



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org) | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

**Sunday, June 25, 2023**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

The Holy Martyr Fevronia

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)

Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, June 25</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after the Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, June 27</i>	4:00pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, June 28</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Thursday, June 29</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul 7:00pm Intro to Orthodoxy Class (in the Church)
<i>Saturday, July 1</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, July 2</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, July 4</i>	Independence Day—Office Closed
<i>Wednesday, July 5</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Saturday, July 8</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, July 9</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Wednesday, July 12</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Saturday, July 15</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, July 16</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (7/2) George Saratsiotis, Nadia Cazacu; (7/9) Pete Tsamolias, Angelika Passias  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (6/28) Cristina L.; (6/29) OPEN; (7/1) Hazel D.; (7/2) Cheryl+Erick S.; (7/5) OPEN  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (6/29) Cristina L.; (7/2) Natalia S.; (7/9) Cristina L.; (7/16) David Z.  
**Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:** (7/2) Amanda Lord; (7/9) Tammi and Mike Cantrell; (7/16) Cheryl Schwartzkopf

### **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

*Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος, καὶ ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.*

*Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος, καὶ τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ με.*

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*Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, δικαιωθέντες ἐκ πίστεως εἰρήνην ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν διὰ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ καὶ τὴν προσαγωγὴν ἐσχίκαμεν τῇ πίστει εἰς τὴν χάριν ταύτην ἐν ἣ ἐστήκαμεν, καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐπ' ἐλπίδι τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ. Οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ καυχώμεθα ἐν ταῖς θλίψεσιν, εἰδότες ὅτι ἡ θλίψις ὑπομονὴν κατεργάζεται, ἡ δὲ ὑπομονὴ δοκιμὴν, ἡ δὲ δοκιμὴ ἐλπίδα· ἡ δὲ ἐλπίς οὐ κατασχύνει, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐκκέχυται ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν διὰ Πνεύματος ἁγίου τοῦ δοθέντος ἡμῖν· ἔτι γὰρ Χριστὸς ὄντων ἡμῶν ἀσθενῶν ἔτι κατὰ καιρὸν ὑπὲρ ἀσεβῶν ἀπέθανεν. Μόλις γὰρ ὑπὲρ δικαίου τις ἀποθανεῖται· ὑπὲρ γὰρ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ τάχα τις καὶ τολμᾷ ἀποθανεῖν· συνίστησιν δὲ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἀγάπην εἰς ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεὸς ὅτι ἔτι ἁμαρτωλῶν ὄντων ἡμῶν Χριστὸς ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἀπέθανεν. Πολλῶ οὖν μᾶλλον δικαιωθέντες νῦν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ σωθησόμεθα δι' αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῆς ὀργῆς. Εἰ γὰρ ἐχθροὶ ὄντες κατηλλάγημεν τῷ Θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέντες σωθησόμεθα ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ.

*The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation.*

*Verse: The Lord chastened and corrected me, but He did not give me up to death. (Psalm 117)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Romans. (5:1-10)*

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Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (6:22-33)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὁ λύχνος τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς· ἐὰν οὖν ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς σου ἀπλοῦς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου φωτεινὸν ἔσται· ἐὰν δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς σου πονηρὸς ᾖ, ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου σκοτεινὸν ἔσται. εἰ οὖν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἐν σοὶ σκότος ἐστί, τὸ σκότος πόσον; Οὐδεὶς δύναται δυσὶ κυρίοις δουλεύειν· ἢ γὰρ τὸν ἓνα μισήσει καὶ τὸν ἕτερον ἀγαπήσει, ἢ ἐνὸς ἀνθέξεται καὶ τοῦ ἑτέρου καταφρονήσει· οὐ δύνασθε Θεῷ δουλεύειν καὶ μαμωνᾷ. Διὰ τοῦτο λέγω ὑμῖν, μὴ μεριμνᾶτε τῇ ψυχῇ ὑμῶν τί φάγητε καὶ τί πίητε, μηδὲ τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν τί ἐνδύσησθε· οὐχὶ ἡ ψυχὴ πλεῖον ἐστὶν τῆς τροφῆς καὶ τὸ σῶμα τοῦ ἐνδύματος; ἐμβλέψατε εἰς τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ὅτι οὐ σπεύρουσιν οὐδὲ θερίζουσιν οὐδὲ συνάγουσιν εἰς ἀποθήκας, καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος τρέφει αὐτά· οὐχ ὑμεῖς μᾶλλον διαφέρετε αὐτῶν; τίς δὲ ἐξ ὑμῶν μεριμνῶν δύναται προσθεῖναι ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλικίαν αὐτοῦ πῆχυν ἓνα; καὶ περὶ ἐνδύματος τί μεριμνᾶτε; καταμάθετε τὰ κρίνα τοῦ ἀγροῦ πῶς αὐξάνει· οὐ κοπιᾷ οὐδὲ νήθει· λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδὲ Σολομὼν ἐν πάσῃ τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ περιεβάλετο ὡς ἐν τούτων. εἰ δὲ τὸν χόρτον τοῦ ἀγροῦ, σήμερον ὄντα καὶ αὔριον εἰς κλίβανον βαλλόμενον, ὁ Θεὸς οὕτως ἀμφιένυσσιν, οὐ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ὑμᾶς, ὀλιγόπιστοι; μὴ οὖν μεριμνήσητε λέγοντες, τί φάγωμεν ἢ τί πίωμεν ἢ τί περιβαλώμεθα; πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητεῖ· οἶδεν γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν ὁ οὐράνιος ὅτι χρῆζετε τούτων ἀπάντων. ζητεῖτε δὲ πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν.

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

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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 June 25, 2023

**Ushers on Duty:** Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

**Video:** Gray Y./David N. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

**Epistle Readers:** Aleca Hortman (Greek), Bryan Gordy (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Aleca Hortman



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Monastic Martyr and Much-Suffering Fevronia (+310)

*This Martyr practiced the ascetic discipline in Nisibis of Mesopotamia; she was of such great beauty that the report of her came to the persecutor Selenus, and every attempt was made to make her deny Christ. After many horrible tortures, she was cruelly dismembered by the executioners, then beheaded, in the year 310 (or, according to some, in 302, during the reign of Diocletian).*

- + The Holy Martyr Orentius of Anatolia and his six brothers by birth: Pharnacius, Eros, Firmus, Firminus, Kyriakos, and Longinus (+4<sup>th</sup> Century)

*Orentius was one of the Seven Brothers of Lazia, which included Cyriacus, Firminus, Firmus, Heros, Longinus, and Pharnacius. They were all soldiers in the Roman Army, who lost their positions for being Christians. They all suffered martyrdom, during the persecutions of co-Emperor Maximian.*

- + The Venerable Fathers Dionyisus and Dometius of Dionysiou Monastery on Mount Athos (+1405-1410)

- + The Venerable Methodios of Nyvritos in Crete (+17<sup>th</sup> Century)

- + The New Monk-Martyr Procopios of Varna and Mount Athos, martyred at Smyrna in Asia Minor (+1810)

- + The New Martyr George of Attalia at Krene in Asia Minor (+1823)

*By the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.*

### Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες προς τον θάνατον, Second Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First 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.

- *The Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, Second Mode):*

O Protection of Christians that never fails, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### **This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday (6/25—Fish, Wine, Oil):** Mark 16:9-20; Romans 5:1-10; Matthew 6:22-33

**Monday (6/26—Fish, Wine, Oil):** Romans 9:18-33; Matthew 11:2-15

**Tuesday (6/27—Fish, Wine, Oil):** Romans 10:11-21, 11:1-2; Matthew 11:16-20

**Wednesday (6/28—Strict Fast):** Romans 11:2-12; Matthew 11:20-26

**Thursday (6/29—Sts. Peter and Paul—No Fasting):** John 21:14-25; II Corinthians 11:21-33, 12:1-9; Matthew 16:13-19

**Friday (6/30—Synaxis of the 12 Apostles—Wine, Oil):** Romans 9:6-19; Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1

**Saturday (7/1—No Fasting):** I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-8; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

### **Prayer Requests:**

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Eve, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn

### **Prayers for those recently reposed:**

Adrienne (+May 3), Anna (+June 11)

### **Prayers for expecting mothers:**

Katina B., Maggie B.

### **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:**

Bobbie, Chad, CJ, Jace, Nate and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

### **Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:**

This week, we celebrate the feast day of Saints Peter and Paul—**Eusebius of Ceasarea (+339)** wrote the following concerning the two great luminaries of the Church: *"Publicly announcing himself as the first among the enemies of God, he [Nero] was led on to the slaughter of the Apostles. It is recorded that in his days Paul was beheaded in the city of Rome and that Peter, also, was crucified. This story is supported by the fact that the names of Peter and Paul are preserved in the cemeteries of that place even to the present day ... For if you would go to the Vatican, or to the Ostian Way, you*

*would find their trophies [monuments]" (cf. Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History II, 25)*

### **Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

**Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**

June 29: Lee (Pavlos) Hornbaker

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

June 25: Lori Crouse

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

June 25: Maria and Tim Murphy

June 26: Chrissy and Tom Zdrakas

June 28: Mina and Richard Stewart

*(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.

\* **END OF SUMMER BBQ FELLOWSHIP** will be held on Saturday, July 29th at the home of Kathy Patras. An email link will be sent this coming week so that you can RSVP before mid-July!

\* For those that are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, we are conducting our **Intro to Orthodoxy/Catechumen classes** (usually) online by Zoom meeting every other week (next meeting is planned for Thursday, June 29 at 7:00pm at the Church). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

\* The **Apostles Fast** continues through the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (this week, on June 29). As the ancient canons say— "And you after celebrating Pentecost, feast one week, then start fasting, because it is necessary that we rejoice with the gift granted to us from God (the Holy Spirit), to fast after rejoicing."

\* **GREEK FESTIVAL:** We will be preparing Pastitsio on Friday, July 21st and Saturday, July 22nd. If you are able to help, please contact Natalia. Please be sure to also read the email that was sent this past week regarding other preparations that are beginning (in particular, regarding sponsorships!)

\* **Bible Study** has resumed on Sundays towards the end of coffee fellowship. Everyone is welcome! We have begun to study St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.