



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, July 23, 2023

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

St. Phocas the Hieromartyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ.του Δευτέρου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, July 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew Memorial Service for reposed from the Pavlis, Petrick, Phillips, Tsourakis, and Zoumberis Families at the end of the Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, July 25</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Most Holy Theotokos
<i>Wednesday, July 26</i>	5:30pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Paraskevi and honoring St. Panteleimon 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, July 29</i>	5:00pm End of the Summer BBQ at the House of Kathye Patras (all are invited!)
<i>Sunday, July 30</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew Student/Backpack Blessing for the Beginning of the New School Year at the end of the Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, August 1</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis (Beginning of the Dormition Fast)
<i>Wednesday, August 2</i>	5:30pm Great Paraklesis 6:30pm Fall Ministries Planning Meeting
<i>Thursday, August 3</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis
<i>Saturday, August 5</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers for the Transfiguration (at Holy Transfiguration, Marietta)
<i>Sunday, August 6</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, August 8</i>	5:30pm Great Paraklesis
<i>Wednesday, August 9</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:30pm Adult Study Class
<i>Thursday, August 10</i>	5:30pm Great Paraklesis
<b>Upcoming Epistle Readers:</b> (7/30) George Saratsiotis, Charles Glotzbach; (8/6) Pete Tsamolias, Diana Cazacu	
<b>Upcoming Ushers:</b> (7/25) Kiki K.; (7/26) David Z.; (7/30) Charles G., David Z.; (8/1) Maria S.; (8/2) Hazel D.	
<b>Upcoming Video Operators:</b> (7/25) Joanna P.; (7/30) Gray Y., David N.; (8/1) Natalia S.; (8/6) David Z.	
<b>Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:</b> (7/30) Kathye Patras; (8/6) Sarah Drakopoulos; (8/13) Christine and Ron Sprouse	

### 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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ  
εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.  
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράζομαι,  
ὁ Θεός μου.

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Πρὸς Ρωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς  
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ὀφείλομεν ἡμεῖς οἱ  
δυνατοὶ τὰ ἀσθενήματα τῶν  
ἀδυνάτων βαστάζειν, καὶ μὴ  
ἑαυτοῖς ἀρέσκειν. Ἐκαστος ἡμῶν  
τῷ πλησίον ἀρεσκέτω εἰς τὸ  
ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν· καὶ γὰρ ὁ  
Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτῷ ἤρεσεν· ἀλλὰ  
καθὼς γέγραπται. Οἱ ὀνειδισμοὶ  
τῶν ὀνειδίζοντων σε ἐπέπεσαν ἐπ'  
ἐμέ. Ὅσα γὰρ προεγράφη, εἰς τὴν  
ἡμετέραν διδασκαλίαν  
προεγράφη, ἵνα διὰ τῆς ὑπομονῆς  
καὶ διὰ τῆς παρακλήσεως τῶν  
γραφῶν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἔχωμεν. Ὁ δὲ  
Θεὸς τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ τῆς  
παρακλήσεως δῶη ὑμῖν τὸ αὐτὸ  
φρονεῖν ἐν ἀλλήλοις κατὰ  
Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν, ἵνα ὁμοθυμαδὸν  
ἐν ἐνὶ στόματι δοξάζητε τὸν Θεὸν  
καὶ Πατέρα τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ  
προσλαμβάνεσθε ἀλλήλους,  
καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς προσελάβετο  
ὑμᾶς, εἰς δόξαν τοῦ Θεοῦ.

O Lord, save Your people, and  
bless Your inheritance.

Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O  
my God. (Psalm 27)

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The reading is from Paul's Letter  
to the Romans. (15:1-7)

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Brethren, we who are strong  
ought to bear with the failings of  
the weak, and not to please  
ourselves; let each of us please his  
neighbor for his good, to edify  
him. For Christ did not please  
himself; but, as it is written, "The  
reproaches of those who  
reproached thee fell on me." For  
whatever was written in former  
days was written for our  
instruction, that by steadfastness  
and by the encouragement of the  
scriptures we might have hope.  
May the God of steadfastness and  
encouragement grant you to live  
in such harmony with one  
another, in accord with Christ  
Jesus, that together you may with  
one voice glorify the God and  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Welcome one another, therefore,  
as Christ has welcomed you, for  
the glory of God.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (9:27-35)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ παράγοντι τῷ  
Ἰησοῦ ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ δύο  
τυφλοὶ κράζοντες καὶ λέγοντες·  
Ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ. ἐλθόντι  
δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν προσῆλθον αὐτῷ  
οἱ τυφλοὶ, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ  
Ἰησοῦς· Πιστεύετε ὅτι δύναμαι  
τοῦτο ποιῆσαι; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· Ναί,  
Κύριε. τότε ἤψατο τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν  
αὐτῶν λέγων· Κατὰ τὴν πίστιν  
ὑμῶν γενηθήτω ὑμῖν. καὶ  
ἀνεώχθησαν αὐτῶν οἱ ὀφθαλμοί·  
καὶ ἐνεβριμήσατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
λέγων· Ὁρᾶτε μηδεὶς γινωσκέτω. οἱ  
δὲ ἐξελθόντες διεφήμισαν αὐτὸν ἐν  
ὄλῃ τῇ γῆ ἐκείνῃ. Αὐτῶν δὲ  
ἐξερχομένων ἰδοὺ προσήνεγκαν  
αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπον κωφὸν  
δαιμονιζόμενον· καὶ ἐκβληθέντος  
τοῦ δαιμονίου ἐλάλησεν ὁ κωφός.  
καὶ ἐθαύμασαν οἱ ὄχλοι λέγοντες,  
Οὐδέποτε ἐφάνη οὕτως ἐν τῷ  
Ἰσραὴλ. οἱ δὲ Φαρισαῖοι ἔλεγον· Ἐν  
τῷ ἄρχοντι τῶν δαιμονίων ἐκβάλλει  
τὰ δαιμόνια. Καὶ περιῆγεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
τὰς πόλεις πάσας καὶ τὰς κώμας,  
διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς  
αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον  
τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν  
νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ  
λαῷ.

At that time, as Jesus passed on  
from there, two blind men  
followed him, crying aloud,  
"Have mercy on us, Son of  
David." When he entered the  
house, the blind men came to  
him; and Jesus said to them, "Do  
you believe that I am able to do  
this?" They said to him, "Yes,  
Lord." Then he touched their  
eyes, saying, "According to your  
faith be it done to you." And their  
eyes were opened. And Jesus  
sternly charged them, "See that  
no one knows it." But they went  
away and spread his fame  
through all that district. As they  
were going away, behold, a dumb  
demoniac was brought to him.  
And when the demon had been  
cast out, the dumb man spoke;  
and the crowds marveled, saying,  
"Never was anything like this  
seen in Israel." But the Pharisees  
said, "He casts out demons by the  
prince of demons." And Jesus  
went about all the cities and  
villages, teaching in their  
synagogues and preaching the  
gospel of the kingdom, and  
healing every disease and every  
infirmity among the people.

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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 23, 2023

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Cleo Bennette

Video: Christina D.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek), Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Beth Zoumberis



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Phocas (+102)

This saint was known for the many miracles he worked and for his apostolic zeal in shepherding the flock of Sinope. He contested for the Faith during the reign of the Emperor Trajan, in the year 102, when he was burned to death in a bath-house. A homily in his honour was composed by Saint John Chrysostom. The translation of his holy relics is celebrated on July 23.

+ The Holy Prophet Ezekiel (+6<sup>th</sup> Century BC)

The Prophet Ezekiel ("God is strong") was the son of Buzi and a priest by rank. He was taken captive and brought to Babylon during the reign of Jehonias. In the fifth year of this captivity, about 594 or 593 B.C., he began to prophesy. Having prophesied for about twenty-eight years, he was murdered, it is said, by the tribe of Gad, because he reproached them for their idolatry. His book of prophecy, divided into forty-eight chapters, is ranked third among the greater Prophets. It is richly filled with mystical imagery and marvelous prophetic visions and allegories, of which the dread Chariot of Cherubim described in the first Chapter is the most famous; in the "gate that was shut," through which the Lord alone entered, he darkly foretold of the Word's Incarnation from the Virgin (44:1-3); through the "dry bones" that came to life again (37:1-14), he prophesied both of the restoration of captive Israel, and the general resurrection of our race.

+ The Holy Hieromartyrs Apollinaris and Vitalis, Bishops of Ravenna; Apollonius of Rome; and the seven Martyrs in Carthage (+1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Century)

+ The Christians martyred in Bulgaria during the reign of Emperor Nicephorus (+802-811)

+ The Devout Anna of Leucadius (+919)

+ Our Devout Mother Pelagia of Tinos (+1834)

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 (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal of the Second Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, 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.

- Hymn of St. Phocas (Και τρόπων μέτοχος, Fourth Mode):

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

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

O Protection of Christians that never falls, 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 (7/23—No Fasting):** John 20:1-10; Romans 15:1-7; Matthew 9:27-35

**Monday (7/24—No Fasting):** I Corinthians 9:13-18; Matthew 16:1-6

**Tuesday (7/25—St. Anna—No Fasting):** Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 8:16-21

**Wednesday (7/26—St. Paraskevi—Wine+Oil):** Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5; Mark 5:24-34

**Thursday (7/27—St. Panteleimon—No Fasting):** Luke 21:12-19; II Timothy 2:1-10; John 15:17-27, 16:1-2

**Friday (7/28—Strict Fast):** Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 17:10-18

**Saturday (7/29—No Fasting):** Romans 13:1-10; Matthew 12:30-37

### Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Evthalia, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, 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, Stelianos, Marty, Denna

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Anna (+June 11), Hines (+July 3), Clement (+July 15), Eugenia (+July 16)

### 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 of spiritual discernment: "The heart-stirrings of a good man are good; those of a wicked person are wicked; but everyone must learn how to combat intrusive thoughts, and turn the bad into good. This is the mark of the soul that is well versed. How does this come about, you will ask? Here is the way of it: just as a man knows when he is cold or when he feels hot, so does the man who has experienced the Holy Spirit know when grace is in his soul, or when evil spirits approach. The Lord gives the soul understanding to recognize His coming, and love Him and do His will. In the same way the soul

recognizes thoughts which proceed from the enemy, not by their outward form but by their effect on her [the soul]. This is knowledge born of experience; and the man with no experience is easily duped by the enemy."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

July 24: Christine Sprouse

July 25: Hanna Kostakis

July 26: Vivi Iakovidis

July 27: Hazel Dunbar, Pete Nicholas

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

July 24: Eleni Adams

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 this Saturday, July 29th at 5:00pm at the home of Kathye Patras (2225 Lake Haven Court, Lizella). 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. *If you would like to help shovel sand to get the beach ready for the BBQ—we will be meeting at Kathye's house this coming Thursday at 5:30pm.*

\* 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 (next meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 25). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

\* **GREEK FESTIVAL:** Please mark your calendars for this year's festival: October 20-22. Also, please save the date for October 19 for set-up! Also, please refer to the bulletin email for more festival info and links! Preparation dates: Spanakopita (August 12) and Dolmades (September 30).

\* **Youth:** Sunday, July 30 at the end of Divine Liturgy is the blessing of students for the new school year (backpack blessing!) Please plan on attending!

\* Be sure to Save the Date for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cross Dive** which will be taking place on the afternoon of Saturday, September 9!