



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, August 20, 2023

11th Sunday of Matthew

The Holy Prophet Samuel

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eleventh (John 21:14-25)

Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Sunday, August 20</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after the Dormition Visit of the Holy Icon of Panagia Prousiotissa with Procession and Artoklasia 12:15pm Panagiri (Celebration) hosted by the Philoptochos in honor of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
<i>Tuesday, August 22</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers 7:00pm Adult Study Class (Intro to Orthodoxy on Zoom)
<i>Wednesday, August 23</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Panagia Prousiotissa (name day of the Chapel)
<i>Friday, August 25</i>	6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the eve of the Feast of Sts. Adrian and Natalia
<i>Saturday, August 26</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, August 27</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 12 th Sunday of Matthew and the Feast of St. Phanourios Blessing of Phanouropites at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, August 29</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Commemoration of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
<i>Friday, September 1</i>	Start of the New Ecclesiastical Year
<i>Sunday, September 3</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 13 th Sunday of Matthew Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Monday, September 4</i>	Labor Day—Office Closed
<i>Wednesday, September 6</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Choir Practice (in the Church)
<i>Thursday, September 7</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos
<i>Friday, September 8</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (8/27) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis; (9/3) Pete Tsamolias, Rene Esquivel
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (8/27) John Apostolou; (9/3) Charles Glotzbach; (9/10) Sarah Draskopoulos
Upcoming Ushers: (8/22) Cristina L.; (8/23) OPEN; (8/25) David Z.; (8/26) Cheryl+Eric S.; (8/27) John A., Charles G
Upcoming Video Operators: (8/23) Joanna P.; (8/27) Christina D.; (8/29) Joanna P.; (9/3) Cristina L.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (8/27) Mandi Saratsiotis; (9/3) Christina Danforth; (9/10) Parish Council

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 ὕμνησίς 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 Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ἡ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ. Ἡ ἐμὴ ἀπολογία τοῖς ἐμὲ ἀνακρίνουσιν αὕτη ἐστί. Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν φαγεῖν καὶ πιεῖν; Μὴ οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα περιάγειν, ὡς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι καὶ οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Κηφᾶς; Ἡ μόνος ἐγὼ καὶ Βαρνάβας οὐκ ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν τοῦ μὴ ἐργάζεσθαι; Τίς στρατεύεται ἰδίῳις ὀψωνίοις ποτέ; Τίς φυτεύει ἀμπελῶνα καὶ ἐκ τοῦ καρποῦ αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐσθίει; Ἡ τίς ποιμαίνει ποίμνην καὶ ἐκ τοῦ γάλακτος τῆς ποίμνης οὐκ ἐσθίει; Μὴ κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ταῦτα λαλῶ; Ἡ οὐχὶ καὶ ὁ νόμος ταῦτα λέγει; Ἐν γὰρ τῷ Μωσέως νόμῳ γέγραπται· "Οὐ φιμώσεις βοῦν ἀλοῶντα." Μὴ τῶν βοῶν μέλει τῷ Θεῷ; Ἡ δι' ἡμᾶς πάντως λέγει; Δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγράφη, ὅτι ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ὀφείλει ὁ ἀροτριῶν ἀροτριᾶν, καὶ ὁ ἀλοῶν τῆς ἐλπίδος αὐτοῦ μετέχειν ἐπ' ἐλπίδι. Εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν τὰ πνευματικὰ ἐσπείραμεν, μέγα εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῶν τὰ σαρκικὰ θερίσομεν; Εἰ ἄλλοι τῆς ἐξουσίας ὑμῶν μετέχουσιν, οὐ μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς; Ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐχρησάμεθα τῇ ἐξουσίᾳ ταύτῃ, ἀλλὰ πάντα στέγομεν, ἵνα μὴ ἐγκοπὴν τινα δῶμεν τῷ Εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

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 First Letter to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

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Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (18:23-35)

11th Sunday of Matthew

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ὁμοιώθη ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ ὃς ἠθέλησεν συνᾶραι λόγον μετὰ τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ. ἀρξαμένου δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσηνέχθη αὐτῷ εἷς ὀφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων. μὴ ἔχοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀποδοῦναι ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παραθῆναι καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ τέκνα καὶ πάντα ὅσα εἶχε, καὶ ἀποδοθῆναι. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ δοῦλος προσεκύνει αὐτῷ λέγων· κύριε μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοί, καὶ πάντα σοι ἀποδώσω. σπλαγχνισθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος τοῦ δούλου ἐκείνου ἀπέλυσεν αὐτόν, καὶ τὸ δάνειον ἀφῆκεν αὐτῷ. ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος εὗρεν ἓνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ, ὃς ὄφειλεν αὐτῷ ἑκατὸν δηνάρια, καὶ κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπνιγεν λέγων· ἀπόδος μοι εἴ τι ὀφείλεις. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ σύνδουλος αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν λέγων· μακροθύμησον ἐπ' ἐμοί, καὶ ἀποδώσω σοι· ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἠθέληεν, ἀλλὰ ἀπελθὼν ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς φυλακὴν ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ τὸ ὀφειλόμενον. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ σύνδουλοι αὐτοῦ τὰ γενόμενα ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ κυρίῳ ἑαυτῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα. τότε προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ λέγει αὐτῷ· δοῦλε πονηρέ, πᾶσαν τὴν ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην ἀφῆκά σοι, ἐπεὶ παρεκάλεσάς με· οὐκ ἔδει καὶ σὲ ἐλεῆσαι τὸν σύνδουλόν σου, ὡς καὶ ἐγὼ σὲ ἠλέησα; καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ πᾶν τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ. Οὕτω καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν ἐὰν μὴ ἀφῆτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν.

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Cell: 770.256.0290

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of August 20, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Kiki Kazazakis

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

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek), Cleo Bennette (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos (Panagiri)

PC Member On-Duty: Maria McCluskey



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ After-feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

The Dormition of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 15 and the after-feast continues until the Leave-taking on August 23.

+ The Holy and Glorious Prophet Samuel (+11th Century BC)

Samuel's prophecies were a driving force in the era after the Israelites had settled in one land. His conception and birth, after his then-barren mother Hannah offered her sorrow to God and asked for His mercy and blessing, foreshadows the conception and birth of Jesus. Hannah dedicated her son to God from the time of his birth. Eli, a priest who knew Samuel's parents and gave him religious instruction in his youth, was told by God that Samuel "shall walk before My Christ forever" (1 Kgd. 2:45). Samuel fulfilled God's decree first by his birth, which foreshadows Jesus' birth. Also, Samuel always faithfully did God's will. When the Israelites had demanded a king, God, though not pleased, granted them one. Samuel found and enthroned the first king, Saul, whom God had selected. When the Israelites repented of their choice, Samuel assured them that God would forgive and provide if they remained obedient. Samuel kept advising Saul, though Saul often refused to take his advice. Samuel continued to mediate between God and king when he anointed Saul's successor, David.

+ The Holy 37 Martyrs in Viza of Thrace (+304)

+ The Holy Martyrs Severus and Memnon the Centurion (+304)

+ The Holy Martyr Photini by the walls of Blachernae

+ The Holy Martyr Lucius the Counselor (+310)

+ The Holy Martyrs Hilarion and Dosai (+380)

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

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

- *Hymn of the Dormition (Ev τη Γεννήσει, First Mode):*

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death. (*sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection*)

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, 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!"

- *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 Dormition (Την εν πρεσβείαις ακοίμητον, Second Mode):*

The Theotokos is undying in intercession.* Immovable is our hope in her for protection. * Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. * As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, * the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (8/20—No Fasting): John 21:14-25; I Corinthians 9:2-12; Matthew 18:23-35

Monday (8/21—No Fasting): II Corinthians 5:10-15; Mark 3:13-21

Tuesday (8/22—No Fasting): II Corinthians 5:15-21; Mark 1:16-22

Wednesday (8/23—Panagia Prousiotissa—Strict Fast): Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Thursday (8/24—No Fasting): II Corinthians 7:1-10; Mark 1:29-35

Friday (8/25—Strict Fast): Titus 1:1-5, 2:15, 3:1-2, 12-15; Matthew 5:14-19

Saturday (8/26—No Fasting): Hebrews 10:32-38; Matthew 20:29-34

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, Denna

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Clement (+July 15), Eugenia (+July 16), Dimitra (+July 19), Marty (+August 4), Rose (+August 6), James (+August 14)

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, Jessica, Nate and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John Climacus (+649) speaks to us about the positive and forward looking aspect of repentance (metanoia): "To repent is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God's Love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the Grace of Christ I might yet become."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
August 20: Bob Dunbar, Lincoln "Samuel" Wells
August 26: Natalia Lane, Natalia Saratsiotis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

August 23: Angelika Passias

August 25: Bob Dunbar

August 26: Maria McCluskey

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

August 20: Fr. Mike and Presvytera Kalliopi Vastakis

August 24: Cristina and Jim Lekas

(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.

* 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, August 22 on Zoom at 7:00pm). Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information!

* **GREEK FESTIVAL:** This year's festival is Friday through Sunday, October 20-22. Please save the date for October 19 for set-up—lots of help is always needed! Please refer to the bulletin email for more festival info and links. Preparation dates: Dolmades (September 30) and Pastry packaging (October 13 at 8am). We are asking each family to sell 5 books for the Raffle Drawing. Please see Natalia to get your tickets if you have not already. If you would like to order Festival apparel, please do so by August 31. There are samples to be seen in the bookstore!

* **Youth:** Sunday School will be begin on Sunday, September 17 after Holy Communion. Presvytera Stacey is still seeking a Sunday School teacher or pair of teachers. Please contact her ASAP if you feel called or inclined to assist our youth!

* **Greek School** will be starting on Sunday, September 24. Please see the email that was sent last week for more details!

* Be sure to Save the Date for the **2nd Annual Cross Dive** which will be taking place on the afternoon of Saturday, September 9 at Lake Tobesofkee. Our Holy Cross will be hosting Orthodox Christians from around the Atlanta Metropolitan area! The registration is live on the Church's website. Be sure to purchase your ticket online (holycrossga.org/cross-dive) and register your high schooler for the Dive!

* Philoptochos: The **Panagia Panagiri** will be taking place after the Divine Liturgy today! All are welcome—donations appreciated!