Gordy	The Ehmers
April 2	Pete Tsamolias	Nadia Cazacu	Rodica Cazacu
April 9	Aleca Hortman	Angelika Passias	Philoptochos
April 16	George Saratsiotis	Richard Stewart	Parish Council
April 23	Pete Tsamolias	Cheryl Swartzkopf	Maria Mahoney
April 30	Aleca Hortman	Charles Glotzbach	Danai Esquivel
May 7	George Saratsiotis	Diana Cazacu	Maria & Joanna Patronis
May 14	Pete Tsamolias	Panos Drakopoulos	Katerina Iakovidou
May 21	Aleca Hortman	Cleo Bennette	Georgia Saratsiotis
May 28	George Saratsiotis	Sarah Drakopoulos	Cleo Bennette

BIRTHDAYS, NAME DAYS, & ANNIVERSARIES

If you would like your birthday, Name Day, and/or anniversary listed in our weekly bulletins or if there is a correction that needs to be made, please email the office and we will add it to our master list. Please email office@holycrossga.org for any corrections.

March

3.02 *Eve McElrath (N)
 *Theo Drakopoulos (N)
 3.10 *Andrew Adams (B)
 3.11 *Steve Douglas (B)
 3.13 *Anne Gordy (B)
 3.14 *Chloe Goss (B)
 3.17 *Norman Adams (B)
 *Alexa Economopoulos (N)
 *Alexia Passias (N)
 3.19 *Paige Crouse (B)
 3.20 *Henry Gordy (N)
 3.21 *Pete Nicholas (B)
 3.23 *Mary Hornbaker (B)
 3.26 *Charles Glotzbach (B)
 *Katerina Iakovidis (B)
 3.28 *Mary Katherine Saratsiotis (B)
 *David Needham (B)
 3.30 *Mikey Cantrell (B)
 *Lucas Lekas (B)
 *Peter Tsamolias (B)
 *Joan Cabral (B)

4.17 *Tim Murphy (B)
 4.18 *Cornelius Chiorescu (B)
 4.19 *Georgia Karras (B)
 4.21 *Mina Stewart (B)
 *Sofia Danforth (B)
 *Christine Sprouse (B)
 4.23 *Georgia Karras (N)
 *George Drakopoulos (N)
 *Richard "George" Stewart (N)
 *George Saratsiotis (N)
 *Georgia Saratsiotis (N)
 *George Lane (N)
 *George Cazacu (N)
 *George Stefanis (N)
 *Georgios Tarasidis (N)
 *George Benjamin Davis (N)
 *George Iakovidis (N)
 *Tennessee George Morris (N)
 *Norberto Hernandez (N)
 *George Gordy (N)
 *Tom Zdrakas (N)
 4.24 *Beth Zoumberis (N)
 *Caroline "Elizabeth" Saratsiotis (N)
 *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (N)
 *Tony Bennette (B)
 *Maggie "Elizabeth" Bennette (N)
 4.25 *Maria and Greg Spicer (A)
 *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B)
 *Marc Saad (N)
 4.26 *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B)
 *Tony Kallergis (B)
 4.29 *George Lane (B)
 *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)
 *Maria Murphy (B)
 *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N)
 4.30 *Despina Passias (B)
 *Mina Stewart (N)

May

5.01 *Taylor Zoumberis (B)
 5.03 *Tennessee Morris (B)
 *Dragos Filimon (B)
 *Mary Klaire Zoumberis (B)
 5.04 *Sarah Drakopoulos (B)
 5.05 *Theo Drakopoulos (B)
 5.06 *Beth and David Zoumberis (A)
 *Paul Vrahiotes (B)
 5.08 *Alyssa Syribeys (B)
 5.10 *Rebekah Bradford (B)
 *Marianna and Justin Lane (A)
 *Amanda "Isidora" Lord (N)
 5.12 *Katina Cacavias (B)
 5.14 *Jennifer Kangas (B)
 5.19 *David Lee Bradford (B)
 5.21 *Denna Bradford (N)
 *Eleni Adams (N)
 *Eleni Dermatas (N)
 *Eleni Saratsiotis (N)
 *Kostas Iakovidis (N)
 *Oliver Saxon (N)
 5.22 *Ana-Maria Filimon (B)
 *Steve & Cyndi Douglas (A)
 5.23 *David Zoumberis (B)
 5.26 *Cleo and Tony Bennette (A)
 *Erzebet Santon (B)
 *Emmy Young (B)
 5.27 *Steve "Bede" Douglas (N)
 5.28 *Brad Perry (N)
 5.29 *Nick Dermatas (B)
 *Bessie Andros (B)
 5.30 *Emmy "Emmelia" Young (N)

April

4.04 *Eleni Dermatas Evans (B)
 *Cheryl Stefanis (B)
 4.06 *Aleca Hortman (B)
 *Stephanie Lord (B)
 4.08 *John Santon (B)
 4.10 *Jim Lekas (N)
 4.11 *Effie Morris (B)
 4.12 *Christine Nicholas (B)
 4.13 *Betty & Spencer Maxwell (A)
 4.14 *Connor Morris (B)
 4.15 *Leo Economopoulos (N)
 4.16 *Mary Monika Robinson (B)
 *Stacey Goss (N)
 *Chloe Goss (N)
 *Tassie Cantrell (N)

March 2023

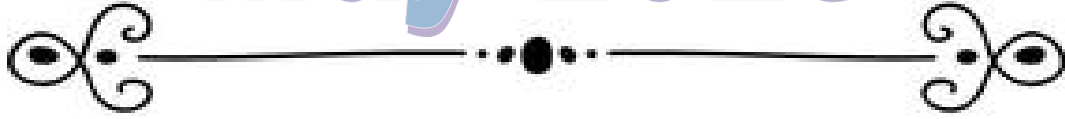
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	2 3:00-7:00pm Blood Drive 6:00pm Great Compline	3 6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos	4 Miracle of St. Theodore & the Kollyva 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy
5 Sunday of Orthodoxy 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ St. Innocent	6	7 6:00pm Great Compline	8 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	9 The Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebastia	10 6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos	11
12 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion	13	14	15 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	16	17 St. Alexios—Our Bishop's Name Day 4:30pm Book Study 6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos	18 4:00pm Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
19 Sunday of the Holy Cross 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Oratorical Festival following Divine Liturgy 12:30pm Philoptochos Lenten Luncheon 1:30pm PC Meeting	20	21 6:00pm Great Compline	22 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	23 Fr. Theodore at The State Capitol (Chaplain of the Day)	24 4:30pm Book Study 6:00pm Great Vespers and Salutations to the Theotokos	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy (Services at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta)
26 Sunday of St. John Climacus 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion 12:30pm Spring General Assembly	27	28 6:00pm Great Compline	29 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	30 9:30am The Great Canon of St. Andrew	31 GOYA Lenten Retreat 9:30am Akathist Hymn	
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil+Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

April 2023



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 GOYA Lenten Retreat
2 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion 12:30pm Usher Meeting with PC	3	4 6:00pm Great Compline	5 5:30pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:45pm Study Class & Lenten Meal	6	7 10:00am Book Study	8 Lazarus Saturday 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-3:00pm Youth Retreat with Lenten Pancakes 3:00pm Vespers
9 Palm Sunday 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School 12:00pm Philoptochos Palm Sunday Luncheon 1:30pm Bridegroom Service	10 Holy Monday 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	11 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	12 Holy Wednesday 9:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Unction	13 Holy Thursday 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Gospels - Passion Service	14 Holy Friday 9:30am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathilosis 7:00pm Epitaphios Service	15 Holy Saturday 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 11:00pm Anastasi - Resurrection Service
16 PASCHA / EASTER 12:00pm Agape Vespers Pascha Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt to follow	17	18	19	20	21 Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	22 11:00am-8:00pm Spring Fling
23 Thomas Sunday St. George 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion	24	25	26 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Study Class	27	28 10:00am Book Study	29 4:00pm Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
30 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil+Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Study Class	4	5 10:00am Book Study	6 4:00pm Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
7 Sunday of the Paralytic 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion	8	9	10 Mid-Pentecost 9:30am Orthros 10:30pm Divine Liturgy 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Study Class	11	12	13 4:00pm Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
14 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Mother's Day 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion	15	16	17 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Study Class	18	19 10:00am Book Study	20 4:00pm Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
21 Sunday of the Blind Man Sts. Constantine & Helen 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School following Holy Communion (Last Day)	22	23 9:00pm-12:30am Holy Vigil for Apodosis of Pascha	24 Apodosis of Pascha 3:00-7:00pm Blood Drive 6:00pm Great Vespers	25 Holy Ascension 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	26	27
28 Fathers of the 1st Council 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	30	31 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Study Class			
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil+Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

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