



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, July 2, 2023

4th Sunday of Matthew

Placing of the Holy Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fourth (Luke 24:1-12)

Mode of the Week: Third/Τρίτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, July 2</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 4 th Sunday of Matthew followed by a Doxology for American Independence Day 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 th 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>Thursday, July 13</i>	4:00pm Youth Outing at Rigby's in Warner Robins
<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
<i>Tuesday, July 18</i>	7:20pm Not-So-Young Adult/Young Adult Outing (Braves Game in Atlanta)
<i>Wednesday, July 19</i>	3-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House 6:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Prophet Elias (Elijah)
<i>Thursday, July 20</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Prophet Elias (Elijah)
<i>Friday, July 21</i>	TBD Greek Festival Prep—Pastitsio
<i>Saturday, July 22</i>	TBD Greek Festival Prep—Pastitsio 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (7/9) Pete Tsamolias, Angelika Passias; (7/16) George Saratsiotis, Richard Stewart
Upcoming Ushers: (7/5) OPEN; (7/8) Melanie M.; (7/9) Charles G., Jim L.; (7/12) Melanie M.; (7/15) Tassie C.
Upcoming Video Operators: (7/9) Cristina L.; (7/16) David Z.; (7/20) Joanna P.; (7/23) Christina D.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (7/9) Tammi and Mike Cantrell; (7/16) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (7/23) Beth Zoumeris

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

Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρῳ μου.

Στίχ. Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπεινῶσιν τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ· ἰδοὺ γάρ, ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μακαριοῦσί με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, εἶχεν ἡ πρώτη σκηνὴ δικαιοῦματα λατρείας τὸ τε Ἅγιον κοσμικόν. Σκηνὴ γὰρ κατεσκευάσθη ἡ πρώτη ἐν ἣ ἦ τε λυχνία καὶ ἡ τράπεζα καὶ ἡ πρόθεσις τῶν ἄρτων, ἣτις λέγεται Ἅγια. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ δεύτερον καταπέτασμα σκηνὴ ἡ λεγομένη Ἅγια Ἁγίων, χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα θυμιατήριον καὶ τὴν κιβωτὸν τῆς διαθήκης περιεκαλυμμένην πάντοθεν χρυσίῳ, ἐν ἣ ἰστάμνος χρυσοῦν ἔχουσα τὸ μάννα καὶ ἡ ῥάβδος Ἀαρὼν ἡ βλαστήσασα καὶ αἱ πλάκες τῆς διαθήκης, ὑπεράνω δὲ αὐτῆς Χερουβὶμ δόξης κατασκιάζοντα τὸ ἱλαστήριον· περὶ ὧν οὐκ ἔστι νῦν λέγειν κατὰ μέρος. Τούτων δὲ οὕτω κατεσκευασμένων εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίστασιν οἱ ἱερεῖς τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες, εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς, οὐ χωρὶς αἵματος, ὃ προσφέρει ὑπὲρ ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἀγνοημάτων.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

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The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. (9:1-7)

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Brethren, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (8:5-13)

4th Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντι τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς Καπερναοὺμ προσῆλθεν αὐτῷ ἑκατόνταρχος παρακαλῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ὁ παῖς μου βέβληται ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ παραλυτικός, δεινῶς βασανιζόμενος. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ἐγὼ ἐλθὼν θεραπεύσω αὐτόν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἑκατόνταρχος ἔφη· Κύριε, οὐκ εἰμι ἱκανὸς ἵνα μου ὑπὸ τὴν στέγην εἰσέλθῃς· ἀλλὰ μόνον εἰπέ λόγῳ, καὶ ἰαθήσεται ὁ παῖς μου. καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ ἄνθρωπός εἰμι ὑπὸ ἐξουσίαν, ἔχων ὑπ' ἑμαυτὸν στρατιώτας, καὶ λέγω τούτῳ, πορεύθητι, καὶ πορεύεται, καὶ ἄλλῳ, ἔρχου, καὶ ἔρχεται, καὶ τῷ δούλῳ μου, ποιήσον τοῦτο, καὶ ποιεῖ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐθαύμασε καὶ εἶπε τοῖς ἀκολουθοῦσιν· Ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐδὲ ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ τοσαύτην πίστιν εὔρον. λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ὅτι πολλοὶ ἀπὸ ἀνατολῶν καὶ δυσμῶν ἥξουσιν καὶ ἀνακλιθήσονται μετὰ Ἀβραάμ καὶ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν, οἱ δὲ υἱοὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἐκβληθήσονται εἰς τὸ σκότος τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ ἑκατοντάρχῳ· Ὑπάγε, καὶ ὡς ἐπίστευσας γενηθήτω σοι. καὶ ἰάθη ὁ παῖς αὐτοῦ ἐν τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐκείνῃ.

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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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 July 2, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

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

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Amanda Lord



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Placing of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae

During the reign of Leo the Great (457-474) two patricians and brethren on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land lodged with an old widow, a Christian of Jewish descent. Seeing the many miracles wrought at a small shrine in her house, they pressed her until she revealed to them that she had raiment of the most holy Theotokos kept in a small coffer. Our Lady had had two virgins in her lifetime who attended upon her; before her holy dormition, she gave each of them one of her divine garments as a blessing. This old widow was of the family of one of those two virgins, and it had come through the generations into her hands. With the permission of God, that this holy relic might be had for the profit of many, the two men took the garment by stealth and brought it to Blachernae near Constantinople, and building a church in honor of the Apostles Peter and Mark, they secretly enshrined the garment therein. But here again, because of the multitude of miracles that were worked, it became known to the Emperor Leo, and a magnificent church was built, as some say, by that same Leo, but according to others, by his predecessors Marcian and Pulcheria, and enlarged by Leo when the holy raiment was found. The Emperor Justin the Younger completed the church, which the Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes raised up immediately again after it had burned in 1070. It burned again in 1434, and from that time it remained a small house of prayer together with the renowned holy spring. After the seventh century, the name Blachernae was given to other churches and monasteries by their pious founders out of reverence for this famous church in Constantinople. In this church John Catacuzene was crowned in 1345; also, the Council against Acindynus, the follower of Barlaam, was convoked here.

- + Our Father among the Saints Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem (+458)
- + Our Father among the Saints, John Maximovitch, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco (+1966)

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 (Ευφραινέσθω τα οὐράνια, Third Mode):

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Placement of the Robe (Θεοτόκε ἀεὶπαρθένε, Plagal Fourth Mode):

Ever-virgin Theotokos, the shelter of mankind, you have given to your City as a protective wall the clothing and garment that you wore on your immaculate body. By your seedless childbirth, they have remained incorrupt. For in you both nature and time are made novel. Therefore we implore you, grant peace to your commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.

- 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 Kontakion of the Placement of the Robe (Περιβολὴν πάσι πιστοῖς ἀφθαροσίας, Fourth Mode):

You have bestowed your sacred Garment, O Lady, * to be a robe of incorruption, O pure one, * for all the faithful, O divine protection of mankind; * for with it you had arrayed your most pure sacred body. * Now with longing we observe the feast of its bestowal, * and in a loud voice we cry out with faith: * Rejoice, O Virgin, the boast of Christians everywhere.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (7/2—No Fasting): Luke 24:1-12; Hebrews 9:1-7; Matthew 8:5-13
Monday (7/3—No Fasting): Romans 12:4-5, 15-21; Matthew 12:9-13
Tuesday (7/4—No Fasting): Romans 14:9-18; Matthew 12:14-16, 22-30
Wednesday (7/5—Strict Fast): Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 11:27-30
Thursday (7/6—No Fasting): Romans 15:17-29; Matthew 12:46-50, 13:1-3
Friday (7/7—Strict Fast): Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5; Mark 5:24-34
Saturday (7/8—No Fasting): I Timothy 4:9-15; Luke 6:17-19, 9:1-2, 10:16-21

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, Dimitri

Prayers for those recently reposed:

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 Vrahiotes, 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:

St. Silouan the Athonite speaks to us about freedom (as we honor our freedom as Americans this coming week, let us not lose sight of our Christian truth of freedom!): "The Lord wants us to love one another. Here is freedom: in love for God and neighbor. In this freedom, there is equality. In earthly orders, there may not be equality, but this is not important for the soul. Not everyone can be a king, not everyone a patriarch or a boss. But in any position it is possible to love God and to please Him, and only this is important. And whoever loves God more on earth will be in greater glory in His Kingdom."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

July 7: Dominic Economopoulos

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

July 2: Arty Passias

July 3: Emily Dermatas

July 7: Jordan Rothwell Perry

July 8: Paul Syribeys

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.

* **END OF SUMMER BBQ FELLOWSHIP** will be held on Saturday, July 29th at 5:00pm at the home of Kathye Patras. The Parish Council will be providing dinner. Be sure to bring your choice of beverage along with your chairs. For those that want to play on the beach, kayak, swim, etc., be sure to bring your bathing suits and towels. Please let Natalia Saratsiotis know if you will or will not be attending and how many by July 16th so we can properly prepare.

* 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 Tuesday, July 11). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

* **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 attend to the emails that have been sent regarding sponsorships and other festival preparations!

* The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be taking place on Wednesday, July 19 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm in the Parish House. Please consider donating!

* All **Holy Cross Youth** are invited to Rigby's Water World in Warner Robins, Thurs. July 13th for "Twilight Admission", from 4-6pm. Tickets are \$17 per person (all ppl 3yo and older) and the church is generously covering \$10 of the cost per person. RSVP to Presv. Stacey ASAP if you and your kids can join us!